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**COLOGNE  
ACADEMY**

Family Handbook  
2025 – 2026

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# Introduction

## History of Cologne Academy

Founded in 2008, Cologne Academy is a public charter school offering the finest Core Knowledge learning experience and character development opportunities in an exceptional facility. Beginning in 2007, a group of parents raised a series of questions. What kind of education would best prepare our children to be good citizens? What kind of education would best prepare them to fulfill their dreams? How might young people be prepared for a future of innovation, change, and discovery, and how might this all be achieved in a school where one's formative years are among the most enjoyable? Cologne Academy grew as a response to those parents' questions. Cologne Academy is dedicated to every detail in providing a premium educational opportunity in the most inviting and safe educational environment.

## Vision Statement

Create a content-rich learning environment that prepares PreK-8 children to achieve their best as scholars and as people of character who will contribute skill and knowledge to their communities.

## Mission Statement

To prepare scholars for academic success through excellence in literacy by integrating the Core Knowledge Sequence.

## Cornerstones

1. Individual Student Achievement
2. Character Development
3. Enriched Curriculum
4. Parent Involvement
5. Low Student to Teacher Ratio

## Enduring Statement

Scholars at Cologne Academy will acquire foundational knowledge and skills empowering them to become leaders with exceptional character in an ever-changing global society.

## A Letter From the Executive Director

### Welcome to Cologne Academy

Dear Cologne Academy Families:

Welcome to Cologne Academy! I am glad to have you as a part of our wonderful school community and I look forward to our work together as we build our future leaders. It's hard to believe we have accomplished so much in such a short amount of time as we welcome everyone to our 18th operational year.

As we begin our back-to-school teacher workshop on August 11, 2025, we are preparing for 747 scholars on-site and 30 scholars in our online program and over 100 professional educators and support staff with the same mission and vision for our learning community. Whether you were here in our inaugural year in 2008, or if this is your first year with us, I want to ensure a common ground for us to build upon and carry into the future.

As Executive Director, my obligations are twofold. First, as an Educational Leader, I commit to you an excellent educational environment that is safe and supports the learning of all scholars. We will continue to offer a rich, rigorous curriculum that fulfills Minnesota Academic Standards, the Core Knowledge sequence requirements, and character development education. Secondly, as Administrator, I will continue to responsibly manage school operations - both fiscally and academically - to ensure continued growth that aligns with the school board's strategic plan and that complements Cologne Academy's Mission and Vision.

Our education staff commits that they will partner with parents/guardians to ensure academic, physical, behavioral, and social growth in the children. Teachers will continue to deliver lessons that capture the interest of the learner and allow exploration and growth in their wisdom through captivating instructional methodologies. Teachers will address each scholar's needs and help them attain one-year's growth by working with scholars and parents on benchmarking goals.

The school, likewise, has expectations for our families. Cologne Academy expects scholars: to arrive to school well-rested and fed a good breakfast; be prompt and prepared for school or contact the school when a scholar is tardy or absent; request and complete the necessary paperwork if scholar requires medication at school; ensure the contact information for the scholar in Infinite Campus is complete and up-to-date; communicate about homework when necessary with the teacher and daily with the scholar; parents should read to their children daily or provide an opportunity for children to read on his/her own and study math facts; attend parent-teacher conferences and address any concerns with the scholar's teacher; abide by all school policies; and trust in the faculty, staff, and administration of the school.

Looking forward to the many successes this coming school year will bring,

Lynn Peterson, Ed. D.  
Executive Director



### **Family Support Pledge**

I (We) have read the Family Handbook, reviewed its contents with my (our) child(ren) and understand that Cologne Academy maintains that parental involvement empowers the parents by providing each parent and family with a greater stake in the school's success. As such, I (we) agree that I (we) will abide by all rules, regulations, and policies of Cologne Academy. As parent(s)/guardian(s), I (we):

- Complete the Annual Update each year in Infinite Campus to ensure that our emergency contact information is up-to-date.
- Support my (our) child(ren)'s academic and personal achievements by ensuring that they do their homework and read at home daily;
- Support my (our) child(ren)'s academic and personal achievements by making sure they attend school except when there is an illness and by ensuring the timely arrival to school in the mornings;
- Support my (our) child(ren)'s academic and personal achievements by ensuring that assignments missed due to excused absences are completed in a timely manner;
- Support my (our) child(ren)'s academic and personal achievements by attending parent/teacher conferences; and,
- Support my (our) child(ren)'s academic and personal achievements by volunteering in at least one PAVE event/fundraiser, recurring task/committee, lunchroom food server, or other identified volunteer opportunity.

