



UPPER SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK 2023-2024

Welcome to a new school year at Thornton Academy!

Every student counts on this campus. Work hard and challenge yourself in the classroom. Get involved with sports, clubs, activities and service opportunities. An active campus life benefits everyone. Join, participate, and contribute to the community here at Thornton Academy!

Main number to reach any dept or individual: 282-3361

Administrators

Headmaster — Mr. Menard (ext 4401)

Associate Head of School — Mrs. Taranko (ext 4468)

Assistant Head for Faculty & Academic Affairs — Mr. Grasso (ext 4444)

Assistant Head for Student Affairs — Mr. Tabor (ext 4419)

Departments:

Athletics — Mr. Stevens (ext 4406)

Attendance

Absences/Tardies/Dismissals Reporting: 282-3361

Dean's Office (ext.4442)

Mr. Tabor (Class of 2024)

Mrs. Roche (Class of 2025)

Mr. Paradis (Class of 2026 & Residential)

Mr. Kezal (Class of 2027)

Campus Safety & Parking — Mr. Trask (ext 6305)

School Counseling — Mr. Ouellette (ext 4454)

Nurse — Mrs. Prescott (ext 4465) , Mrs. Rothermel (ext4410)

Special Education — Mrs. Butler (ext 4424)

Technology — Mr. Nasse (ext 4480)

SCHOOL POLICIES

The policies in this student handbook represent the current student policies at the time of posting. Changes may occur during the school year. Annual Policy Notifications are included on page 29 of this handbook. Up-to-date information may be found in the "MyTA" section of the school website: www.thorntonacademy.org/my-ta

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STATEMENT OF MISSION

*Thornton Academy prepares students for a changing world,
challenging all to learn, grow, innovate and succeed.*

Founded in 1811, Thornton Academy is an independent school that develops 6-12th grade learners who are respectful, responsible, compassionate, and invested. Our community takes pride in carrying on our strong sense of tradition. Our co-educational, non-sectarian institution supports diverse ideas, cultures, and dreams and engages local, regional, and global perspectives.

Thornton Academy's commitment to excellence encourages students to flourish; the breadth of the academic program is tailored to the needs of our diverse student population. Comprehensive offerings in athletics, arts, and extracurricular activities inspire students to pursue their passions on our stunning and historic campus.

THE FOUR PILLARS OF COMMUNITY LIFE

The Thornton Academy Pillars are the core values and guiding principles that enhance our shared experiences, informing our actions and attitudes.

Respect

Respect defines treatment of one's self and others. We recognize differences among members of our community, act with character and integrity, and are aware of how our actions impact others. To honor our surrounding environment, we are polite, humble, proud, and appreciative.

Responsibility

We show responsibility by embracing individual ownership of behaviors and choices, making informed decisions and demonstrating maturity, accountability, preparedness, timeliness, integrity, and purpose.

Compassion

Compassionate individuals know how to relate to and understand the opinions and experiences of others. We improve the quality of our school community by showing thoughtfulness and gratitude as we encounter new perspectives. We foster our growth and relevance through connection, acceptance and celebration of differences.

Investment

Investment involves the act of being aware of one's actions, setting appropriate goals, and consistently assessing our progress. Investment takes many forms, but the best practitioners are engaged, committed, persistent, caring, energetic and willing to take risks. By being invested in our school, our time and efforts are valued by all.

ALMA MATER

First Verse:

With the pines of Maine around her
Reared against the sky
Proudly stands our Alma Mater
As the years go by. (*Chorus*)

Second Verse:

When her students join together
Memories sweet shall throng
Round our hearts, dear Alma Mater
As we sing this song. (*Chorus*)

CHORUS:

Forward ever—be our watchword,
Conquer and prevail.
Hail to thee, our Alma Mater,
Dearest Thornton, hail!

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Consistent attendance is essential in order for students to find academic success and earn credits steadily toward graduation. Classroom instruction and discussions are vital parts of every course that cannot be re-created and should not be missed, making regular attendance crucial to learning. As adults, good attendance at work will also be expected and required. Parents are asked to partner with teachers by ensuring their students' daily attendance. All students are expected to arrive at school on time and attend all assigned classes every day.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

School is in session from 8:30AM to 2:45PM. Students must have a legitimate academic or co-curricular reason with supervision to be on campus outside of these hours.

Non Bus Student Arrival

- The campus will open 30 minutes before the start of the school day and close 15 minutes after block 4 ends.
- Student Drop off
 - Students should arrive on campus no earlier than 30 minutes from the start of the school day..
 - Students may be dropped off in the front of the school, or either student parking lot.
 - Student drop offs should not take place in the bus loop.
- Student Pick up
 - Students should be picked up no later than 15 minutes after the school day.
 - Students may be picked up in the front of the school, or either student parking lot.
 - Student pick ups should not take place in the bus loop.

Absences, Tardies or Dismissals from Class

- A parent/guardian must submit the absence, tardy or dismissal by calling 282-3361.
- In order for an absence to be excused, it must fall under one of the Academy's definitions of excused absences:
 - Personal Illness
 - An appointment with a health professional that must be made during the regular school day
 - Observance of a recognized religious holiday when the observance is required during the regular school day
 - A family emergency
 - A planned absence for a personal or educational purpose that has been approved in advance through the Dean's Office.
- Unexcused absences will result in a grade of 0% for the day and may result in additional consequences such as detentions.
- No corrections will be made after 48 hours and the absence may remain unexcused. Messages are received 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

When a Student Is Tardy

- Submissions must be placed before the student arrives at school.
 - Tardies exceeding 50% of the block count as an absence from the class, and count towards a student's absenteeism count.

When a Student Is Absent

- Absences must be reported before the start of school. If notification is not received, the student will be listed as "absent unexcused".

Dismissals

- A parent/guardian must submit a dismissal before the dismissal time. Students are not allowed to leave and then have an excuse placed afterwards.
 - Dismissals exceeding 50% of the block count as an absence from the class, and count towards a student's absenteeism count.

Planned Absences/Leaves

Students must complete a Planned Absence Form (found at [MyTA](#)) and submit it prior to the planned absence(s). If this form is not submitted to the Deans' Office prior to the dates of the planned absence, those days may be logged as unexcused and the student will not be able to make up any work missed.

Participation: Extra-Curricular Activities

Students must attend school or have an excused absence on the day of any extracurricular activity in order to participate in the activity. Any appeals should be discussed with the class dean, coach/advisor and Director of Athletics.

Make-up Policy

Students are responsible for arranging make-ups or extra help with material missed while absent. It is important to note that certain academic experiences such as guest speakers, films, some experiments, field trips and lectures can never be made up. Make-ups must be completed within one week from the day a student returns from an excused absence. Students cannot make up work from an unexcused absence (see the Attendance Policy for more information). Academic makeup takes precedence over detention and other commitments. All school days are make-up days.

Attending Class

A student cannot be excused or released from any class or study hall without a pass. Teachers take attendance each block and record any absences and tardies.

ATTENDANCE INFRACTIONS

Attendance infractions may warrant consequences ranging from teacher warnings to detentions or suspensions. Attendance infractions may also result in grade point reduction(s) and/or the loss of opportunity to make up work. Parents/guardians, teachers, and counselors will be contacted regarding attendance infractions and assigned consequences.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Any student who accumulates 7 absences in a semester-long course* (excused or unexcused) may not receive credit in that class towards graduation. A tardy or dismissal that is more than half of a block will also count as an absence. A student who loses credit may stay in the class and earn a grade for the transcript. Students who continue to miss class may be removed per the discretion of the deans, school counselors and the administration. *14 absences per semester in classes that are year long and meet every day.

A student may appeal this provision within five (5) days of being notified of the loss of credit. Appeals must be initiated by the student or a parent.

- The appeals committee will be made up of the dean, school counselor and associate head. Parents/guardians will be encouraged to attend the appeals session.
- Documentation of the reasons behind the accumulated absences will be required before any appeals are considered.
- The committee will make a recommendation as to whether the student receives credit. The dean will make the final decision in consultation with the school counselor.

- Only absences with documented reasons will be considered in the appeal and these reasons must fall under the list of excused absences as defined by Thornton Academy (see p 3 above)
- Results of the appeal will be placed in the student's cumulative file.

