1930 Fricke Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45225 513-363-3690

(Updated 8/2/23)

Parent/Student Handbook 2023/24







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Vision Statement

Ethel M. Taylor Academy will be a recognized School of Excellence that prepares children for a changing world.

Mission Statement

It is the mission of Ethel M. Taylor Academy to utilize innovative methods to provide experiences for children to reach their educational and personal potential while nurturing their self-esteem and self-confidence.

Core Curriculum

The Common Core State Standards comprises the framework for the core curriculum at Ethel M. Taylor Academy. Cincinnati Public Schools has adopted the following curriculum for the following grades: .

ELA K - 3 Fundations

ELA K - 3 Wit and Wisdom for Reading and Writing.

ELA 3 - 6 Wit and Wisdom for Reading and Writing.

Science K - 6 Amplified Science

Social Studies K - 6 TCI

Student progress is monitored on a quarterly basis, and work is designed for each student on their level.

I-Ready Reading & Math Curriculum

Ethel M. Taylor uses the district adopted I ready Curriculum. The instructional materials reviewed for *Ready Classroom Mathematics* K-6 meets the expectations for Alignment to the CCSSM. The materials meet the expectations for Focus and Coherence by assessing grade-level content, spending the large majority of instructional time on major work of the grade, and they are coherent with the progressions of the standards, making meaningful connections between supporting and major work of the grade, are viable for a school year, and present all students with opportunities to engage in extensive work with grade level problems to meet the full intent of grade level standards. The materials meet the expectations for Rigor and Mathematical Practices as they meet the expectations for Rigor and Balance and meet the expectations for Practice-Content Connections. The materials balance the rigorous expectations of the Standards, and they attend Practice-Content Connections, addressing all of the Mathematical Practice Standards; however, there are instances where these are over-identified.

i-Ready Reading is an online program that helps students of all ages become thoughtful, analytical readers. Grounded in best practice, it engages students as they build new skills and learn to access rigorous, culturally responsive texts. Its personalized instruction adjusts the lesson path to meet every reader at their individual level, enabling teachers to provide a personalized learning experience for each student.

i-Ready Reading includes:

Lessons that teach foundational skills such as phonological awareness, high-frequency words, and phonics to help students understand their connection to reading

Vocabulary lessons at earlier grade levels that teach words researchers have identified as the most essential to reading success

Instruction for Grade 3 and above that helps students build word learning strategies that maximize

vocabulary acquisition

Reading Comprehension instruction that is designed to motivate learners of all ages as they grow accustomed to reading independently

Technology

Students in grades PK-1 will be provided with an I-Pad and students in grades 2-6 will be provided with an individual laptop to use during the school day. All students will have access to desktops, laptops, and computer labs. Parents/Students are responsible for the proper and safe use of this equipment. Students will sign off on an Acceptable User Policy and Mobile Device Agreement acknowledging their understanding of this policy

Student Acceptable Use Policy and Internet Safety Agreement

Grade P-3:

https://dashboard.cps-k12.org/aup/aup_student_P_3.aspx

Grade 4-6:

https://dashboard.cps-k12.org/aup/aup_student_4_12.aspx

What is an AUP? An AUP is an agreement that you will follow the rules when using school computers and devices.

Additional Curriculum Offerings

In addition to the highly competitive core curriculum offerings, Ethel M. Taylor offers classes in Music, Physical Education, Computer, and Art. The integrated curriculum presented in these classes enhances and supports the instruction given by teachers within the core subjects.

Special Education

EMTA has 2 intervention specialists. These teachers provide targeted instruction for students who have Individual Education Plans (I.E.P.'s).

Volunteer Tutors/Mentors/Classroom Workers

Our school partners with the Grad Cincinnati and community groups to bring tutors and mentors to students needing individual assistance. If your student scored below the 'proficient' level in reading or math they may be paired with a tutor. These sessions occur during and after school hours. Parents, community members and retired teachers serve as volunteers, mentors and tutors, and their help, support and guidance is greatly appreciated at Mt. Washington School. If you would be interested in becoming a tutor/mentor/classroom worker, please call our resource coordinator at 513-363-3600.

After School Programs

The 2023-2024 school year will continue to offer many of the existing after school programs as well as expand new learning opportunities not only for our students but our parents as well. Please look for announcements in the Monday Messenger for registration. Activities include soccer, boys basketball, t-ball, Men of More, and Girls with Pearls.

Summer School

Summer school will be offered in June. The district sets the purpose and intent of summer school each spring. Look for more information about the instructional enrichment opportunity in the spring of 2024.

Additional Services

The following services are provided to our students:

School Psychologist UMADOAP

Speech Pathologist Social Worker

Cincinnati Health Department

Achievement/Standardized Tests

Students in every grade are given state required achievement assessments each year. These tests are generally administered in spring and the nature of them is determined by the State of Ohio.

Teachers and parents can gauge the progress of a student by looking at these test results. Parents should look for a testing report to be sent home the fall of the next year.

In addition, 3rd grade students are required to pass the state mandated 3rd grade guarantee. This means students must achieve a promotable score in Reading prior to the end of 3rd grade. If this score is not achieved, students will be retained, per the state law. Students have multiple opportunities in which to achieve this requirement. Teachers will communicate more with you about your child's progress during grades K-3.

Promotion and Retention

A child's teacher makes a professional recommendation concerning promotion or retention based on data. Ongoing communication will occur with the parent to inform them of concerns. If a parent wishes to appeal retention, a written request must be made to the school principal. The state of Ohio also requires us to follow the Third Grade Guarantee Law. Students not meeting the minimum Reading score at 3rd grade will be retained according to the law.

Report Cards and Midterms

Report Cards are issued on a quarterly basis. This year, report cards and midterms will be sent home with students on:

Report cards	<u>Midterms</u>
October 20 ^h	September 18 ^h
January 8 ^h	November 13 th
March 15th	February 13 th
Will be mailed home	April 22 th

Grading Scale

The District uses the following grading scale:

Grades 1-6
$$90 - 100 = A$$

 $80 - 89 = B$
 $70 - 79 = C$
 $60 - 69 = D$
 59 and below = F

Parent Conferences

Teachers will formally conference with parents several times a year during various times throughout the year to give parents options of times that are convenient to them. Reminders will be sent home by teachers a week before the scheduled conference day in our school planner system. We have given a variety of options as requested from our Panorama survey to increase parent engagement.

