



# EXPLORER ACADEMY

South Kitsap School District's Online Alternative School1  
for families with students in grades K-12

1

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**Phone:** (360) 443-3605

**Fax:** (360) 443-3624

**Office Hours:** 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

**Address:** 1723 Wolves Rd.

Port Orchard, WA. 98366

**Website:** <https://explorer.skschools.org/>

*Explorer Academy is located near the South Kitsap High School baseball field. Drive down the hill along the baseball field. Turn right at home plate. Continue to the top of the small hill. Turn right into the parking lot. The office is in the house.*

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The South Kitsap School District #402 complies with all state and federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate in any employment, programs, or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of trained dog guides or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups, Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX/RCW 28A.640 compliance officer and/or Section 504 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator, Please call 360-874-7080 for the names of the Districts Compliance Officers.



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## Explorer Academy Mission, Values, and Beliefs

Our Mission is to ensure student success by providing innovative programs, accountability, and family support.

1. Involving families who are committed to a child's education is essential.
2. Ongoing support, a specific plan, and accountability are essential elements of our partnership.
3. Offering innovative educational options and setting measurable student goals leads to college and career readiness.
4. Caring for the whole child in an emotionally and physically safe environment fosters responsibility, confidence, and success.
5. Collaborating as a Professional Learning Community ensures high levels of instruction.
6. Checking progress regularly (weekly/monthly) empowers families and ensures measurable success.
7. Succeeding can look different for each student.

## Applying for Enrollment in Explorer Academy

For admission to Explorer Academy, parents must provide the following information.

1. Application packet (available online or from our office)
2. An up-to-date medically verified immunization record
3. Birth Certificate (kindergarten only)

Once the application packet has been submitted, the student will be placed in an applicant pool from which future Explorer Academy students are selected. Applicants will be contacted by a Consulting Teacher to answer basic questions and to schedule an initial family interview.

**It is important to maintain present school enrollment until you are accepted by Explorer Academy.**

## State & District Guidelines for Alternative Learning Experiences

Explorer Academy is funded by the state and SKSD as an alternative learning experience. While much of the course work occurs at home, Explorer Academy is NOT a home-school program. There are specific requirements set forth by the state and school district that must be met.

- Provide a parent-partner for student;
- Meet state requirements for adequate progress each month as defined in student's Written Learning Plan.
  - Most students find they are successful when they devote the following number of study hours:
    - Grade K- 3 4hours per school day
    - Grade 4- 12 5 - 8 hours per school day

Note: Many students split their enrollment between Explorer Academy and another school. Home study hour requirements are adjusted accordingly.

- Student initiated **Weekly Contact** with Consulting Teacher (attendance is mandatory for state compliance);
- **Monthly Progress Review** with parent, student, and Consulting Teacher (teacher- determined satisfactory/unsatisfactory progress is reported to the state and required for compliance);
- Participate in on-campus instructional time as prescribed by Consulting Teacher;
  - On-campus classes are for registered Explorer Academy students only;
- Participate in state and district assessments.

**Students can maintain enrollment at Explorer Academy only if they meet the requirements above.**

## Explorer Academy Website

<https://explorer.skschools.org>

Your best source of up-to-date information is the Explorer Academy web site. There you can find:

- Basic program information
- Downloadable school forms

## Dress Code

Explorer Academy is a K-12 school environment. Clothing that interferes with or distracts from educational process, depicts something illegal or presents a danger to other students is not acceptable. Listed below are examples of clothing which interfere with or distract from the educational process, or depict something illegal or lewd, and are unacceptable:

- Clothing that reveals undergarments, cleavage, navel, or rear
- Clothing that advertises drugs, alcohol, or illegal products
- Clothing that promotes gang affiliation

If students wear inappropriate clothing or footwear to school that may be asked to change their clothing, cover up, or may be sent home to return when dress is acceptable. Repeated offences and/or refusal to comply may result in progressive discipline.

## Inappropriate Displays of Affection\*

Kissing and explicit physical contact are not allowed on campus. Brief hugs are allowed. Students caught exhibiting inappropriate public displays of affection will be verbally redirected and the consulting teacher notified. If the behavior continues, students may be removed from the campus activities.