TA-RELEASE

The intention of TA Release is to provide students an opportunity to attend their academic programs and still have the privilege of leaving campus during a study hall period. During the scheduling process students may apply for and parents may grant approval for TA Release. Once students have been properly scheduled with the necessary courses, TA Release blocks can be added to the blocks where their schedules show study hall time(s).

TA Release is available with parental permission for 11th and 12th grade students for any block. For 10th grade students, TA-Release will be granted for blocks 1 and 4 with parental permission. Blocks 2 and 3 may be granted through the dean's office. TA-Release is NOT offered for 9th grade students.

The student and parents must agree to the following conditions:

- Students must leave campus immediately, no loitering on campus or parking lots.
- TA Release is ONLY permitted during scheduled study halls.
- The proper number of credits are scheduled for graduation purposes.
- A subject may not be dropped simply to allow for TA Release.
- Transportation for TA Release is the responsibility of the student and/or parent.
- TA Release is allowed only with the consent of the dean, school counselor, student and a parent/guardian.
- Students must report on time.
 - Students who have a release during blocks 1, 2 or 3 **MUST** be on time to their next academic obligation. If not, a point will be deducted from their quarter grade and the privilege may be taken away.
- All parties agree that the privilege may be lost for the following reasons:
 - Unexcused tardiness to school, failure to check in or failure to leave.
 - Disciplinary reasons.
 - Dangerously low grades.
- If a TA Release student stays on campus, that student **MUST** report to the designated study hall and inform them that they are a TA Release student. The student must remain a study hall student for the remainder of the block.

NOTE: Parents and students should be aware of the following:

- A. All athletic participants must carry sufficient credits (4 or the equivalent) to maintain eligibility.
- B. A student carrying fewer than 4 full credits (or the equivalent) will not be eligible for Honor Achievement consideration.

*****To apply for TA Release, please click [here](#).*****

Please contact your Class Dean for more information

To reach the Deans' Office: Call 282-3361 ext. 4442

To reach a Class Dean: Call 282-3361

Mr. Tabor (2024): Ext. 4419
 Mr. Paradis (2026): Ext. 4417
 Mr. Kezal (2027): Ext. 4420
 Mrs. Roche (2025): Ext. 4400

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

The core values that underlie the expectations of Thornton Academy community members are the Pillars of **respect, responsibility, compassion, and investment**. The pillars, and the following pursuant rules and policies, apply to any student who is on school property, in attendance at school, at any school-sponsored activity, or whose conduct at any time or place, on or off campus, directly interferes with the operations, discipline or general welfare of the school community.

Respectful and Compassionate treatment

Students have the right to be treated fairly and courteously, as do classmates, teachers, administrators and staff. Anyone who infringes on another individual's rights can expect to be disciplined. Students are expected to show the same respect for the Academy, their classmates and teachers that they would expect to have shown for themselves and their property.

Represent Thornton Academy well

Respectful, responsible, and courteous student behavior is expected whenever students attend any Thornton Academy event, whether on or off campus. Students participating in school-sponsored trips must stay with the group and promote Thornton Academy through their good behavior. On campus, students are expected to be courteous to visitors and exhibit appropriate public behavior.'

Compassionate choices

Students are expected to make compassionate choices within our diverse community and refrain from the display of hate symbols and language on clothing and belongings.

School property

Students are expected to be respectful of school property, taking pride in the campus by keeping it clean. Use the walkways to travel between buildings. Students are expected to be responsible by taking proper care of any school issued item including materials and equipment.

Appropriate dress

Students are required to dress appropriately for a serious learning environment. Clothing choices must be non-distracting and provide appropriate coverage. Students wearing inappropriate clothing will be referred to the dean or an administrator.

Bus behavior

Act appropriately on the bus. Riding the bus is a privilege that can be lost by ignoring or violating the rules. Consequences for bus behavior include any listed in "Consequences for Behavior Infractions:."

No loitering

Students are expected to go to class. Students who have been granted TA-Release or dismissal must leave campus. Loitering anywhere on campus is not allowed and may result in loss of privileges. Students who are not participating in a club, group, meeting, activity, or athletic event after school may not be on campus after school. Skateboarding, hoverboarding and similar activities are not allowed on campus at any time. Drones are not allowed.

Non-school items

Non-school items may be hazardous to the safety of others and interfere with the academic environment, and so should be left at home. Non-school items brought to school may be taken and returned only to a parent/guardian.

Cell Phones

During the academic day (8:30 AM—2:45 PM) cell phones should not be used, seen or heard while in an academic class. Students are permitted to use cell phones during passing time between classes, in the dining commons during lunch or in the dining commons study halls. Students are asked to be respectful and responsible with cell phone usage. Non-permitted use of cell phones may result in the cell phone being taken and given back to the student at the end of the block or school day.

Computer/Internet use

Computer/Internet use at Thornton Academy is a privilege. Any inappropriate use may result in the loss of privileges and further disciplinary action. Consult the Acceptable Use Policy (available at the MyTA section of the website) for more information.

Parking

Junior and senior students only may bring vehicles to school with a current parking pass issued from the school. All student vehicles must be parked in a student parking lot. The Director of Campus Security will distribute parking permits. Parking without a sticker or in a non-student space may result in disciplinary action. Reckless driving could result in immediate loss of privilege and further disciplinary action. See the Campus Parking Policy published in this handbook or online at the MyTA section of the school website.

Lunch waves

All meals are to be consumed in the Dining Commons or the designated small lunch room (sign out required). Eating lunch outside, in hallways or any other location is not permitted. Students are not allowed to leave campus during lunch.

Hall Passes

When needing to leave a classroom, students are required to receive teacher permission, sign out of their classrooms and obtain a hall pass.

Lockers

Lockers should be kept neat, clean and locked at all times. Students should not share lockers. Any locker that is not working may be reported to the Deans' Office. Students should note that all campus lockers and locks are the property of Thornton Academy; the Academy reserves the right to inspect lockers periodically.

Note: Students are responsible for securing property in lockers, including those in the gym. Thornton Academy is not responsible for loss of personal property.

Valuables

Students are advised to bring only as much money as needed for the day. Valuables should not be left unattended. Thornton Academy is not responsible for theft.

Lost And Found

Anything found around campus may be returned to the Dean's Office. Students are encouraged to check with the Attendance Clerk.

Drop Off of Student Items

Dropping off items for students is not allowed. Students should ensure they arrive at school with everything they will need for the day.

School IDs

Each student will be issued a student ID at the beginning of the school year. This will be used to gain access to buildings from 8:00 am through 3:30 pm. It is the student's responsibility to carry their ID with them throughout the school day. Students must report lost IDs immediately to the Dean's Office. If an ID needs to be replaced, the replacement cost is \$10.

NOTE: Replicating, copying, or tampering with your school-issued ID is strictly prohibited. Do not allow anyone else to use your ID. Students who are found violating this will face disciplinary consequences listed under Serious Behavior Violations.

Food Deliveries

Students are prohibited from having food delivered during the school day from food delivery services, including GrubHub, Uber Eats, DoorDash, or similar services, as well as individual restaurant delivery. Students who place such orders delivered to the school will face disciplinary consequences and any delivered items will be confiscated.

CONSEQUENCES FOR BEHAVIOR INFRACTIONS

Consequences for behavior infractions anywhere on campus, during or after school, may result in a conference with a dean, parental notification, office detention(s), an out-of-school suspension, removal from class or loss of privilege (cell phone, bus, etc.), and possibly expulsion.

All detentions should be served on the day they are assigned. A student who fails to serve a detention may be suspended. Students serving detention need to be on time. During detention, talking between students, electronic devices, food and sleeping are not allowed.

SERIOUS BEHAVIOR VIOLATIONS

Some infractions are so severe they warrant strong disciplinary actions up to and including an out-of-school suspension, a referral to the School Resource Officer, and/or expulsion.

These infractions may result in actions up to and including an out of school suspension or expulsion. The following will NOT be tolerated at Thornton Academy:

- Harassing, discriminating, hazing, and/or bullying behavior
- Aggressive, violent, and/or threatening behavior
- Disrespectful behavior, insubordination, and/or inappropriate language toward staff
- Use, possession and/or distribution of drugs, drug paraphernalia, prescription medication, tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaporizers, and/or alcohol
- Vehicle violations
- Vandalism
- Bomb threats
- Theft
- Weapons
- Unauthorized electronic distribution of libelous imagery, video, or written communication
- Cheating, lying, plagiarism, forging or any form of dishonesty

Thornton Academy reserves the right to take action on any behavior that occurs off campus that may impact the educational experience or safety of Thornton Academy students and staff. Some actions, including but not limited to those listed above violate civil and criminal law. Students who are referred to the Saco Police Department may be charged with a crime.