September 14 teachers planning bell	October 19 teachers planning bell
November 9 2:30 - 5:30	December 7 teachers planning bell
February 8 Deep Data Dive teachers planning bell	February 15 Deep Data Dive teachers planning bell
March 14 Deep Data Dive teachers planning bell	March 21 Deep Data Dive teachers planning bell
April 17 2:30 - 4:30	

Homework

Homework is an important component of the learning process as it reinforces skills taught in the classroom. Homework can be classified into four categories: written, non-written, reading and that requires another person, or parent, for completion. Homework will be sent with your child on a regular basis. If your child continually tells you that they have no homework, please contact his/her homeroom teacher. Please refer to the following school-wide homework policy. Specific details will be communicated to you by your child's teacher.

School-Wide Homework Policy

K-6 students will have homework nightly, Monday-Thursday. Weekend homework will be at the teacher's discretion.

Nightly independent reading is required for all students grades K-6.

Homework is due by the assigned due date, unless otherwise noted.

Quarterly Long Range Projects – at least one project will be assigned per quarter for all grade levels (K 6) and will require additional work outside of the school day.

Missed homework due to absence will have no penalty if a written excuse is received. The number of days absent will be given to complete the missing assignment due to absence.

Late work will be penalized.

See individual grade level team policies for specific details.

Assignment Books

Planners <u>are required</u> for students in grades K -6. As a service to students, the school has purchased all students one to begin the year with. We are getting all children organized from the beginning of their kinder year. The cost to reimburse these books are - this book is also used to communicate from home to school. \$3.00.

Honor Roll and Quarterly Awards

Each quarter our school celebrates the accomplishments of our students by presenting special awards. We have an awards assembly to honor these students at the end of each quarter. Students will be recognized for:

<u>Perfect Attendance:</u> This award is for students who have been at school each day of the quarter and have been tardy no more than one time.

Good Attendance: Present 95% of the days in the quarter, with no more than 3 tardies.

<u>Citizenship</u>: These awards honor Gr. 1-6 students who have achieved exemplary marks.

Principal's Honor Roll: Straight A's in all subject areas (4.0)

'A' Honor Roll: 3.51 - 3.99 average in all subject areas

'B' Honor Roll: 3.0 - 3.50 average in all subject areas

BOY I Ready Diagnostic Growth STretch Growth Target BOY I Ready Diagnostic Growth Target

MOY I Ready DIagnostic Growth STretch Growth Target MOY I Ready DIagnostic Growth Target

EOY I Ready DIagnostic Growth Target EOY I Ready DIagnostic Growth STretch Growth Target

Student Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Daily Schedule: K-6

Bus arrival 7:40 a.m. Tardy Bell 7:40 a.m.

Lunch Periods 10:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

Dismissal Bell 2:10 p.m.

Visiting School

We welcome our guests, mentors, tutors and community supporters and look forward to your visit. During the school day, only the front door is available for entry. Please buzz the doorbell for admittance. All visitors should report first to the office. There you will sign in using the "Lobby Guard" machine and will then be given a visitor's pass. You must bring your driver's license with you. We encourage all parents that participate in school activities, (parties, field trips, performances, etc.) to get a CPS volunteer badge. If you have a CPS issued badge you will be able to enter the building after signing in. You will not have to wait in long lines! Details for obtaining a badge are sent home in our planner system or you can call 363-3600. There are times staff may not be able to see you or you may need to set an appointment, if this happens do so with our secretaries we appreciate your cooperation.

For the safety and well being of the children, students should not arrive or enter the building before 7:00 a.m. There is no supervision of students prior to this time.

When arriving, parents are required to leave their children at the front door where they will be met by a school employee. For the safety of all students we require parents not to proceed beyond this point.

Upon arrival at school, all students K-6 will report to the cafeteria for breakfast.

Preschool children and parents will enter and exit via the outside doors located off the preschool playground.

If a child is tardy to school, a parent may escort the child to the main office in order to receive a tardy slip. Students are considered tardy at 7:40 a.m.

Kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 students are dismissed at 2:10. All other students are dismissed at 2:15 p.m.

- Walkers are escorted to the designated area.
- Bus riders are escorted to their buses by school personnel.
- Car riders are escorted to the safety zone on the back playground.

<u>Students must have a written note from parents to change dismissal plans.</u> Our bus company does not accept any requests to ride home with friends on a different bus, or to a different stop.

Preschool Note: Preschool parents **MUST park** in the main lot or on Beekman and walk their students to class no earlier than 7:30 a.m. This parking procedure is also in place for dismissal at 2:10 p.m.

Parents must notify the office and their child's teacher as to which category they will be using for dismissal – bus rider, car rider, or walker – see below for description.

Bus Riders

Prior to school starting each day, buses will drop off students on the Fricke Road side of the building. Bus riders will be supervised by staff as they enter the building.

At the end of the day, buses will be waiting for students on the Fricke Road side of the building. Bus riders will only be allowed to exit from the front door and will be supervised by designated staff to the buses.

Walkers

Students walking to school should either enter the front entrance facing Fricke Road or the back entrance facing Millvale Court beginning at 7:00 a.m. At the end of the day, students not requiring a parent pick up will exit the main entrance and head to their designated area. Students requiring a parent pick up or meeting younger siblings will exit the back door facing Millvale Court and wait for parents/guardians.

Car/Day Care Van Drop-off and Pick-up

Parents driving their children to school should enter the parking lot on Millvale Court where they will be directed to follow designated drop off procedures. **This is a drop-off area only -NO PARKING during arrival or pick-up periods**. Drop-off is between 7:00 and 7:40 a.m. Students are to exit to cars in the loop and enter the building near the foyer and report to their designated location. **Parents should not get out of the car and walk children to the building. This stops the flow of traffic.**

At the end of the day children who are being picked up by parents will follow the same procedures. Students will wait in line with adults until their parents nears the pick up point in their car. Pick-up time is 2:15 p.m. Students and parents are asked to adhere to the designated procedures for pick-up to ensure the safety of all members of the school community.