I (We) fully understand that non-adherence to the Parent/Student Handbook's rules, regulations, and policies by child(ren) enrolled in the schools or by their parent(s) or guardians may result in failure to make adequate growth or in a very unlikely case, a child's expulsion from the school.

## About This Handbook

This handbook is intended to serve as an informative guide for families regarding school policies and procedures; as such, it does not encompass every situation or circumstance, but rather acts as a useful reference for principles and expectations. The start of each school year brings new faces and names and lots of questions about buildings, bus routes, curriculum, after school activities, and more.

All school board policies, and other school documents, can be found on the school website at [www.cologneacademy.org](http://www.cologneacademy.org). If you have questions, please call the school office at 952 466-2276.

## Charter School 101

What is a charter school? In 1991, Minnesota launched an initiative designed to unleash education from the conventions that limited educational achievement, choice, and innovation. The initiative created "public charter schools" - independent public schools focused on improving academic achievement and creating new, different, and innovative learning environments; teaching methodologies; assessments; accountability systems; and professional development opportunities for teachers. For more information go to <http://www.mncharterschools.org>

Cologne Academy Charter School is one of many public charter schools in Minnesota. As a public school, we are tuition-free and funded through public tax dollars like any public school. As a charter school, however, Cologne Academy is governed by its own Board of Directors and is an independent school district, not affiliated with any other school district. Cologne Academy has the autonomy to choose its own curriculum, programs, schedule, staff and policies, while still being accountable to State and Federal standards. Cologne Academy is pleased to be authorized by Friends of Education, an organization supporting many academic driven charter schools.

Cologne Academy is an academic school featuring Core Knowledge curriculum and character development. As your child proceeds in school from month to month and year to year, he or she will be exposed to a broad range of historical, scientific, and cultural topics that will build on one another and prepare the scholar for later educational success. This exposure to a wide array of subject matter is intended not only to develop cultural literacy but also to build a strong vocabulary, now recognized, along with decoding skills, to be absolutely necessary for *true* reading comprehension. Cultural literacy, or familiarity with the traditions and knowledge commonly shared by educated citizens in a society, is sometimes acquired in informal ways as well as by formal study. Core Knowledge tries to develop cultural literacy in a way that is systematic but leaves lots of room for creativity. This curriculum eliminates some of the gaps and repetitions that frequently characterize a curriculum in which textbooks and programs are selected more or less at random.

Cologne Academy, while still young, is beginning to actualize the benefits of this curriculum in those who have been exposed to the Core Knowledge Sequence during their tenure at CA. The success of our graduates are evident from parental and school district feedback. We look forward to sharing this sought after knowledge with your child this coming year and for years to come.

# Quick Reference

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARENTS AND SCHOLARS!!

The information provided on the next few pages will guide you through getting started in becoming part of the CA *Community of Learners*.

### Pre-Conferences

- August 19, 2025 from 8am-8pm. Signup information will be sent via email in August. This is when the scholar meets his/her teacher(s), pay fees, place orders, view schedules, drop off school supplies, medication to the health office, any remaining paperwork, etc.

### Parent Involvement Night

- September 23, 2025
  - ◆ Review of Federal Programs (Special Education, ELL, Title I, Food Nutrition Services)
  - ◆ We hold an annual evening for parents to join us for an evening of learning on a topic that builds a bridge between home and school

### PAVE

**(People Are Vital Energy)** (known as PTA or PTO in some schools)

*You are invited to attend any meetings to get involved!*

- Support the educational programs and extracurricular activities of the school;
- Encourage parents' involvement in their individual children's lives, education, class, and school;
- Organize fundraising efforts to support some additional programs, equipment, and services;
- Support the educational goals of the school and assist with attaining those goals
- through parent and community volunteerism;
- Recruit volunteers and coordinate volunteer efforts to staff PAVE functions and assist with school programs;
- All parents are members!!

### Busing Information

You will receive bus routes from the bussing company (Cologne Transportation Services) approximately one week before school begins. Since Cologne Academy serves scholars from a wide geographical area, we attempt rides of 60 minutes or less. Please note that transportation is not a door-to-door service and the further you live away from CA the longer the ride. We ask that all scholars that are going to ride the bus do so on the first day so that we can get into the bus routine on day one. Please be extra patient the first 2 weeks of school as buses generally run late as scholars/drivers become familiar with each other and the routes. Please see bus information on the [website](#), specifically understanding bus behavior and bus fee.