Suspension

Out-of-school suspension is a severe form of punishment used to convey to both student and parent/guardian that the school will not accept or tolerate the type of behavior that prompted the suspension. A parent/guardian conference may be required prior to a student's return to school. Repeated violations may lead to expulsion. Suspended students cannot be on campus or at any school event off campus for **ANY** reason until the day they are allowed to return to school.

BEHAVIOR-RELATED POLICIES

Behavior-related policies are posted in the MyTA section of the school website.
The policies posted online are the most current.

HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, HAZING and BULLYING POLICY

Thornton Academy is a large and diverse campus built on a foundation of trust, respect, and acceptance. Creating a safe, welcoming environment for students, staff, and visitors is our foremost goal; any and all forms of conduct that create an intimidating or hostile environment that interferes with an individual's educational or professional performance is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Thornton Academy's policy is more stringent than what is mandated by law and Thornton Academy reserves the right to apply disciplinary measures and other corrective action for inappropriate conduct that does not meet the legal definitions of harassment, discrimination, and bullying.

This policy, along with all rules of conduct, applies to students while they are on campus or at a school sponsored event such as an athletic competition, dance, performance or field trip. The Academy reserves the right to take action on any behavior that occurs off campus that may impact the educational experience or safety of Thornton Academy students or staff.

Harassment or Discrimination, including Sexual or Gender-Based Harassment

Thornton Academy prohibits all forms of illegal harassment or discrimination that is based on an individual's race, color, gender, pregnancy, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation (including gender nonconformity and gender identity and expression, including status as a transgender or transsexual individual), genetic information, whistleblower status, military/veteran status, physical or mental disability, or any other status protected by law. Harassment or discrimination is defined as behavior that is based on a person's protected status and is personally offensive or threatening, impairs morale, or is so pervasive or severe that it has the purpose or effect of:

- Creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment; or
- Unreasonably interfering with an individual's ability to participate in or benefit from the school's program; or
- Creating a situation where academic decisions of a student depend on his or her submitting to and/or not objecting to the behavior.

Discrimination and harassment can take many forms. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Limiting opportunities to participate in certain clubs, teams, or activities based on certain characteristics;
- Slurs, jokes, statements, remarks, questions, gestures, pictures, emails, texts, or cartoons regarding legally protected status that are derogatory or demeaning to an individual's or group's characteristics or that promote stereotypes;
- Demands for sexual favors in exchange for favorable treatment, academic rewards, or continued participation in a program or project;
- Obscene, demeaning, or abusive commentary about an individual's body or other personal characteristics;
- Responding to refusals to provide sexual favors with verbal, emotional, or physical abuse;
- Offensive or unwelcome sexual flirtation, advances or touching;
- Unwanted sexual contact or nonconsensual sexual intercourse, including any coerced or non-consensual sexual relations (see Thornton Academy's Student Sexual Misconduct Policy below);
- Sexual or lewd jokes, remarks, leering, whistling, brushing against the body, or other suggestive or insulting gestures or comments;
- Audiotaping, videotaping, or otherwise recording others in sexual or other potentially embarrassing circumstances
- Forwarding or threatening to forward potentially embarrassing recorded material to others;
- Intimidating or suggestive remarks about an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity, whether actual or implied;
- Sexually suggestive or degrading sounds or remarks (written, oral, or electronically transmitted), including graffiti and the spreading of sexual rumors, made to or about another member of the community;
- The use of school technology to transmit sexually suggestive, offensive, and/or degrading material, whether received at school or elsewhere;
- The open display of sexually offensive objects, pictures, and messages.

Sometimes harassing behavior results from ignorance or insensitivity to the feelings of others. Being mindful of how one's behavior is affecting others and communicating the effect of the behavior of others are good ways to minimize harassment.

Some forms of sexual harassment may fall under the Academy's Sexual Misconduct Policy, in which case that policy will be the applicable one.

Hostile Environment

A hostile environment is one in which discrimination, harassment, or bullying causes the School environment to be permeated with intimidation, ridicule, or insult that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of a student's education.

Bullying

Bullying is characterized by a power differential and involves aggressive behavior that is either a single significant incident or a pattern of repeated incidents that are intended to cause harm. Bullying is defined as the use by one or more students of a written, verbal, or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a target that:

- Causes physical or emotional harm to the targeted student or damage to the targeted student's property;
- Places the targeted student in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself or of damage to his or her property;
- Creates a hostile environment at school for the targeted student;
- Infringes on the rights of the targeted student at school; or
- Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying can include, but is not limited to:

- Hitting, slapping, pushing, and other physical conduct that causes bodily harm;
- Threatening in a manner that puts someone down or is cruel;
- Deliberately excluding someone as a way to humiliate or demean them;
- Sexually harassing conduct;
- Hazing activities.

Cyber-Bullying

Cyber-bullying is bullying through the use of technology or electronic devices such as telephones, cell phones, computers, fax machines, and the Internet. It includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messages, text messages, and Internet postings, whether on a web page, in a blog, any form of social media, or otherwise.

Cyber-bullying may include, but is not limited to:

- Taking a private email, instant message, or text message and forwarding it, or threatening to forward it to others or posting it where others can see it to embarrass or intimidate a person;
- Spreading hurtful rumors online about another person;
- Threatening or insulting through aggressive emails, instant messages, or text messages;
- Posting or threatening to post embarrassing pictures of someone online without his or her permission; and
- Creating a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages, if the creation or impersonation causes any of the conditions listed in the definition of bullying listed above.

Hazing

Hazing is defined as conduct or a method of initiation into any student organization which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person, regardless of the consent of the individuals involved.

Examples of hazing include, but are not limited to: whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, beverage, drug, or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of a student or other person, or which subjects a student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

While harassment, discrimination, bullying and hazing all fall within a spectrum of interpersonal aggression and sometimes violence, they are not synonymous. Hazing is predicated on inclusion and can sometimes be overlooked because it can appear as neither particularly aggressive, nor as intended to harm. In addition, hazing can sometimes be confusing for students to understand because they might consent to the behavior. It is important to note that because hazing involves a group context and the power differential of current members and those seeking membership or acceptance by the group,

peer pressure and coercive environment can exist and interfere with consent. Therefore, conduct can be deemed to be hazing regardless of a person's willingness to participate.

Reporting Process

Thornton Academy seeks to achieve, through education, communication and mediation, a welcoming and respectful work and school environment free of hostility, intimidation, harassment, sexual harassment and discrimination. A student, employee, parent or other individual who has concerns should follow the guidelines described below.

Anyone who believes that this policy has been violated should report to a dean, school counselor, school resource officer, or administrator. If you believe that the person's behavior may violate the law, you may report the matter directly to the police. Please be aware that Thornton Academy is required to report certain misconduct that comes to its attention to parents, Maine Department of Health and Human Services ("DHHS") and/ or the District Attorney's Office (see Thornton Academy's Mandatory Reporting Policy), and/or the police.

No one will be reprimanded or punished in any way for initiating an inquiry or report in good faith.

Requests for Confidentiality

Thornton Academy cannot honor requests for complete confidentiality because information must be shared in order to conduct an effective investigation and/or to comply with mandatory reporting laws. However, Thornton Academy will treat information it receives with sensitivity and will only disclose such information on a need-to-know basis. If a reporting party requests confidentiality and/or that Thornton Academy not investigate, Thornton Academy may still need to investigate the allegations in order to ensure the safety of the entire campus community.

Thornton Academy's Response to Report of Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying, Hazing

Once Thornton Academy learns of a potential violation of this policy, Thornton Academy may pursue an informal or formal process depending on the nature of the allegations. A dean, associate head, principal, assistant principal, school counselor, social worker, or administrator may serve as an intermediary to moderate a conversation (either in person or writing) between the parties to resolve the situation. Further, Thornton Academy may put measures in place to separate the parties (i.e. mutual no-contact order) and/or stop the inappropriate conduct (i.e. a cease and desist). In addition to the above options, a dean, associate head, principal or other administrator may conduct an informal investigation to gather facts and make a determination about the appropriate course of action and/or disciplinary response.