Preschool parents MUST park in the main lot or on Beekman and walk their students from class during dismissal.

Visitor Parking

During the school day, visitors will find parking in marked spots along the driveway or in the main parking lot. All visitors must report to the school office upon arrival to sign in.

Early Dismissal

If, for some reason, your child must leave school before 2:15 p.m., send a dated note to the homeroom teacher in the morning. In this note, please state the time and reason for the early dismissal. Upon arriving to pick up your child, please report to the office. You must sign out your child so the school has a written record of his/her dismissal. Students cannot be released early without a written adult signature recorded in the office. The office will not release students early based upon a telephone conversation unless an adult actually signs the student out. This rule follows state dictates, which are designed to keep your child safe.

After School Care Options

The Millvale Rec Center, located <u>offsite</u> in Cumminsville. Students going to the recreation center must be enrolled in their Day Camp Program. You can make arrangements for your child by calling the Recreation Center at 513-352-4351.

Yellow Bus Service

https://sites.google.com/a/cpsboe.k12.oh.us/cps-transportation/page-1

Busses arrive in the morning and afternoon in front of the school on Fricke Rd. The assignment of bus routes is done by pupil transportation at the Education Center. You may contact the pupil transportation office by calling 363-0330. Riding the bus is considered a privilege and students are subject to disciplinary action for misbehavior while riding the bus. Disciplinary actions could include suspension from the bus, which in turn holds the parent responsible for transporting their child to and from school. If students don't report to school, they are considered truant and may be cited to court. If your bus is late in picking up, or dropping off your child, please call First Student Bus Company customer service line at 761-6100 and press 3 for routing information.

Attendance

All students are expected to attend school, be on time, and come on a daily basis. It is vitally important for your child to attend every day. Your child's absenteeism could impact your child's ability to stay on grade level for years going forward and could impact your child's ability to graduate.

1. Daily attendance of all students is required by law, HB-410 (refer to link below) and is an important part of your child getting the full benefit of school. Grades begin to be affected in a negative way when students aren't here to participate in class work and instruction. We do understand that children get sick and are subject to childhood diseases. Please do not send children who have a fever, or are ill, to school. Every effort will be made to ensure make-up work is available for students when they are feeling better and/or return to school. Students / families who develop a chronic absence history will be contacted by the School Social Worker and may in turn be cited to court if attendance doesn't improve.

https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-410

- 2. The school does recognize that *on occasion* events occur, and a student arrives late to school. However, when a student (or family) demonstrates a <u>pattern of tardiness</u>, the Social Worker will contact you.
- 3. Please note that transportation, vacation, and over sleeping are not excused absences or tardies. Absences and tardies need to be documented with a call to the Attendance Line (513)363-3607. Excused absences and tardies include such things as doctor's/dentist's appointments, a funeral, illness, family emergency. 5 or more days absent for illness require a doctor's note.
- 4. The School Social Worker is required by law to report a pattern of tardiness and/or absences to the court. Please see attached pages for more information.
- 5. Absence Reporting state law and the District Policy require parents to notify school officials of a student's absence. If your child will miss school, please contact the attendance line at 363-3607 by 8:00 a.m. Parents need to provide a doctor's note for medical appointments or contact the Attendance Line with the non medical reason your child will be absent. This will be recorded in Powerschool for your child's records. Students are expected to make up missed assignments. In the event of an extended illness, you may contact the school office with a homework request and your child's teacher will be notified. Please allow for one day for the teacher to collect the necessary materials before coming to the office for missed work. If a sibling or neighbor child can bring home missed work for your student, those arrangements can be made with the school secretary and/or individual teachers.

Late Arrival and Early Dismissal Board Policy

5230 Cincinnati City School District Policies

It is necessary that a student be in attendance throughout the school day in order to benefit fully from the educational program of the District.

The Board of Education recognizes, however, that from time-to-time compelling circumstances require that a student be late to school or dismissed before the end of the school day.

As agent responsible for the education of the children of this District, the Board shall require that the school be notified in advance of such absences by written, personal, or verified telephone call request of the student's parent, which shall state the reason for the tardiness or early dismissal. Legitimate reasons shall be determined by the principal.

A student shall be excused for a late arrival or early dismissal only for a period of time that is sufficient to travel to and/or from the appointment and the period of time required for the appointment. Time in excess of the necessary travel and appointment time shall be considered an unexcused absence.

An unexcused absence is defined as a late arrival or early dismissal without a legitimate excuse pursuant to Board Policy 5200 or a justifiable reason as determined by the principal.

If one (1) parent has been awarded custody of the student by the courts, the parent of custody shall provide the school with a copy of the custody order and inform the school in writing of any limitations in the rights of the noncustodial parent. Absent such notice, the school will presume that the student may be released into the care of either parent.

No student who has a disability which may be incapacitating may be released without a person to accompany him/her.

No student shall be released to anyone who is not authorized such custody by the parents.

Revised date: 7-16-15

Reviewed date: 6-22-15

5-18-15

5200 Attendance Board Policy

The educational program offered by the District is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation. Attendance shall be required of all students enrolled in the schools during the days and hours that the school is in session. The purpose of the policy is to outline acceptable purposes for which a student may be excused from school to allow for the appropriate recording of student attendance and the ability of the District to determine students who are truant.

Attendance Tracking

In accordance with Ohio law, the Superintendent shall require from the parent of each student of compulsory school age or from an adult student who has been absent from school or from class for any reason, a **written** statement of the cause for such absence. The District shall also accept a voicemail or telephone call from the parent stating the cause of such absence and shall record such statement in a log maintained at each school. The District reserves the right to verify such statements and to investigate the cause of each single absence or prolonged absence.