### ParentSquare



ParentSquare is a parent communication platform that CA will use to communicate with you. There is a ParentSquare app for your smart devices. Stay in the know = Parent Square

- ★ School updates & information
- ★ Instant safety & weather notifications

## ★ Club & organization updates

ParentSquare works on any device and is viewable via your web browser. Smartphone users can download a free app. The browser link for sign in is <https://www.parentsquare.com/signin>. ParentSquare has a great searchable help menu if you have any specific questions related to the platform. Your notification setting by default is set to “Digest,” meaning you will receive one daily digest of all messages sent each day from staff via ParentSquare. If you would prefer to receive a new email for every message sent, you can change your notification settings to “Instant.” There are certain messages that are sent where we will choose to override your setting (ie. school closure, Weekly Connect, etc). Learn how by searching “Manage Your Notification Setting” in the help menu.

## Helpful School Links

- ★ [Cologne Academy Website](#)
- ★ [School Calendar](#)
- ★ [School Supply List](#)
- ★ [School Uniform Information](#)
- ★ [Infinite Campus](#)
- ★ [ParentSquare](#)
- ★ [EduTrak](#)
- ★ [IXL](#)
- ★ Please note: We're on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Instagram. **School Page - “Cologne Academy”** Please note that only limited events/information is posted on Facebook. For most accurate information, please use the [Cologne Academy website](#) or [ParentSquare](#).

## Our School Community

### Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is the elected governing body of Cologne Academy. The primary responsibilities of the Board are to develop the vision and mission of the school; to select, support, and evaluate the executive director; to ensure effective planning; to set policy that will ensure the school's ongoing viability; and to oversee the monthly and long-term financial governance of the school. The Board of Directors consists of up to 9 members who are elected by the parents of the school. The Board consists of accomplished people who represent one or more of the following constituencies: Cologne Academy teacher; Cologne Academy parent; and community member. Cologne's bylaws require that it have at least one person from each of these three groups on the Board at all times.

All board members must chair or serve on at least one committee. There are three committees: finance, personnel, and policy and governance. In accordance with school bylaws, committees do not have decision-making authority. Rather, these active working groups conduct research and make recommendations to the School Board at Regular Meetings of the Board. Committee chairs are encouraged to recruit members from the Cologne parent and teacher community and from time to time may also recruit from outside the Cologne community if special skills or expertise are needed. Committee meetings are open to the public in accordance with the Minnesota Open Meeting Law and as outlined in the Cologne Academy bylaws.

The Board of Directors meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the conference room. Meetings are open to the public, and a public comment period is offered at each Regular Meeting of the School Board. Those who wish to make a comment must sign up at the meeting. Regular Meetings of the School Board are listed on the school's master calendar. In the event of a Special Meeting, 72 hour notice will be posted on the door of the school (required by law) and, if possible, on the website as a courtesy to parents. There is typically no public comment period at a Special Meeting.

Parents, staff, and community members are encouraged to run for seats on the Board of Directors. Each member is elected to a 3 year term, and as such, only a few seats are up for election each year. This provides stability and continuity for the Board. Elections are held annually in April. A call for candidates will be sent home in February/March.

Current Board members are:

Brian Goldie, Parent Member - [bgoldie@cologneacademy.org](mailto:bgoldie@cologneacademy.org)

Michael Griesinger, Parent Member - [mgriesinger@cologneacademy.org](mailto:mgriesinger@cologneacademy.org)

Craig Johnson, Parent Member - [cjohnson@cologneacademy.org](mailto:cjohnson@cologneacademy.org)

Nathan Kells, Community Member - [nkells@cologneacademy.org](mailto:nkells@cologneacademy.org)

Helen Suhr, Teacher Member - [hsuhr@cologneacademy.org](mailto:hsuhr@cologneacademy.org)

Sheryl Reddig, Parent Member - [sreddig@cologneacademy.org](mailto:sreddig@cologneacademy.org)

John Zwanziger, Parent Member - [jzwanziger@cologneacademy.org](mailto:jzwanziger@cologneacademy.org)

## **PAVE**

PAVE is the acronym for Cologne Academy's parent teacher organization...**People Are Vital Energy!** . The PAVE Committee's role at Cologne Academy is to coordinate school functions by involving our school community. All parents, guardians, and staff are members of PAVE. As research supports, parents serve a vital role in their children's academic success and the school's success by becoming active in the PAVE events. All parents are invited to become involved in these events and thus support the PAVE Committee's efforts. Thank you in advance for your support.