In the event that an informal process is unsuccessful or inappropriate, Thornton Academy will conduct an investigation in order to determine whether it is more likely than not that the reported conduct occurred, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, and whether disciplinary action is warranted. Such investigation may be conducted by a senior administrator, dean, associate principal, or external investigator depending on the nature of the report. The investigation may include, but is not limited to, interviews of those individuals directly involved in the incident and relevant witnesses, and collecting documents and any other evidence bearing on the incident. More than one interview of student parties and witnesses may be necessary in order to conduct a thorough investigation.

Thornton Academy may put interim measures in place for the safety of the reporting party and/or the school community, including a mutual no-contact order. Interim measures may include academic accommodations such as a change to class schedule, residential accommodations, such as a change in housing, and changes to meal time, sports or activities. Interim measures may also include medical or counseling services, a mutual non-contact directive, and/or a voluntary or mandatory leave from school for a period of time.

Upon completion of the investigation in the formal process, the investigator will analyze all the evidence and determine whether this policy was violated. The investigator will report the findings, rationale, and conclusions to the Associate Head of School and/or Principal, who will make the final determination as to what, if any, remedial action or disciplinary measures should be taken.

Following the formal investigation, Thornton Academy shall inform the student parties and parents of the decision as soon as possible and explain to the student parties the reasons for the decision.

Retaliation

Retaliation is any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment directed against a student who reports discrimination, harassment, or bullying, or who witnesses or provides information during an investigation about such behavior. Retaliation against any such individual, whether by the accused person or someone else, will not be tolerated and will be subject to the same strict discipline as harassment, discrimination, or bullying itself.

Abuse of Process/ Failure to Cooperate with an Investigation

Because allegations of harassment, discrimination, hazing, and bullying are serious and can be damaging to accused persons' reputations, any person who knowingly, maliciously, or recklessly makes a false complaint will be subject to discipline. In addition, because candor and honesty are essential to the investigation and remediation process, they are required of all participants, including any witnesses. Withholding of any material information in an investigation is prohibited. Students and employees are expected to cooperate fully in an investigation conducted by Thornton Academy.

Discipline

Persons who are found to have violated this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

STUDENT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY

Thornton Academy strives to be a safe and supportive environment that cultivates learning and personal growth for all of its students. All forms of sexual misconduct, including but not limited to sexual assault, interfere with this critical mission and will not be tolerated. Thornton Academy will take appropriate action to prevent and correct behavior both by employees and students that violates this policy. Thornton Academy will also take any necessary disciplinary action against students. This policy applies to student sexual misconduct that occurs on campus or at any school-related activities. Thornton Academy reserves the right to address sexual misconduct that takes place off campus under this policy if such conduct causes a substantial disruption to or endangers the safety of the campus community.

Sexual misconduct is a broad term used to describe a range of prohibited behaviors and includes unwanted behavior of a sexual nature that is committed without consent or by force, intimidation, coercion, or manipulation. Sexual misconduct can be committed by a person of any gender, and it can occur between people of the same or different gender. Sexual misconduct may vary in its severity and consists of a range of behaviors or attempted behaviors, and is not necessarily physical in nature. It can occur between strangers or acquaintances, including people involved in an intimate or sexual relationship.

Reporting Sexual Misconduct

Students who believe they have been victims of sexual misconduct should seek help immediately from their parents and/or any trusted adult on campus, including the Headmaster, the Associate Head, a principal, an assistant principal, a dean, a school counselor, a school social worker, a school nurse, or the School Resource Officer. Students should contact the School Resource Officer or call 911 if they need or witness a need for immediate police and/ or medical attention.

Persons may report sexual misconduct verbally or in writing. When reporting an incident, it is helpful to provide as much information as possible, including the following:

1. A description of the event
2. The number of occurrences, with dates and places
3. The names of any witnesses
4. Any documents or other materials that are related to the event.

In addition to potentially violating Thornton Academy's policies, certain sexual activity may also violate the law. In certain circumstances, Thornton Academy may be obligated to report the conduct to DHHS and/or the District Attorney under the state mandatory reporting law. In accordance with Maine law, Thornton Academy will report to DHHS and the District Attorney if it knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a student under the age of 18 has been abused or is likely to be abused.

Persons may also report a sexual assault directly to the School Resource Officer and/or Saco police. (The phone number for the Saco Police Department is 207-284-4535)

Thornton Academy's Response to Sexual Misconduct

Thornton Academy treats all reports of sexual misconduct seriously with the well-being of its students as the first priority. Thornton Academy will promptly notify the parents of students who are reported to have experienced and/or engaged in sexual misconduct. Following a report of sexual misconduct, Thornton Academy will conduct its own investigation using an internal or external investigator in order to ensure the safety of its campus community and to determine whether disciplinary action is warranted. This investigation is separate from any investigation that might be conducted by law enforcement. Thornton Academy may delay its investigation for a reasonable amount of time to allow for law enforcement to interview witnesses and collect evidence. However, a report of criminal activity to law enforcement will not stop Thornton Academy's investigation process.

Requests for Confidentiality

Thornton Academy cannot honor requests for complete confidentiality because information must be shared in order to conduct an effective investigation and/or to comply with mandatory reporting laws. However, Thornton Academy will treat information it receives regarding sexual misconduct with sensitivity and will only disclose such information on a need-to-know basis. If a reporting party requests confidentiality and/or that Thornton Academy does not investigate, Thornton Academy may still need to investigate the allegations in order to ensure the safety of the entire campus community.

Interim and Safety Measures

The Associate Head or designee shall determine whether interim measures are necessary pending the results of a sexual misconduct investigation. Interim measures may include academic accommodations such as a change to class schedule, residential accommodations, such as a change in housing, and changes to meal time, sports or activities. Interim measures may also include medical or counseling services, a mutual non-contact directive, and/or a voluntary or mandatory leave from school for a period of time.

Investigation Process

Immediately following a report of sexual misconduct, Thornton Academy will conduct its own investigation in order to determine whether it is more likely than not that the reported conduct occurred, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, and whether disciplinary action is warranted. Such investigation may be conducted by a senior administrator, dean, or external investigator depending on the nature of the report. The investigation may include, but is not limited to, interviews of those individuals directly involved in the incident and relevant witnesses, and collecting documents and any other evidence bearing on the incident. More than one interview of student parties and witnesses may be necessary in order to conduct a thorough investigation. Student parties are permitted to have a school counselor or social worker present as support during their interviews. It is Thornton Academy's expectation that students are cooperative when called upon to provide information in an investigation. Refusal to cooperate may result in disciplinary actions up to and including suspension.

Upon completion of the investigation, the investigator will analyze all the evidence and determine whether this policy was violated. The investigator will report to the Associate Head and/or principal, who will make the final determination as to what, if any, remedial action or disciplinary measures should be taken.

The Associate Head and/or principal shall inform the student parties of the decision as soon as possible and explain to the student parties the reasons for the decision.

Retaliation

Retaliation for complaining about sexual misconduct or participating in an investigation or disciplinary proceeding involving a complaint of sexual misconduct is prohibited. Any student engaging in retaliation, including through electronic means or through social media, will face discipline.

Abuse of Process/False Complaints

Because allegations of sexual misconduct are serious and can be damaging to accused persons' reputations, any person who knowingly, maliciously, or recklessly makes a false complaint will be subject to discipline. In addition, because candor and honesty are essential to the investigation and remediation process, they are required of all participants, including any witnesses. Students and employees are expected to cooperate fully in an investigation conducted by Thornton Academy.

Additional Resources for Students

Students may want to speak with adults outside of Thornton Academy for support regarding sexual misconduct. There are several resources in the area for victims of sexual misconduct listed below.

Local Resources

[Sexual Assault Response Services Of Southern Maine](#)

24 hours: 1-800-313-9900 or (207) 774-3613

[Caring Unlimited](#)

York County, 24 Hours: 1-800-239-7298

[Hospital Emergency Department](#)

- Southern Maine Medical Center (Biddeford): (207) 294-5000
- Maine Medical Center (Portland): (207) 662-2381

[Local Police: Emergency 911](#)

Notice of Non-discrimination, Anti-harassment and Non-retaliation

Thornton Academy acknowledges its obligation to prohibit discrimination, harassment, or retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, age, national origin, sex, gender, citizenship status, genetic information, handicap or disability in admissions, access, employment, tuition assistance, educational policies, or other school-administered student and employee programs and activities.