The Board considers the following factors to be reasonable excuses for time missed at school:

- A. Personal illness or illness in the family necessitating the presence of the student. A pattern of absences in excess of five (5) consecutive days shall require a written physician's statement verifying the illness and the number of days the student was required to be absent. (OAC 3301-69-02)
- B. Quarantine of the home. Such absence is limited to the length of the quarantine as determined by the proper health officials. (OAC 3301-69-02)
- C. Death in the family. Such absence is limited to a period of eighteen school hours unless reasonable cause may be shown for a longer absence. (OAC 3301-69-02)
- D. Observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday. (OAC 3301-69-02)
- E. Absence during the school day for medical, mental health or dental appointments; such absence may require a written note from the medical, mental health or dental professional upon return to school. (OAC 3301-69-02)
- F. Absences related to a student visiting with the student's parent related to military leave or deployment. (ORC 3301.60) Absences related to visiting with the student's parent who is incarcerated.
- G. Absences related to college visits or career and internship experiences. (OAC 3301-69-02)
- H. Absences due to a student's placement in foster care, or change in foster care placement, or any court proceedings related to their foster care status. (OAC 3301-69-02)
- I. Absences related to a student experiencing homelessness. (OAC 3301-69-02)
- J. Absences excused because of a need for a student to attend, testify or otherwise participate in court proceedings.
- K. Other emergencies or circumstances in which the judgment of the Superintendent, as determined by the Principal, constitutes a good and sufficient cause for absence from school. (OAC 3301-69-02)

Other excuses from school attendance include:

The Superintendent may excuse a student over fourteen (14) years of age from attendance at school for a future limited period for the purpose of performing essential work directly or exclusively for the student's parents or guardian. Such excuse shall be limited to five (5) days and can be renewed for five (5) additional days. At no point may such excuse permit a student to be absent from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days. (ORC 3321.04)

The Superintendent may excuse a student from attendance for any part of the remainder of the current school year if the student's bodily or mental condition does not permit attendance at school or a special education program during such period; this fact is certified in writing by a licensed physician or, in the case of a mental condition, by a licensed physician, a licensed psychologist or a certificated school psychologist; and provision is made for appropriate instruction of the student. For students receiving instruction at home by a qualified teacher, a confidential file shall be maintained in the Superintendent's Office. Documentation shall state how the inability of the student to attend school or a special education program or the qualifications of the person instructing the student at home were determined. (ORC 3321.04)

The Superintendent may excuse a student from attendance for a maximum of twenty-four hours per school year for the purpose of traveling out-of-state to participate in an enrichment activity approved by the board of education or in an extracurricular activity. The student must complete classroom assignments that are missed because of the absence. (ORC 3321.041)

A student who is incarcerated is expected to participate in the educational program that CPS provides through the Juvenile Court School at the Youth Center or the educational program at the county or state facility where the student is assigned.

Attendance Tracking for Online Instruction

For students attending the District's online school – Cincinnati Digital Academy – the District shall implement a learning management system that tracks the time students participate in online learning activities. All student learning activities completed while off-line shall be documented with all participation records checked and approved by the teacher of record. (ORC 3302.42)

5201 Truancy Board Policy

A student will be considered habitually truant if the student is absent without a legitimate excuse for thirty (30) or more consecutive hours, forty-two (42) or more hours in one school month, seventy-two (72) or more hours in a school year.

Legitimate excuses for the absence of a student who is otherwise habitually truant include but are not limited to:

- A. the student was enrolled in another school district;
- B. the student was excused from attendance in accordance with Board Policy 5200; or
- C. the student has received an age and schooling certificate.

Notice To Parents Of Truancy

When a child is absent with or without legitimate excuse for thirty-eight (38) or more hours in one school month or sixty-five (65) or more hours in one school year, the attendance officer at the school shall notify the child's parent, guardian, or custodian of the child's absences in writing within seven (7) days after the absence that triggered the notice requirement. The school social worker assigned to the student's school shall generally serve as the attendance officer.

Absence Intervention Team

If a student is "habitually truant" as described above, the student shall be assigned to an Absence Intervention Team which shall include a District or School representative (e.g. the school social worker), another District or School representative who knows the child (e.g. the school principal or the student's teacher), and the child's parent, guardian or custodian. The team also may include a school psychologist, counselor, school nurse, or a related support services provider to assist students and their families in reducing absences.

A student shall be assigned to an Absence Intervention Team within ten days of the absence that triggered the student becoming "habitually truant." The District shall make at least three meaningful, good faith attempts to secure the participation of the parent, guardian or custodian on the team. A parent, guardian or custodian who cannot participate shall

be informed of his or her right to appear by designee. If a parent, guardian or custodian does not respond, the District shall determine whether the failure to respond triggers the District's mandatory reporting obligation to Job and Family Services for suspected neglect and the intervention team shall proceed with developing an intervention plan for the student without the participation of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian.

Within fourteen (14) days after a child is assigned to an Absence Intervention Team, the team shall develop an intervention plan. The plan may include, as applicable, mental health services and/or community resources for the parent. The plan may also include the student's enrollment in an alternative to adjudication program offered by the juvenile court, subject to the District developing a written policy to ensure regarding the use of, and selection process for, offering alternatives to adjudication to ensure fairness. Each intervention plan shall vary based on the individual needs of the student, but the plan shall state that the District shall file a complaint in the juvenile court not later than the 61st day after implementation of the plan if the student has refused to participate in or failed to make satisfactory progress on the plan.

If a student is habitually truant and the student fails to participate in or fails to make satisfactory progress on the absence intervention plan, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to file a complaint with the Judge of the Juvenile Court and/or to take any other appropriate intervention actions.