For information about PAVE, please see the Cologne Academy [website](#) and/or contact PAVE leaders at [PAVE@cologneacademy.org](mailto:PAVE@cologneacademy.org).

The PAVE Executive Committee is made up of Cologne Academy community members who meet annually to review the budget and plan events that support the school community in a variety of ways.

The objectives of the PAVE are to:

- ★ Establish and maintain a working relationship among parents, school and community.
- ★ Support school improvement teams and promote the finest education possible for the scholars at the Cologne Academy.
- ★ Enhance the quality of education by raising funds for school equipment, supplies, or programs that fall outside the school budget.

PAVE Responsibilities:

- ★ Support the educational programs and extracurricular activities of the school
- ★ Encourage parents' involvement in their individual children's lives, education, class, and school
- ★ Organize fundraising efforts to support some additional programs, equipment, and services not covered in the school budget
- ★ Support the educational goals of the school and assist with attaining those goals through parent and community volunteerism
- ★ Recruit volunteers and coordinate volunteer efforts to staff PAVE functions and assist with school programs

## **Parent Involvement/Volunteering**

Cologne Academy was founded by parents who believe that a quality education results from a partnership between home and school. Our mission and vision statements reflect the common commitment to academic excellence and character development shared by this home and school partnership. This partnership cannot be fulfilled without parental

involvement. The educational program for Cologne Academy will be enriched immensely by the time and talent donated each year by hundreds of adult volunteer hours. These programs can involve varying levels of commitment, depending on the time you have available.

A charter school is a separate school district with its own board of directors and an absence of bureaucracy depending on parent volunteers for its success. Parents have the opportunity to be elected to the school's Board of Directors, and parents will also be asked to support the school each year by becoming members of school committees, helping in the office, planning school events, chaperoning field trips, working in the classrooms, and/or participating in fundraising activities.

Parents will be asked to support their scholars' academic achievements by ensuring that scholars do their homework and read at home daily; by making sure scholars attend school except when there is an illness and ensuring the timely arrival to school in the mornings; by attending parent/teacher conferences; and by ensuring that assignments missed due to excused absences are completed in a timely manner.

Cologne Academy maintains that parental involvement empowers the parents by providing each parent and family with a greater stake in the school's success. Together we will develop a growing, dynamic, and nurturing school community.

*A volunteer is many things: an extra pair of hands, an extra measure of personal warmth, a valuable special resource for classroom enrichment, a bridge between the instructional program and the community. Cologne Academy cannot buy what volunteers give our school!*

If you volunteer at Cologne Academy, please adhere to the following guidelines and practices:

- ★ Volunteers will be requested via ParentSquare. Dropping in to help, although a nice gesture, may catch your staff unprepared for you and they may not have a project or activity readily available for you to work on.
- ★ Please adhere to the scheduled volunteer time. Please arrive and leave on time. Teachers frequently build detailed lesson plans/schedules based on volunteers arriving and leaving at stated times.
- ★ Volunteers are not to bring children i.e. younger siblings, with them while volunteering in the classroom.

There are many ways to be involved at Cologne Academy. Here are just a few of the ways you can be involved in your scholar's life at school:

- ★ Lunchroom helpers
- ★ Chaperoning field trips
- ★ Volunteering in a classroom upon request
- ★ Parent group participation/PAVE
- ★ Playground duty
- ★ Assisting the front office
- ★ Small building projects
- ★ Used Uniform Closet Organization
- ★ Fundraising/Event Committees

Contact our Community Engagement and Communications Specialist if you would like more information on ways to be involved!

### **Criminal History Background Checks**

The safety of our scholars is very important. All school volunteers working with children must complete a criminal background check under the following conditions:

- ★ Chaperoning field trips

- ★ Working with scholars in an area away from classroom teacher (i.e. hallway)
- ★ Please review [CA Policy 404](#) for details on background checks.