To make an inquiry or file a complaint concerning the above statement, an individual may contact Associate Head Carol Taranko at (207) 602-4468.

ACADEMIC MATTERS

CAMPUS HOURS AND INSTRUCTIONAL PERIODS

School is in session from 8:30AM to 2:45PM. Students must have a legitimate academic or co-curricular reason with supervision to be on campus outside of these hours.

Early Release Wednesdays: Students will begin the day at 8:30 AM and end at 12:00 PM approximately one Wednesday per month. Bus schedules are adjusted accordingly and students are expected to leave campus at noon.

The 2023-2024 school calendar, which includes maroon and gold day information, and bell schedules may be found in the "My TA" section of the website: <https://www.thorntonacademy.org/my-ta>

[Building hours](#)

- All buildings, including the Main Building, open at 8:00am.
- Exceptions are:
 - Linnell Gymnasium is locked relative to posted activities.
 - Alumni House is open daily from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Thursday, until 3:30 PM on Friday.

SCHOOL DELAYS AND CLOSINGS

If school is delayed or closed, the School Messenger system will alert parents/guardians. Options for notification include email, voicemail and text message; instructions for School Messenger are mailed home shortly after the start of school. For more information regarding School Messenger, contact Mrs. Estabrook (ext 4401).

School delays and closures are also announced on the school greeting (call 282-3361), on the school's social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and on local television news (Channels 6, 8 and 13).

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS

Department Chairs — The following faculty members head academic departments. Questions regarding content-specific curriculum, instructional practices, class expectations, homework assignments and other assessments of student performance, and other departmental matters may be addressed to the chair or administrator of the department:

English	Mrs. Pendergrass
Fine Arts	Mrs. Campbell
History	Mr. Parise
Languages	Mr. Jandreau
Mathematics	Ms. Corrigan
Science	Mr. Frost
Special Education	Mrs. Pare
Wellness	Dr. Kohl

Special Education: The Special Education Department is located in the Main Building, on the ground floor. For more information concerning special education services, please contact the office at 282-3361, ext 4424.

Science Department

Due to the nature of equipment and activities taking place in Science classrooms, students are required to know these important safety rules, and follow them at all times when in a Science classroom.

- **Basic science room safety rules**
 - No eating. Drinks may be kept in covered containers with belongings not on desks.
 - Behave appropriately in every science classroom. Misbehaving will result in being asked to sit down or, if more serious, to leave and receive a zero for the activity.
 - Never touch any materials or equipment without permission. Items can be more fragile, dangerous, or expensive than they appear.
 - Never sit on desks or lab benches in a Science classroom.
 - Report all accidents and spills immediately.
 - Leave laboratory benches clean and neat.
 - Never move faucet handles or gas levers without the teacher's permission.
- **When preparing for laboratory work**
 - Study laboratory procedures, both written and verbal, prior to performing the lab activities.
 - Never perform unauthorized experiments.
 - Keep lab benches organized and free of apparel, books, and other clutter.
 - Know how to use the safety shower, eyewash, fire blanket, and first-aid kit.
- **Dress appropriately for laboratory work**
 - Tie back long hair.

- Do not wear loose sleeves; they can get in the way.
- Wear shoes with tops.
- Wear lab aprons as required during laboratory sessions.
- Wear safety goggles during all laboratory sessions with chemicals, heat, glassware, or by teacher recommendation. Consequences:
 - First offense — 20% on lab
 - Second offense — 0% on lab
- Wear gloves when using chemicals that irritate or can be absorbed through the skin.
- **Avoid contact with chemicals.**
 - Treat all chemicals as potentially dangerous.
 - Never taste or "sniff" chemicals.
 - When heating substances in a test tube, point the mouth away from people.
 - Never carry dangerous chemicals or hot equipment near other people.
- **Other hazards to avoid**
 - No eating, drinking or chewing gum.
 - Keep combustibles away from open flames.
 - Use caution when handling hot glassware. Remember cold and hot glassware look the same!
 - When diluting acid, always add acid slowly to water. Never add water to acid.
 - Turn off burners when not in use.
 - Keep caps on reagent bottles. Never switch caps.
 - Never return chemicals to their containers unless instructed to do so by the teacher.
- **Clean up procedures**
 - Consult the teacher for proper disposal of chemicals.
 - Wash hands thoroughly following experiments.
 - Leave the laboratory bench clean and neat.
- **In case of accident**
 - Report all accidents and spills immediately.
 - Place broken glass in designated containers.
 - Wash all acids and bases from your skin immediately with plenty of running water.
 - If chemicals get in your eyes, your partner will help you wash them out with the eyewash for at least 15 minutes.

STUDY HALL GUIDELINES

- Students must check in with their assigned teacher for attendance.
- Students must have an academic pass to leave the study hall.
- Card playing, dice games and video games are not allowed.
- Students should clean their table/area before leaving the study hall.
- Cell phone use is not allowed in guided study hall

ACADEMIC SCHEDULING

Students select courses in the spring of the previous year. A "course adjustment period" for full-year, first semester and second semester classes is established annually by the School Counseling Department. During the first week of school, a form for schedule change requests will be emailed to students and parents. All requests must be received by Wednesday, September 9th. Schedule changes will be considered but not guaranteed based on availability.

The following protocols govern course adjustments:

- The student will meet with his/her school counselor to make desired adjustments.
- Changes to the level of core classes will include consultation with teachers and parents.
- No first semester or full-year classes will be added to a student's schedule after the date listed for the course adjustment period.
- No second semester classes will be added to a student's schedule after the date listed for the course adjustment period.

At the start of school, students with schedule errors (e.g., lack of a required core class, a schedule reflecting fewer than 5 total credits) will be given priority in the course adjustment period.

Dropping a class

- A student wishing to drop a class after the course adjustment period must discuss the reasoning for the drop with his/her school counselor.
- The student must obtain approval signatures from his/her parent/guardian and the teacher and return the completed course withdrawal form by the established due date.
- All classes dropped after the course adjustment period is over will result in a “W” on the transcript.
- A school counselor, after consulting the Director of School Counseling, may adjust any of the above protocols in the case of extenuating circumstances.

GRADING SCALE

Letter grade	Range	Core	Honors	AP
A	94-100	4.00	4.20	4.30
A-	90-93	3.67	3.87	3.97
B+	87-89	3.33	3.53	3.63
B	84-86	3.00	3.20	3.29
B-	80-83	2.67	2.87	2.96
C+	77-79	2.33	2.53	2.63
C	74-76	2.00	2.20	2.29
C-	70-73	1.77	1.87	1.96
D+	67-69	1.33	1.53	1.63
D	64-66	1.00	1.20	1.29
D-	60-63	0.67	0.87	0.96
F	0-59	0.00	0.00	0.00

Academic Progress Reports — Grades are posted online by teachers on the 1st and 15th of the month.

AP POLICY

AP courses are the most rigorous courses offered here at TA. Each course is highly structured to follow a prescribed college-level curriculum and to prepare students to be successful on the exam. Each student is **required** to complete all course requirements, and take the AP exam on the scheduled day. Students are also required to pay the AP Exam fee of \$97 per exam. Any student not fulfilling these requirements may lose the weighted grade or may have a course change on his/her transcript.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

CREDITS

The minimum number of credits needed to graduate is 22, of which 15.5 must meet the core requirements. Additional information may be found in the Program of Studies.

GRADUATION

The purpose of graduation is the receipt of a diploma signifying the completion of all high school requirements. Senior activities and the commencement ceremony are for the purpose of celebrating the completion of all high school requirements and the conferring of a diploma. Students who do not meet the graduation requirements will not be allowed to participate in the commencement ceremony without the Headmaster’s approval.

Thornton Academy considers four years of sequential full-time high school study to be educationally and developmentally appropriate. Therefore, requests for early graduation will not be granted.

GRADUATION FEES

Senior year dues of \$50 are assessed to each senior. These funds cover the cost of graduation expenses such as cap and gown purchase and diploma preparation. Dues are payable at any time during senior year, and must be paid prior to a student's participation in any end-of-year senior activities, **including prom**. Payment can be made through a student's MySchoolBucks account

HONOR ROLL

A student must take 4 one-credit courses or their equivalent to qualify for the Honor Roll. Any non-weighted course or any aide position (e.g., School Counseling Office aide) must be passed for honor roll consideration but will be excluded in the count of A's, B's, and C's.