Revoking Driving Privileges

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles of the student's absences for possible revocation of student's driving privileges and/or notify the Judge of the Hamilton County Juvenile Court in the following circumstances:

- Upon receipt of information that a child of compulsory school age has withdrawn from school for a reason other than because of a change of residence and is not enrolled in and attending an approved program to obtain a diploma or its equivalent;
- 1. If a student is absent without legitimate excuse for more than sixty (60) consecutive hours in a single month or for at least ninety (90) hours in a school year, so long as the student and student's parent, guardian or custodian have had an opportunity to appear before the superintendent or designee to challenge the information;
- 1. Whenever a pupil is suspended or expelled from school for the use or possession of alcohol, drug abuse;
- 1. Whenever a pupil is suspended, expelled, removed, or permanently excluded from a school for misconduct involving a firearm, knife, or weapon;

R.C. 3313.664, 3321.01 et seq., 3321.13(B)(2), 3321.19, 3321.191, 3321.22,

R.C. 3321.38, 3331.05, 3301.60, 3321.04, 2151.0111, 2152.02

A.C. 3301-35-03(G), 3301-47-01, 3301-51-13, 3301-69-02

5223 Absences For Religious Instruction

The Board of Education desires to cooperate with those parents who wish to provide for religious instruction for their children but also recognizes its responsibility to enforce the attendance requirements of the State.

Upon the signed request of a student's parent, the Board will allow exceptions to the student's continuous attendance at school for religious instruction outside the school building by an authorized church or religious organization for no more than

120 minutes per week. For attendance purposes, the student shall be considered to be in attendance at school during the religious instruction.

A student must be properly registered and a copy of such registration must be filed with the principal.

No solicitation for attendance at religious instruction shall be permitted on District premises. No staff member shall encourage or discourage participation in any religious instructional program.

Inclement Weather

When the Superintendent determines that the weather is too severe to operate yellow bus and/or van service, an announcement is made over the radio, television, and through the district app. In the event of bad weather, please make it a practice to check one of these sources before sending your child to school.

If school is closed for snow, staff will not be in attendance. If, on a bad weather day, you see little or no activity at the school, school is probably closed. Please do not let children off at the school when the building is dark and no adults are visible.

Severe Weather Procedure - Information for Parents & Students

At the Cincinnati Public Schools, we want to make sure our students and staff are safe when severe weather or extreme temperatures occur, while maximizing students' time in class.

CPS may close for snow, or for extreme cold or hot temperatures.

When severe weather is predicted, parents should check the CPS website, **cps-k12.org**, or local television or radio stations, for announcements about school closings or delays. Alerts also are available on the CPS mobile app(**http://launch.customschoolapp.net/cps/)**. The most complete and detailed information is available on the CPS website, including answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the procedure.

CPS rarely will dismiss schools early, but it does happen occasionally. Please make sure your child's school office has correct emergency contact information.

Schools Closed

Decisions to close schools are made only after analyzing much data and consulting various authorities.

After reviewing all information available, the superintendent consults with senior staff, bus company operators and City of Cincinnati road maintenance authorities, and makes a decision as soon as possible (usually by 5 a.m.).

Two-Hour Delay — Yellow Bus Pick Up only

Yellow school bus service will pick up students at the stops two hours later when we are on a two hour delay.

Student Enrollment and Withdrawal

If a child is new to the Cincinnati Public School district, the following information is required for registration:

- · Child's Birth Certificate
- · Child's Immunization Records
- · Child's Social Security Card
- · Custody Documents (if necessary)
- Proof of Residence: homeowner deed, mortgage statement, rental agreement, renter insurance statement within the last 12 months, gas/electric/water statement dated within the last 30 days, federal or state tax returns dated within the last 12 months, any piece of mail dated within the last 30 days from the federal, state, or local government, such as Hamilton County Jobs & Family Services, Social Security, Child Support Enforcement Agency, etc.
- · Parent I.D.

Students entering Ethel M. Taylor Academy for the first time <u>or</u> returning after leaving the neighborhood, <u>must show proof of residency</u> within the Ethel M. Taylor Academy Boundaries.

Parents who withdraw their child from Taylor must notify the office of the student's last day, and complete a form. All books must be turned in to the homeroom teacher and financial obligations should be met.

Kindergarten Registration

Each spring Taylor begins accepting Kindergarten enrollment for the following school year. During Open House in August, parents and students visit their new classroom, learn about the instructional program, other school programs, and best of all, meet their new teacher!

Preschool Enrollment

Preschool is available for three or four year old children. For information about the preschool program, please call the Early Childhood Office at Leap Academy 363 - 1200. They will also enroll preschool students during the school year if there are any vacancies.

School and Home Communications

School planners & Monthly Newsletter

Every Monday (or the first school day of the week) students should bring home their planner. School forms, surveys, field trip permission slips and all other communication from the office can be found weekly in this folder. The planner is to be returned to school within two days of it being sent home, with any items requiring parent signature completed. The timely back and forth of the planner ensures that your student has the opportunity to participate in all school activities and allows you, the parent, to have the most recent news coming from school.

Teacher Folders and Classroom Communication

Teachers will also send information home through the planner system. Teachers may have additional folders or weekly reports, which will support parent/school communication. Teachers will explain their individual communication practices to students during the first week of school, and to parents at Open House.

Ethel M. Taylor School Website

Parents can access Ethel M. Taylor Academy website at https://www.cps-k12.org/etheltaylor On this site you will find information about the school, the Cincinnati Public School District, and upcoming events.

Back to School Events

Ethel M. Taylor Academy will host an Open House/Meet the Teacher prior to the first day of school. Please check email for details.

Chaperones and Classroom Volunteers

Any volunteer who supports classroom activities by working directly with children will be required to complete a background check and obtain a district badge. If you plan to, or think you may work with the children in your child's classroom, help with parties, go on fieldtrips, help in the lunchroom, help in the Hawks Store or any other PTO functions, you must have this completed. Once this background check is completed, it is good for two years. Remember, if you have a badge you don't have to wait in long lines at the lobby guard machine to get a pass!!

Security Badges & Background Checks District Form 8475-1F1

All employees, consultants, contractors, student teachers, volunteers and visitors at Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) are required to display CPS issued identification. **Sporadic or one-time visitors** receive temporary security badges generated from the Lobby-Guard machine. Employees, consultants, contractors, student teachers, volunteers or other individuals in school buildings on a regular basis need a CPS security badge issued by the Office of Safety and Security Services at the Education Center. Criminal records background checks are **required** for the issuance of all security badges. Levels of background checks vary based on contact with students. See requirements below.