**Enforcing the dress/ inappropriate contact code will be the responsibility of any adult and their discretion as the appropriateness of the attire/behavior will be honored.**

5

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*\*This is in addition to South Kitsap District's Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.*

## Cheating/Plagiarism

South Kitsap School District's stand on cheating/plagiarism: "The intentional deception in the preparation or completion of any school assignment, examination, or project, or in the conduct of any school-related activity, is prohibited. Cheating also includes the aiding and abetting of cheating by others." (Rights and Responsibilities Handbook pg. 4)

**Plagiarism:** stealing somebody's work or idea: the process of copying another person's idea or written work and claiming it as original.

Explorer Academy's policy for grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

- 1<sup>st</sup> time - FAIL the test/assignment.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> time - FAIL the individual course, withdrawn from Explorer Academy

## The US Department of Education on AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be defined as "automation based on associations." When computers automate reasoning based on associations in data (or associations deduced from expert knowledge), two shifts fundamental to AI occur and shift computing beyond conventional edtech: (1) from capturing data to detecting patterns in data and (2) from providing access to instructional resources to automating decisions about instruction and other educational processes. Detecting patterns and automating decisions are leaps in the level of responsibilities that can be delegated to a computer system. The process of developing an AI system may lead to bias in how patterns are detected and unfairness in how decisions are automated. Thus, educational systems must govern their use of AI systems...Educators are also aware of new risks. Useful, powerful functionality can also be accompanied with new data privacy and security risks. Educators recognize that AI can automatically produce output that is inappropriate or wrong. They are wary that the associations or automations created by AI may amplify unwanted biases. They have noted new ways in which students may represent others' work as their own. They are well aware of "teachable moments" and pedagogical strategies that a human teacher can address but are undetected or misunderstood by AI models. They worry whether recommendations suggested by an algorithm would be fair. Educators' concerns are manifold. Everyone in education has a responsibility to harness the good to serve educational priorities while also protecting against the dangers that may arise as a result of AI being integrated in edtech. (<https://www2.ed.gov/documents/ai-report/ai-report.pdf>).

## Proactive and Preventative Measures to Reduce Risk of Inappropriate Student Use of AI

6

Much like a STOIC analysis of a physical environment, there are measures we can take to limit the risk of inappropriate student use of AI. When these proactive and preventative measures below are in place, school administration is effectively equipped to address concerns of academic dishonesty.

1. Ensure online academic writing is completed while students are logged into their SI < Google account.
  - a. This allows investigatory access to a student's version history when there are suspicions of academic dishonesty.
  - b. While plagiarism prevention tools detect plagiarism, a student's Google version history is the only current method to investigate inappropriate use of AI on academic submissions.
2. Break apart or 'chunk' large writing assignments.
3. Ensure that the majority of writing is completed on-demand in class and under the observation of a staff member.
  - a. This also allows for more timely feedback (.70 effect size; Hattie, 2018) to students during the writing process.

## Inappropriate Student Use of AI

If an investigation concludes that a student inappropriately represented AI as their own work in an academic submission, the event will be treated the same as academic dishonesty (*A// forms of cheating, plagiarism and fabrication, including submitting any work product that the student misrepresents as his or her work product for fulfilling any assignment or task required as part of the student's course of studies*).

- The student will receive an INC and have the opportunity to complete the submission in the presence of the instructor.



## **Non-Discrimination Statement**

The South Kitsap School District provides equal educational and employment opportunity without regard to race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation - including gender expression or identity, marital status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. Equal access to activities, facilities and program is provided to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. District procedure complies with all applicable state and federal laws.

The Title IX Officer and Section 504 Coordinator with the responsibility for monitoring, auditing, and ensuring compliance with this policy are:

### **Compliance/ADA/Title IX Coordinator:**

Will Sarett

Executive Director of Wellness & Support

2689 Hoover Avenue SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366

360-874-7071

[sarett@skschools.org](mailto:sarett@skschools.org)

### **Section 504 Coordinator:**

Tiffany Buckley

2689 Hoover Avenue SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366

360-443-3763

[buckley@skschools.org](mailto:buckley@skschools.org)