- 1st Honors: A student must receive all A's.
- 2nd Honors: A student must have all A's and B's.
- 3rd Honors: A student may have all B's OR no more than one C balanced by an A.

HONOR ROLL PINS

A student earning honor roll designation (1st, 2nd, or 3rd honors) in all of the first three quarters of a school year qualifies to earn an honor roll pin at the academic end of year events (Underclass Awards Night for grades 9,10, and 11; Baccalaureate for grade 12).

ACADEMIC-RELATED POLICIES

All academic policies are posted in the MyTA section of the school website.
The policies posted online are the most current.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Preamble: An integral aspect of preparing students for a changing world involves the development of appropriate and ethical choices with regard to each individual's actions within the community. It is our charge as educators to provide all students with the proper tools to identify improper use, avoid plagiarism and cheating, collaborate responsibly with others, and to appreciate the inherent value in academic honesty. The following policy will guide the Thornton Academy community in adhering to our standards of academic integrity.

Definition: Academic Honesty is defined as valuing and demonstrating positive regard for personal integrity and truthfulness, as well as, the intellectual property rights of others.

Responsibilities

Thornton Academy employees will:

- Model and teach academic integrity so that all students are able to produce original work.
- Examples
 - Share exemplars of original vs. unoriginal work
 - Teach how to properly cite the work of others
 - Post research and style guidelines on course Moodle pages

Thornton Academy students will demonstrate investment by:

- Using the shared skills and resources provided to create original work. When students feel they are not in a position to produce original work, they will seek assistance from their instructor(s) so they can avoid an infraction.
- Not sharing original work with others for the purpose of providing answers publicly or personally
- Examples
 - Make use of resources provided by faculty and staff posted online
 - Seek assistance from appropriate faculty or support staff

Parents will:

- Support students and staff in creating a community where students will create original work.
- Examples
 - Guide students in taking advantage of academic resources provided by faculty and/or posted online
 - Communicate with staff when a student is struggling with an assignment
 - Support the faculty in helping students recognize the importance of this policy and the value of academic honesty

Documentation

If a teacher determines there is sufficient evidence of academic dishonesty on the part of a student, the following actions will be taken:

1. The teacher will discuss the incident with the student(s) involved.
2. The teacher will complete the Infraction Form and provide a copy to the student and to the Academic Honesty Committee chairperson.
3. The teacher will notify the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) to discuss the infraction and subsequent consequences.
4. If the student chooses not to appeal, the Academic Honesty Committee chairperson will record the incident in PowerSchool and retain the documentation.

Range of Consequences

Academic Honesty infractions are cumulative during the student's entire attendance at Thornton Academy. For a first offense, a teacher will impose one or more of the following consequences:

- Require the student to resubmit the assignment for a modified grade
- Assign a reduced grade or zero (0) for the assignment
- Assign a before or after-school teacher detention

For subsequent or multiple offenses, a teacher will impose one or more of the above *AND* one or more of the following consequences after consulting with an administrator:

- Reduce a student's quarter grade by a maximum of 10 percentage points
- Revoke AP or honors weight for a course
- Notify post-secondary institutions, including academic or other bodies
- Retract letters of recommendation, or other awards and commendations
- Recommend an appropriate course placement/level change

Consequences may be retroactive for a completed course in which work has been inappropriately shared.

Appeals

It is the responsibility of the student to demonstrate why the allegation of academic honesty should be overturned. A student may exercise their right to appeal the allegation by following the process below:

1. Within 5 school days of being notified of the allegation, the student must return the completed Infraction Form to their dean.
2. The student must attach a written statement and substantiating documentation that demonstrates grounds for appeal.
3. The Appeals Committee, consisting of two members of the faculty and a dean, will consider the documentation and decide to either uphold or dismiss the allegation. The committee may request additional information from appropriate parties.

The student and teacher will be notified of the committee findings in writing. The decision of the Appeals Committee on these matters is final.

TECHNOLOGY: ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Thornton Academy is a community built upon trust. This trust demands that our technological resources be used for educational purposes in meeting our mission. We also believe that it is about everything and everyone. Therefore, our use of technology must be as open as possible while providing sufficient safeguards. Our rules are based on three principles: respect oneself, respect others and respect property, so the concept of personal responsibility is important to the school and to the use of any of the technology resources available and/or used on campus.

In order to achieve our mission, meet educational objectives, enhance communication between faculty, staff, students and parents, encourage collaboration and provide for the betterment of the community, Thornton has integrated the use of technology assets across the curriculum. Many courses maintain a web-based component or require computer or Internet access to complete lessons that help realize our educational objectives. We understand that access to the Internet may make available material of questionable educational value and that access to such material is impossible to control totally even with a degree of filtering. But we firmly believe that the value inherent in the total resources available far outweighs the possibility that some members may intentionally or unintentionally access material that conflicts with Thornton's educational goals. Therefore, use of technology resources including the Internet requires the personal responsibility to act in a respectful, ethical, unselfish, efficient and legal manner.

The use of Thornton Academy's technology resources and access to the Internet is a privilege that provides wonderful educational benefits as well as new responsibilities. Depending on the circumstances and degree, any inappropriate use of our technology resources, remote learning environments, the TA network or Internet would result in appropriate consequences ranging from a warning to legal action. Such rules also apply to personally owned technology devices used on the Thornton Academy campus. A sampling of the use of technology that violates the spirit or intent of Thornton Academy's Acceptable Use Policy follows. Any action not explicitly prohibited below should not be equated with tacit permission. Behaviors inconsistent with Thornton's AUP include but are not limited to:

- Circumventing TA's web filtering system
- The use of proxies to access restricted web-pages
- Using on-line chat, mail, social networking, or VOIP to harass, intimidate or libel
- Sending hate mail, chain letters or use of discriminatory remarks
- Using any electronic device or the web to plagiarize or cheat
- Sharing or misusing IDs and passwords
- Installation of software or attempts to access private servers or databases
- Physical damage to equipment
- Violating copyright or other intellectual property laws or licensing agreements including MP3s, videos, podcasts, etc.

The Academy strictly prohibits screenshots, pictures, audio/video recording and distribution of any remote or in person educational instruction without prior consent.

Utilizing any form of artificial intelligence to complete assigned schoolwork without teacher permission, including work on homework, projects, essays, or research papers, is considered Academic Dishonesty and is prohibited at Thornton Academy. This includes using AI at any stage of the assignment.

The Academy reserves the right to deny, revoke or suspend, without prior notification, specific user privileges and/or to take other disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion with loss of tuition (if applicable) from school, for violation of this policy.

The Academy will deem what is inappropriate use and the consequences of such misuse; the decision will be final. User members should understand that school and law enforcement officials may access personal files at any time and that e-mail is not considered private communication.

The Acceptable Use Policy will be explained and clarified to employees and students at the beginning of, and as needed, throughout each school year. The August parent mailing will include a copy. The policy is reviewed annually. The basis for this policy is that of accepting the personal responsibility to use technology resources including the Internet in an appropriate and respectful manner.

IPAD PROTECTION PROGRAM

Thornton Academy requires all students to enroll in the iPad Protection Program. This protects the student in the event that the iPad or laptop is accidentally damaged, lost, or stolen. It also provides coverage if the laptop charger or iPad charger is lost, broken, or stolen. This policy does not cover malicious or negligent damage or any damage that is in direct violation of Thornton Academy's Acceptable Use Policy, as determined by Administration and the Technology Department. This policy also does not cover lost iPads/laptops due to negligence or without sufficient explanation or if it is not reported within 24 hours of being lost, as determined by Administration in coordination with the Technology Department. In the event that the iPad Protection Program does not cover the cost of replacement, the student is responsible for the full cost of the replacement.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Thornton Academy offers a wide variety of supervised extracurricular activities and encourages all students to participate. All notices of club meetings, social events and general information are emailed to students daily.

Students participating in any extracurricular activities are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and to follow the instructions of advisors, coaches, and/or chaperones. Improper conduct may result in a student being prohibited from participation. Students must attend school or have an excused absence on the day of any extracurricular activity in order to participate in the activity. Participation in school activities and functions may be revoked if a student's behavior and/or attendance are unsatisfactory. Attendance at school functions such as dances, athletic contests and other co-curricular activities is a privilege.