*An individual in these categories who has any unsupervised contact with a student that is not accompanied by a CPS employee, must have the State (BCII) and Federal (FBI) checks completed if left one-on-one with a student(s).

How to Obtain a Background Check: (locations listed below)

- Cincinnati Public Schools, Education Center, 2651 Burnet Ave, 45219. <u>Hours:</u> Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. 3:00 p.m. <u>Issue BCII and FBI only</u> 48 hour for results Exact cash \$50.00 for BCII and FBI
- Hamilton County Justice Center, 1000 Sycamore Street, 45202 downtown. **Hours:** Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. **Issue Local for Hamilton County residents \$5.00 cash only for Local.**
 - Bring an official form of identification such as State ID or driver's license.
 - The local background check is from the County you reside in.
 - Prices are subject to change.
 - Please note that a background check obtained online is not acceptable.

How to Obtain a Security Badge:

- A Security Badge Authorization Form for all consultants, contractors, student teachers or volunteers must be signed by the Administrator.
- Bring the results of your local background check or BCII and FBI background check to the Security Office at the Education Center (above address). When applying for a BCII and FBI background check, request the results to be sent directly to the attention of the Security Office. BADGES ARE ISSUED UPON RECEIPT OF ALL RESULTS.
- The Security Office is located on the first floor at the Education Center. Enter the middle doors and check in at the front desk. The Security Office is open on Monday Thursday from 7:30 a.m. 3:00 p.m. to create security badges.

Security Department, Related Procedures: Background Checks Revised 6/19/19

Other School Procedures and Policies

Emergency Information

An emergency form is kept on file for each student of Ethel M. Taylor Academy. It is very important that phone numbers and addresses are kept up to date. It is helpful to have several alternative people to contact if you cannot be reached. Remember, if your contact information changes, be sure to let the school office know of the change.

Field Trip Permission

Before a child is permitted to go on a field trip, a signed permission slip by a parent or guardian must be sent to the school. A fee to cover the cost of admission and/or bus cost may be assessed. Students who demonstrate an inability to maintain their conduct in an out-of-school environment may lose the privilege of participating in the field trip and be required to stay the day at school instead.

Lost and Found

A box is kept in the gym hallway for lost items such as clothing, lunchboxes, hats, gloves, etc. Items such as watches, eyeglasses and jewelry can be found in the office.

Textbooks/Classroom Supplies

All academic textbooks are loaned to students for their use during the school year. Students are responsible for replacing any lost or damaged textbooks or library books. Fees will be charged accordingly.

Students must provide their own personal supplies such as pencils, pens, notebooks, folders, glue, erasers, etc. A supply list for individual grades is provided at the beginning of each year.

Instructional Fees

The Board of Education requires that all students pay an instructional fee that is used to supplement materials for the classroom. The fee is based on a sliding scale using income and the number of children enrolled in Cincinnati Public Schools. The collection of these fees is critical to the balancing of the school budget. Your support of, and payment of these fees, is greatly appreciated, as all money collected from Taylor students are funneled directly back into the school budget.

Dispensing Medication

Cincinnati Board of Education policy (students section 5330) requires consent of parent or parent surrogate, before medication can be given to a child by school personnel. A "Dispensing of Medication by School Personnel" form, must be filled out by both the parent **and** physician and be on file at the school in order to comply with this policy. Both over the counter and prescription medication can be dispensed at school under these conditions.

Ohio House Bill 121 permits students to carry asthma inhalers approved by the students' physician and parents. The new law relates ONLY to asthmas inhalers. The completion of a "Dispensing of Medication by School Personnel" form must list that the child is carrying the medication. The school office must have this form on file for a student to have an asthma inhaler in his/her possession. Forms for the dispensing of medication are available on request in the office.

Immunizations

Certain immunizations are required of all pupils enrolled in school. Children who do not have the necessary shots by a certain date must be excluded from attending school. The parent will be notified by the school SHA if a child is missing required immunizations. Compliance is a mandate of state law. Our School Based Health Center is now able to give immunizations. Please call 363-3819 to schedule an appointment.

Emergency Drills

Emergency drills are held throughout the school year. These drills include fire drills, weather drills, evacuation drills, shelter in place drills, and lock down drills.

These drills are practice-to-be-prepared procedures. If a real emergency occurs, parents will be contacted as soon as possible by phone.

Breakfast and Lunch Program

Ethel M. Taylor Academy offers a free breakfast and lunch program for every child that will be served during the school day.

Positive Behavior Supports/Discipline Philosophy of Discipline

The Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Plan for Ethel M. Taylor Academy shall serve as the Local School Behavior Plan required by the CFT Collective Bargaining Agreement. The plan will be aligned with current district strategies, and approved annually by members of the entire staff. The plan includes:

• School-wide expectations for all school settings

- Taylor Academy staff expectations
- Procedures for teaching school-wide expectations
- Descriptions of school-wide routines and procedures
- School-wide strategies for acknowledging appropriate behavior
- Ethel M. Taylor Academy's discipline continuum
- Continuum of supports for students who need additional resources

Purpose of the Plan: Our Mission states we will teach students to reach their educational and personal potential while nurturing their self-esteem and self-confidence. In order to help our students reach their full educational and personal potential we will implement a fluid behavior plan.

This plan will allow students to demonstrate that they understand their actions, the impact their actions and choices have on themselves, peers, adults in the school, and their communities. In this system students will become aware of the impact of their behavior, understand the obligation to take responsibility for their actions, take a leadership role in the school, and take steps towards making things right.

THE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR PLAN (Discipline Program) for ETHEL M. TAYLOR ACADEMY is described in the link below:

EMTA PBIS Plan 23-24 SY

The school district code of conduct is in effect inside all CPS schools, on school grounds, at school related activities, and on the way to and from school, including while riding the bus.

Student Use of Cell Phones and Electronic Equipment

Students are not permitted to use cell phones during the school hours. Phones should be turned off and locked inside their locker. If a student fails to follow the cell phone policy, the phone will be taken by a staff member. The phone will need to be picked up by the child's guardian.