Recognizing the school's responsibility to ensure the safety and security of scholars and everyone connected with the schools, volunteers 18 years of age and older are subject to a criminal history background check. Volunteers must complete a [Background Check Authorization Form](#) granting Cologne Academy permission to conduct a criminal records search. The charge for the Background Check will be \$15.00. Checks should be made payable to **MN BCA** and attached to the authorization form. The background check process may take several weeks to complete. Note: If you've had a background check from another district or employer within the previous 12 months, a copy of that Criminal Background Check may be accepted as a substitute for the district's background check.

Questions about criminal background checks should be directed to the school office at (952) 466-2276 or email [frontdesk@cologneacademy.org](mailto:frontdesk@cologneacademy.org). The Criminal Background Check will only be done once, unless there is a break in volunteer services of more than one year. Criminal background checks are completely confidential and will only be seen by the administration. Once a criminal background check has been received by Cologne Academy, the results are kept in a secure location until the individual has not volunteered for two years, and then the records are destroyed.

### **Lunchroom Volunteers**

Our lunch program is sustained through the generous support from our volunteers. Volunteering in our lunch program is a wonderful opportunity to get to know other parents and to see your children at lunch. Please consider offering your time to the school. Lunchroom assistance is needed between 10:40 AM – 1:00 PM with 4 volunteers per day. If you are unable to commit to a weekly schedule, we are always in need of substitutes. Please contact our school lunch coordinator, Cathy Kerber, at [ckerber@cologneacademy.org](mailto:ckerber@cologneacademy.org) to volunteer or if you would like additional information. All lunchroom volunteers are required to complete mandatory Civil Rights training annually (<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/FNS/CivilRight/>).

### **Volunteer/Visitor Expectations**

Volunteer opportunities will be posted via ParentSquare. Thank you for your willingness to share your time and talents to benefit Cologne Academy. Parent involvement is very important. All volunteers are asked to follow the guidelines outlined below to help the school maintain a safe and respectful environment for all.

#### **Confidentiality**

Confidentiality is very important. While volunteering, you may observe, read, or hear much about individual scholars and their school or home experience. Do not discuss your observations or opinions about a scholar with anyone other than the scholar's teacher or school administrator. All information about scholar abilities, behavior, relationships, grades, or background is confidential. The school depends on volunteers to maintain confidentiality for our scholars, staff, and volunteers.

#### **Sign In & Out**

Volunteers are required to sign-in before a volunteer activity that takes place on school grounds. Stop in the main office to check-in upon arrival. In the case of an emergency, the school needs to know who is in the building and where. Don't forget to sign out.

#### **Name Badge**

Volunteers must wear an official volunteer name badge while in the building. This badge identifies volunteers to scholars, staff, and other volunteers as a registered volunteer.

## **Dependability**

In the event you will be late or unable to keep your commitment, please call the school office as soon as possible. Scholars and staff are counting on volunteers; therefore, dependability and promptness are important.

## **Dress**

As a representative of Cologne Academy, volunteers, like staff, are responsible for presenting a good image to scholars and the community. Attire should be neat, conservative, and appropriate for the task at hand.

## **Documentation**

Individuals may want to keep track of volunteer time. Many employers recognize the marketable value of skills learned through volunteering, and some colleges allow credit for volunteer experiences.

## **Scholar Discipline**

Discipline is the responsibility of the classroom teacher or administrator. Volunteers should maintain order in their group or activity, but all discipline should be left to school employees. Please report any problems with a scholar's behavior to the supervising staff person.

## **Contact with Scholars**

For safety reasons, please observe the following when working with scholars:

- ★ Avoid being totally isolated with a child, such as a room with a closed door. Work only in areas of the school building which are in continual, direct supervision of district professional staff.
- ★ Use the staff/adult restroom facilities rather than the scholar facilities.
- ★ Refrain from giving scholars gifts, rewards, or food items of any kind without the teacher's permission.
- ★ All interactions between you and scholars must take place only at scheduled times and in the school.

## **Diversity**

Our school community is diverse. It is important to work with one another without bias and to be considerate of cultural, economic, moral, and value differences.

## **Tobacco and Chemical Free**

Smoking and use of tobacco products, alcohol, and chemicals are prohibited at Cologne Academy. A provision to this policy is that an American Indian scholar may carry a medicine pouch containing loose tobacco intended as observance of traditional spiritual or cultural practices. NOTE: This provision does not change the prohibition on smoking, chewing, or ingesting tobacco.

## **Use of Cellphones**

In order to provide an optimum environment for learning, cell phones must be turned off while in or near classrooms. Please conduct cell phone conversations away from areas of learning.