Academic Clubs

Classics (Latin & Greek) Club
Robotics Club]
Chinese Club
French Club

German Club
Math Team**
* National Honor Society
Spanish Club

** Indicates that the Faculty Council selects from student applicants*

***Indicates base on interest*

Community Service & Interest Clubs

Anime
Ambassador Program
Anglers Society
Art Club
* Chamber Singers

* Chorus
Civil Rights Team
Community Leaders Club
Cycling Club
* Dance Company

Debate Club
 Drama Club
 Environmental Club
 Gay/Straight/Transgender Alliance (GSTA)
 History Day
 INK (online magazine)
 INTERACT Club
 * Jazz Band
 Model United Nations
 * Orchestra
 Outdoor Adventure Club
 * Pep Band
 SAGE

Speech Team
 Student Council (see description below)
 Student Media Team
 * TATV
 Tabletop Gamers
 TA Coders
 TA Players (drama club)
 TedX Club
 * Treble Choir
 * Tripod (yearbook)
 Unified Club
 World Quest

** Indicates an activity is credit-bearing*

Dances and other School Sponsored Events

Students must adhere to the same behavioral expectations as listed in the Student Handbook at any School Sponsored Event. This includes, but is not limited to, dances, field trips, athletic events (both on and off campus). Students who have had behavioral infractions prior to the event may have the privilege of attending, revoked. Students who have behavioral infractions at such an event will receive the same consequences listed under “CONSEQUENCES FOR BEHAVIOR INFRACTIONS” and may not be allowed to attend any future Dances and/or other School Sponsored Events.

Forms to bring a guest to a dance can be found in the Dean’s Office.

ATHLETICS

Thornton Academy offers a wide variety of supervised athletic activities in two different leagues, and encourages all students to participate. **FMI:** Mr. Stevens (ext 4406)

Sports Teams

Baseball
 Basketball (MPA and Club)
 Cheerleading
 Cross Country, boys & girls
 Field Hockey, girls
 Football
 Golf, boys & girls
 Ice Hockey (Boys)
 *Ice Hockey (Cooperative girls)
 Lacrosse, boys & girls

**Skiing
 Softball
 Soccer, boys & girls (MPA and MAISAD)
 Swimming/Diving, boys & girls
 Tennis, boys & girls
 Track, Indoor, boys & girls
 Track, Outdoor, boys & girls
 Unified Basketball, boys & girls
 Volleyball, girls
 Weightlifting, winter/spring

***Wrestling

**Thornton Academy fields a cooperative girls ice hockey team with Biddeford High School, Sanford High School and Wells High School.*

***Thornton Academy does not field a skiing team, but interested students may compete as cooperative individuals affiliated with an area school.*

**** Thornton Academy competes in a cooperative wrestling team with Biddeford High School.*

ATHLETIC POLICIES

The complete Upper School Athletic Handbook and the athletic participation form are posted at the MyTA section of the school website.

Eligibility Requirements

Since Thornton Academy participates in athletic competitions under the auspices of the Maine Principals Association, eligibility requirements for athletics meet MPA requirements. To be eligible to participate in athletics, a student must have passed (A-D & P) the equivalent of four one-credit subjects in the first, second and third quarters. In the fourth quarter, a student must pass the equivalent of four one-credit subjects and accumulate four credits toward graduation in order to be eligible to participate the following fall.

A student who is ineligible may practice with the team, but will only be granted eligibility to fully participate in athletic competitions (games, meets, etc.) if they receive passing grades (A-D & P) in the equivalent of four one-credit subjects at the progress report date following the quarter that initially deemed them ineligible.

Progress report dates are as follows:

- Q1 = 9/27/23 (4 weeks)
- Q2 = 12/1/23 (4 weeks)
- Q3 = 2/16/24 (4 weeks)
- Q4 = 4/26/24 (4 weeks)

The following additional requirements also apply for students participating in athletics:

1. Students must be under 20 years of age.
2. A student's eligibility to compete at the varsity level is limited to the first eight semesters following the date that he or she enters ninth grade.
3. Extensions of this rule must be approved by an external review board (the MPA Eligibility Committee).
4. A student transferring from one school to another without a corresponding change of address by his or her parents/guardians may only become eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics if an MPA Transfer Waiver Approval Form is properly filed with the MPA office, with the student, parents/guardians, sending principal and receiving principal all certifying that the transfer was not primarily for athletic purposes.
5. A student declared ineligible due to the transfer rule shall be eligible to participate only after being in attendance at the new school for three hundred sixty-five (365) consecutive calendar days, which will begin with the first day of attendance at the new school.

Other athletic requirements:

- Before participating in athletics, students and their parents/guardians must read the Athletic Policy and sign a Thornton Academy Waiver Form and Emergency Release Form, which must be returned to the Athletic Director.
- Thornton Academy requires students to have a physical examination before beginning any school sport. The required forms are available in the nurse's office, the Main Office, and online (www.thorntonacademy.org/athletics). Completed forms must be submitted to the Nurse's Office for clearance. Substitute notes and incomplete forms will not be accepted. Athletes must also be current with all immunizations.
- All athletes are required by Thornton Academy or the Maine Principals; Association to submit evidence of having passed a physical exam with a medical history every other year between sixth grade and graduation. Athletes may not participate until the school nurse receives physical exam forms signed by a physician AND a health history form signed by the athlete and parent/guardian. The health history form must be submitted each academic year with any changes noted. Health history forms will be reviewed annually by the school nurse, who will consult with the school physician if any conditions arise warranting the need for another complete physical exam before proceeding with the upcoming athletic school year. Students who have sustained major injuries or medical illnesses should have a physical exam before participation resumes.
- Any athletic equipment that is issued to a student becomes that student's responsibility. Students who lose or damage school-issued equipment will be required to pay for it.
- Any violation by an athlete of Thornton Academy behavior expectations delineated in this Handbook may result in suspension from athletic participation or removal from a team.

HEALTH

School Nurses

Students who become ill during school should see a school nurse. The nurse will determine whether a student should be dismissed or can return to class. The nurse will notify parents/guardians if a dismissal is needed for health reasons. Please refer to the Thornton Academy General Illness Policy (on the [MyTA](#) page) for specific information. A student who has an accident either on school grounds or at any school-sponsored event should report the accident immediately to a Thornton Academy staff member. An Accident Report should be completed and kept on file in the nurse's office.

Medication

It is the policy of Thornton Academy that only essential medications will be administered during school hours. Whenever possible, the schedule of medication administration should allow a student to receive all prescribed doses at home. Please refer to Thornton Academy's Medication Administration At School policy (on the [MyTA](#) page) for additional information.

COVID-19 Response (updated 3/2024)

****Due to the nature of this, Thornton Academy reserves the right to make changes throughout the school year.****

In response to COVID-19, Thornton Academy will comply with the guidelines set forth by the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as well as the State of Maine, which are incorporated herein. Our goal is to continue to minimize the risk of possible transmission of COVID-19 between people. **Therefore, these guidelines are mandatory for all students who enter our campus.**

Health & Safety

- Students who travel outside of Maine during the school year, are expected to follow the State of Maine's current guidance on travel.
- All students must practice the following proper [CDC infection control measures](#) and follow any additional guidelines established for their specific classrooms.
- All positive COVID-19 student cases MUST be reported to the school nurse.
- A student who tests positive for COVID-19 must meet CDC guidelines related to resolving symptoms before returning to school and school activities. This applies to both fully vaccinated and unvaccinated students. The school nurse will provide guidance to students/families regarding a return to school date.

Symptom Screening Before Coming to School

- Each day, before entering Thornton Academy property, students, with the assistance of their parent or guardian, must complete a daily self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms. Certain responses will require a parent or guardian to contact the school to report an absence and remain off TA property. The following questions should be answered during this self-screen:
- Am I experiencing:
 - A cough?
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?
 - New loss of taste or smell?
 - Fever (greater than 100.4°F)?
 - Chills or repeated shaking with chills?
 - Sore throat?
 - Fatigue?
 - 2 or more of the following:
 - New headache?
 - Muscle or body aches?
 - Congestion or runny nose?
 - Nausea/vomiting?
 - Diarrhea?