Cellular Telephones and Electronic Communication Devices Possessed by Students 5136 Cincinnati City School District Policies

This Policy pertains only to equipment possessed by students and not owned by the District. For District-owned equipment that is possessed by students, Policies in the 7550 Section take precedence.

Cellular telephones and other electronic communication devices (ECD) may serve as an outstanding instructional tool and learning resource if used appropriately. We encourage our staff members and our students to use ECDs to supplement instruction and learning. However, students who are on cell phones or other electronic devices when it is not part of the instructional lesson are not fully engaged in learning. In order to preserve the teaching and learning environment, this document outlines the cell phone and ECD use policy.

A student may possess a cellular telephone or other electronic communication devices (tablets, laptops and similar devices designed to receive and send an electronic signal) in school, on school property, at after school activities and at school-related functions, provided that during instructional time the cellular telephone or other ECD remains off and stored out of view.

The above restrictions during instructional time may be temporarily removed by a staff member for educational purposes.

During non-instructional time during school hours and during school activities after school hours, the

respectful, non-disruptive use of cellular telephones and other ECDs shall be permitted, unless otherwise directed by the administrator or sponsor.

School officials should implement uniform, school-wide cellular telephone or ECD procedures to implement this policy, and may consider the age and maturity level of students among various grade levels.

Violations of this policy will result in corrective strategies as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct, including disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the cellular telephone or ECD. School officials should implement uniform school-wide cellular telephone or ECD confiscation procedures that progresses in a least-restrictive and progressive manner. If the violation involves an illegal activity (e.g. child pornography), the building principal must also refer the matter to law enforcement. If the violation involves other infractions outlined in the Student Code of Conduct such as inappropriate communication, profanity, bullying/harassment/intimidation, cheating, etc, school officials may select the corresponding corrective strategies.

Students may not use cellular telephones or ECDs on school property or at a school-sponsored activity to access and/or view Internet web sites that are otherwise blocked to students at school.

The student who possesses a cellular telephone or ECD is responsible for its care. The Board is not responsible for theft, loss, damage, or vandalism to cellular telephones or ECDs brought onto its property.

Parents/guardians shall be advised to limit distractions to students during instructional time and contact their child during the school day via the school office. Students may use school phones to contact parents/guardians during the school day.

Revised: 06/21/2018

04/11/2011 09/08/2008 08/13/2007

Social Media

The use of social media, such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok or other similar websites are prohibited at school. If social media is used outside of school hours and causes a disruption during the school day, students may be subject to disciplinary action. Students should not download apps onto school computers.

Bags/Book Bags

Students are not permitted to carry bags, backpacks, shoulder bags (including binders with shoulder straps) during the day. This is a safety issue and will be enforced by all staff.

Girls of age may carry a zippered purse, no larger than the size of a half sheet of a $8 \frac{1}{2} \times 11$ piece of paper.

Students care of School Property 5513 Cincinnati City School District Policies

Students who cause damage to school property shall be subject to disciplinary measures, and their parents shall be financially liable for such damage to the extent of the law, except that students eighteen (18) years of age or older shall also be liable for damage they cause.

The Board authorizes the imposition of fines for the willful neglect or abuse of school equipment (including any electronic communication devices and/or computer-related equipment), apparatus, musical instruments, library material, textbooks, and for damage to school buildings.

The Board may report to the appropriate juvenile authorities any student whose damage of school property has been

serious or chronic in nature.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures to implement this policy. Last

Revised 1/17/19

Student Conduct 5500 Cincinnati City School District Policies

Respect for law and for those persons in authority shall be expected of all students.

Students may be subject to discipline for violation of the Student Support Guide Code of Conduct K-12 even if that conduct occurs on property not owned or controlled by the Board, but that is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on property owned or controlled by the Board, or conduct that, regardless of where it occurs, causes a substantial disruption to the school environment or is directed at a Board official or employee, or the property of such official or employee.

Student conduct shall be governed by the rules and provisions of the Student Support Guide Code of Conduct K-12. This Student Support Guide Code of Conduct K-12 shall be reviewed annually.

Dress Code

All students are expected to come to school in clean clothes that do not distract from the educational process.

The following apparel <u>DOES NOT meet these expectations</u>:

- · Midriff shirts, spaghetti straps, backless shirts, halter tops, low cut, shirt showing cleavage
- · Pajama pants, pajama shirts and slippers
- · Jersey shirts/tank tops that have huge armholes
- · Underwear is not considered outerwear and should not be visible
- · Hats/scarves/bandanas/do rags are not to be worn in the building
- · Distractive Headgear may not be work (ie cat ears)
- · Unreasonably short shorts/skirts/skorts- Must be at the bottom of finger tips · Clothes with unproductive messages (drugs, gangs, obscenities, etc.)
- · Torso skin should not be visible due to low rider pants or short tops
- · Pants worn below waist level
- · Pants and shirts must follow "waist at waist"
- \cdot Clothing/items causing a distraction/disturbance (principal's discretion) \cdot Pullover hoodies may be worn, and must stop at the waist and do not have zippers
- · Earbuds and headphones may not be worn
- · All clothing must be worn at the waist, tops and bottoms

- · Coats will not be allowed to be worn in the building. Students must dress appropriately for the weather, we suggest dressing in layers.
- · Oversized clothing will be required to be tucked in.

Searches

The District provides security personnel who will search student backpacks and lockers. Searches are scheduled in advance, but will remain a surprise to students.

Search and Seizure 5771 Cincinnati City School District Policies

The Board is committed to providing a quality education to students in an environment that is conducive to learning and protects the health and safety of the school community. To that end, school administrators are authorized to conduct legal searches of students and their property, and school owned property such as lockers, as described below.

Random or Systematic Searches

These searches are conducted in a random and systematic manner, without specific suspicion, to keep students from bringing contraband or weapons to school. The method of the search is predetermined and random in nature, prohibiting any discriminatory bias. Once the random method is selected and the search is begun, the search shall not be changed unless reasonable suspicion occurs. If reasonable suspicion is aroused, then the action listed below under "Reasonable Suspicion" will be taken. Some examples of random search methods include: locker searches, students caught in a hall sweep, selected classrooms, and vehicles in the parking lot.