If a student answered "YES" to any of these questions, the student must follow the following steps:

- Stay home.
 - Students must stay home when they are sick or ill and/or if the student is suspected of having symptoms of COVID-19 as listed above.
 - Parent/Guardian must follow absence reporting procedures using SchoolPass
 - Parents/guardians may contact the school nurse regarding the Maine CDC's guidance prior to a return to school when experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Returning to school*
 - Students may return to school only when they have been provided guidance from their healthcare provider to do so, and have met the following criteria:
 1. Alternative diagnosis (cause of symptoms), or a negative COVID test,
 2. > 1 day with NO fever and NO fever-reducing medication, AND
 3. Improvement of symptoms.

*Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact a school nurse @ health@thorntonacademy.org with questions about returning to school.

Thornton Academy will be following the most up-to-date recommendations from the Maine CDC and our school physicians regarding a return to school after experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. A member of our school nursing team will support students/families in understanding the expectations, including testing recommendations.

CAMPUS PARKING POLICY

The campus parking policy protects the safety of students, staff, and visitors using Thornton Academy's parking lots. The intent is to create a clear and efficient process to determine appropriate use of the parking lots on campus.

Eligibility Requirements

- Only Junior and Senior students are permitted to bring vehicles to school.
- Students must be positive school citizens, and in good standing.
- Any student bringing a vehicle to school must have an active driver's license

A valid parking pass must be displayed while parked on campus. Students must park properly and only in the two designated student lots, which are near Linnell Gymnasium and near the Scamman Science Building. Parking around the retainer pond will be nose in parking from the corner of the facilities building toward Route 1 to the island at the stop sign. Parking from the Facilities building to the loading dock will be parallel parking only. Any parking on grass areas not designated for parking are subject to towing.

Parking Violations

Violations are divided into four categories: Parking Violations, Safety Violations, Attendance Violations, and School Policy Violations/Criminal Activity. Thornton Academy reserves the right to skip steps in the below timelines based on the seriousness of the violation.

Thornton Academy retains the right to have a vehicle towed if the need should arise. If a student parks on campus while their parking privilege is suspended or has been revoked the vehicle may be towed. School administration will further address such issues at their discretion.

Parking violations include, but are not limited to:

- Parking without a permit
- Double parking
- Parking in Visitor Parking zone
- Parking in fire lanes
- Parking in Handicap Reserved spaces without permission
- Parking in Fairfield lot
- Blocking the loading dock area
- Parking in the bus loops
- Loitering
- Engine idling or revving

Parking Violations will be enforced in the below manner:

- First Offense: Parking ticket
- Second Offense: 5-Day parking suspension
- Third Offense: 10-Day parking suspension
- Fourth Offense: 90-Day parking suspension
- Fifth Offense: Revocation of parking privileges

Safety Violations include but are not limited to:

- Stop sign violations
- Failure to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks

- Spinning or squealing tires
- Excessive acceleration
- Excessive or unsafe speed

Safety Violations will be enforced in the below manner:

- First Offense: 10-Day Parking Suspension
- Second Offense: Revocation of Parking Permit

Note: Safety Violations will be referred to the Saco Police Department for investigation and charges will be brought forth when applicable.

School Policy Violations/Criminal Activity where the vehicle is involved include but are not limited to:

- Drug violations
- Alcohol violations
- Weapon violations
- Fighting
- Assaults
- Bullying as outlined in relevant school policy

If any student's vehicle is used in furtherance of any violation under this section, that student will be held accountable under this section regardless of their physical proximity to the violation.

School Policy Violations / Criminal Activity will be enforced in the below manner:

- First Offense: 60-Day Parking Suspension
- Second Offense: Revocation of parking privileges

ANNUAL POLICY NOTIFICATIONS

Thornton Academy notifies parents and students annually of the following policies:

- Access to student information
 - Release of educational records
 - Information designated as "directory information"
 - Parental rights
 - College and military access
 - Third party access
- Survey administration
- Pesticide use

Access to student information

Educational Records

Educational records may be shared with school officials who have a legitimate educational interest in the information. The following definitions apply:

- *School officials* include but are not limited to permanent and temporary faculty, administrators, advisors, athletic personnel and administrative support staff.
- *Legitimate educational interest* is a need to review a student's record in order to fulfill a school official's professional responsibility at the school.

Thornton Academy will release copies of a student's educational records in accordance with: the requirements of MRS 20-A, Ch 221, §6001, and the records release guidelines established by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which protects the privacy of student education records. This includes the release of a student's educational records at the request of a school administrative district to which the student is transferring. In addition, Thornton Academy will release a student's educational records to a criminal justice agency according to all guidelines outlined in §6001.

Privacy and Directory Information

Schools may share basic student information, designated as "directory information," without prior written consent. The following data are considered directory information:

- Student name, grade level, address, phone number, email address and photo
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- Participation in official school activities (e.g., clubs, sports, school/class events)
- Athletic team rosters with weight and height of all players

Directory information will be disclosed only to benefit, promote and celebrate the school and its students. Examples of directory information disclosure include but are not limited to:

- Honor roll or other recognition lists
- School programs (e.g., athletic, graduation, performance)
- Release of graduate names and photos
- Student produced materials and media (e.g., Tripod, Carpe Diem, TA-TV)
- School produced materials (e.g., publications, TA websites/social media, performance CDs or DVDs)

Parental Rights and Educational Records

Parents/guardians may:

- Inspect and review their student's educational records
- Request in writing an amendment to educational records in the event of inaccuracy
- Consent or dissent in writing to disclosure of the student's record and any non-directory or directory information by September 30 of the current school year or within thirty (30) days after enrollment

College and Military Access (Upper School only)

- Thornton Academy is authorized to share students' contact information (name, address, telephone) with colleges and the military. This typically applies to juniors and seniors only.
 - In the event that a parent/guardian does not wish to have a child's contact information shared with either colleges and/or the military, the school must be notified in writing by September 30th.
 - An email to a child's school counselor is an acceptable form of written notification
- FMI:** School Counseling Office: 282-3361, ext 4454
- Non-directory information is private information and is never released without written parental consent.

Third Parties contracted by Thornton Academy

- Each year Thornton Academy selects a company for provision of school-related products such as caps and gowns, class rings, yearbooks, school IDs and graduation ceremony photographs.
- Students' names and addresses will be provided to reputable vendors only for notification about these or similar school-related products.

FMI:	TAMS Office (gr 6-8)	282-3361, ext 4408	Mrs. Crepeau
	School Counseling Office (gr 9-12)	282-3361, ext 4454	Mrs. Martin

Survey Administration Policy

- Thornton Academy does not allow any third party to administer a survey to students without prior notice.
- Thornton Academy does not allow any third party to administer a survey that collects personal information for the purpose of marketing or selling.
- Thornton Academy does not allow any third party to administer any survey that collects information that can be linked to a particular student.
- The school limits the number of surveys administered to a minimum to avoid disruption of class time.
- Thornton Academy reviews any survey administered to students by staff or other students for admissibility under this policy.

Thornton Academy occasionally agrees to administer surveys on behalf of credible agencies (e.g., the Maine Department of Education). These surveys might ask students to reveal information related to any of the following:

- Political affiliations or beliefs held by the student's family
- Psychological issues of the student or the student's family
- Sexual attitudes or behaviors
- Antisocial, self-incriminating or illegal behavior of students
- Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student has close family ties
- Information related to a legal privileged relationship such as attorney/client or doctor/patient
- Religious practices, affiliations or beliefs held by the student or student's family
- Income, when the information is not related to evaluating eligibility for any type of financial assistance

Parents may request copies of a survey's instructions (and in some cases, a copy of the survey itself) before the survey is administered. Thornton Academy does not permit parents to withdraw their child from survey participation for any reasons except for these already excluded above.

FMI:	TAMS Office (gr 6-8)	282-3361, ext 4408	Mrs. Crepeau
	School Counseling Office (gr 9-12)	282-3361, ext 4454	Mrs. Martin

Pesticide Use Policy

Thornton Academy makes every effort to use high-toxicity pesticides only as a last resort. The school has designated the Facilities Director as the integrated pest coordinator to authorize any pesticide use.

At least five days before the application of higher risk pesticides expressly governed by state law, notification will be posted on the school website (www.thorntonacademy.org).

The following informational materials are also available upon request:

- Records of prior pesticide applications
- Labels and material safety data sheets for the pesticides used

FMI:	Office of Facilities Management	282-3361, ext 3361	Mr. Whitney
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Annual Notification of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Policy

These procedures are established for the purpose of meeting the obligations of Thornton Academy's policy governing the use of physical restraint and seclusion. Please click here for the full policy:

[Annual Notification of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Policy](#)