Security personnel shall be trained in the use of hand-held metal detectors. In a random search, if the device is activated, the individual will be asked to remove any metal objects. If the device is activated a second time, the individual will be escorted to a private area where a more thorough search can be conducted.

Reasonable Suspicion Search

This type of search may be conducted when there is reasonable evidence pointing to a specific individual(s) who may be in violation of criminal statutes or school rules. The extent of the search will be governed by the seriousness of the alleged infraction and the student's age. The scope of the search must be reasonable in light of the suspicion. The following types of searches are examples of Reasonable Suspicion Searches: cell phones, lockers, personal items, limited clothing, pat down, request to empty pockets, purses, backpacks, boxes, etc.; or vehicle.

Student Lockers and Storage Areas

Student lockers, desks, and other storage areas remain the property of the Board. Where locks are provided for such places, students may lock them against incursion by other students, but in no such places shall students have such an expectation of privacy as to prevent examination by a school official. The Board directs that school principals conduct a routine inspection at least annually of all such storage places. Student lockers and other storage spaces are subject to random searches by school officials. Searches may also be conducted where there is reasonable suspicion that the locker or its contents contain evidence of a student's violation of a criminal statute or a school rule.

Canine Searches

The Board authorizes the use of canines, trained in detecting the presence of drugs or devices, when the Superintendent has reasonable suspicion that illegal drugs or devices may be present in a school. This means of detection shall be used only to determine the presence of drugs in locker areas and other places on school property where such substances could be concealed. Canine detection must be conducted in collaboration with law enforcement authorities or with organizations certified in canine detection and is not to be used to search individual students unless a warrant has been obtained prior to the search.

Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior

5517.01 SUMMARY - Cincinnati City School District Policies

SUMMARY

The following policy shall be in accordance with applicable State and federal laws.

Bullying, harassment, and intimidation, of any student, by any means, by any student or school personnel, on school property, at a school-sponsored event, or on school-provided transportation, is strictly prohibited. Disciplinary action, including the possibility for suspension or expulsion, will be taken against any student found responsible for harassment, intimidation or bullying.

"Bullying, harassment, or intimidation" means either: violence within a dating relationship; or any intentionally written, electronic act (an act committed through the use of cellular telephone, computer, pager, personal communication device, or other electronic communication device), verbal, graphic, or physical act that a student or group of students exhibit more than once, toward another particular student(s) and the behavior both:

- a. Causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s); and
- b. Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s).

"Bullying, harassment, or intimidation" includes, but is not limited to, conduct that is based on a student's actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, religion or any other distinguishing characteristics that may be defined by the district or state educational agency. This also includes association with a person or group with one or more of the above mentioned characteristics, whether actual or perceived.

Students and parents/guardians should report prohibited incidents and conduct of bullying, intimidation, and harassment to any teacher, school administrator, or staff member; any incident may be reported anonymously. Any school personnel receiving a complaint shall promptly document the prohibited incident or conduct in writing, including all information provided, and report it to the school principal or other designated administrator. All reported incidents must be investigated and verified promptly under the leadership of the school principal or other designated administrator. Steps will be taken to protect a victim or other person from new or additional harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and from retaliation following a report. The custodial parent or guardian of any student involved in a prohibited incident shall be notified and, to the extent permitted by FERPA and section 3319.321 of the Revised Code, have access to any written reports pertaining to the prohibited incident.

Students are prohibited from deliberately making false reports of harassment, intimidation, or bullying; disciplinary action will be taken for any student responsible for deliberately making a false report of that nature.

The President of the Board shall receive a written summary of all reported incidents semiannually, and this summary will be posted on the District's website to the extent permitted by FERPA.

Any District employee, student, or volunteer shall be individually immune from liability in a civil action for damages arising from reporting an incident if the report was made in good faith and in compliance with the District's procedure.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Students face a wide range of issues and concerns that can have a substantial impact on their ability to learn and on their engagement with school. Perhaps the most severe issue faced by students is that of depression accompanied by suicidal ideation. The District takes these mental health issues seriously. To further this objective, the Superintendent

3-15-18

Parent and Community Groups

Local School Decision Making Committee (LSDMC)

The LSDMC shall approve any locally initiated change in the school program or focus, develop a vision and mission statement, approve the local school budget and participate in the principal selection process when a vacancy occurs.

Membership shall be made up of a minimum of twelve persons. The core membership shall include three teachers, three staff members, three parents and three community members. Members serve two-year terms except the principal who shall serve as assigned to EMTA. Observers to committee meetings are welcome. Meetings are held at the school once a month. Dates of the meetings are published on the monthly calendar.

Instructional Leadership Team (ILT)

Our daily school decisions and curricular issues are discussed at our bi-monthly Instructional Leadership Team meetings. The ILT represents teachers, administration, parents and non teaching staff. The committee's role is to develop, review and evaluate the academic programs, practices and procedures of the school. The ILT also plans for the continued improvement of instruction.

Membership of the ILT is composed of the principal, one parent representative from the LSDMC, one non-teaching staff member, the Federation Building Representative, building team leaders, and additional teachers as necessary. The parent representative is selected by the LSDMC.

Dream Builder University Foundation

The mission of the Dream Builders University Foundation Foundation is to enhance the quality of education for our students with an emphasis in Academics, Enrichment, and Technology by forming community partnerships and distributing financial grants for selected programs and projects.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

The EMTA PTO takes an active interest in our school. They serve as members of the

LSDMC, provide appreciation activities for staff, students and volunteers, and help recruit volunteers for our yearly events. Involved, proactive parents contribute to Taylor's reputation as a school committed to academic excellence. If you would like to volunteer at one of our many events (Open House, Award Assembly, Curriculum Night, etc.) please call the school. We look forward to seeing you throughout the year! All of our events will be on the monthly school calendar.

Health Center

Our Health Center provides Nurse Practitioner Services for students and families. Please fill out a consent form for your child to use this service or call 513-363-3621