## **Religious, Racial and Sexual Harassment**

Religious, racial, or sexual harassment is a violation of state law and school district policy. Any volunteer believed to have been a victim of harassment or violence or have information about the harassment or violence of any adult or scholar, should immediately report it to a school administrator.

## **Suspected Child Abuse**

As volunteers build trust with scholars, evidence of abuse may surface. State law requires that education professionals and volunteers report any suspected abuse or neglect. If a scholar provides information that causes alarm, notify the child's teacher or school administrator immediately.

# Daily Routine

## School Hours

Cologne Academy's instructional day is from 8:30a.m. - 3:30p.m.

## School Calendar

The school calendar is available to all families prior to the school year or when students are enrolled. It is posted on the school website, <https://www.cologneacademy.org/students-families/calendar>.

## Arrival

Children who walk to school or are dropped off by a parent are requested to arrive at school no earlier than 8:15 a.m. Scholars who arrive prior to 8:15 a.m. will not be admitted into the building. If a teacher has requested that your child come early, he or she will be admitted to the classroom. In accordance with our safety protocols, parents who need to enter the school building must enter through the main office (1M) and check in at the main office. This applies to the first day of school as well.

## Dismissal

Dismissal from classrooms begins at 3:30 p.m. Children not enrolled in our after-school activities should leave for home immediately following dismissal, unless a teacher has requested that the child stay after school. Parents will be notified by phone or a written note if a child is to remain after school.

Any deviation from the customary end of day dismissal must be communicated to the main office and the student's teachers by 2:45 p.m. via email or phone call.

## Inclement Weather Procedures

Cologne Academy, is a public charter school with no district boundaries. This means that we have scholars from Glencoe to Eden Prairie and from Mound to Jordan. The weather outside of your window may look different than another family's front porch view. As such, please know that parents can make their own decisions regarding conditions and drivability from your neighborhood to campus. Our transportation director assesses the weather conditions and makes a recommendation for closure, late start or unexpected early release. Every effort will be made to make a decision by 6:00 a.m. on the morning of a cancellation or late start.

## Late Start

If a decision is made to delay the start of school, starting times may be delayed up to 2 hours. The bus routes will run at the same cadence as typical routes (possibly slower than usual if the weather is still inclement), but delayed by the number of hours school is delayed (i.e. CA has a two-hour late start. Your scholar typically gets picked up at 7:55 a.m. The new pick-up time will be 9:55 a.m.).

## School Closure - eLearning Days

In accordance with MN Statutes 120A.414, if inclement weather forces Cologne Academy to cancel in-person instruction and the school campus is closed, we will hold eLearning days. Cologne Academy may have up to five eLearning days in one school year. An eLearning day is counted as a day of instruction and included in the hours of instruction under statute. Teachers will be accessible both online, by email, and by telephone during normal school

hours on an eLearning day to assist scholars and parents as needed. Scholars in grades 5-8 would access learning materials from their Google Classrooms and scholars in grades K-4 would receive lesson plans via email from teachers.

### **Unexpected Early Release**

Sometimes weather develops during the day and our transportation director will call for an unexpected early release. Similar to a late start, the bus routes will run at the same cadence as typical routes (possibly slower than usual since the weather may be inclement), but your scholars will arrive earlier by the number of hours early that school is released (i.e. CA has an unexpected early release at 1:00 p.m. Your scholar typically gets home by 4:00 p.m., roughly 30 minutes after the end of our typical day. The new drop-up time will be approximately 1:30 p.m.). **Unexpected** **Could this area be in bold or highlighted?early release plans need to be updated before the start of each new school year via the Annual Update in Infinite Campus. Please check Infinite Campus to confirm your scholar’s plan is up to date for the current school year** (From your Infinite Campus account, choose the “More” menu option, then “Unexpected Early Release Plan”). If your unexpected early release plan should be different from what is listed, please email [frontdesk@cologneacademy.org](mailto:frontdesk@cologneacademy.org) with the correct plan.

### **Notifications**

For cancellations, late starts, and early dismissals, an instant notification will be sent directly to families through ParentSquare. Information will also be posted on the district website and the district's social media channels. Notification will also be sent to local television media outlets (KARE-11, KSTP-5, WCCO-4) for display on their scrolling news tickers- please note that you are looking for Cologne Academy. Do NOT assume that if Norwood, Waconia, or Chaska schools are closed that Cologne Academy is, too.

### **Absentee & Tardiness Notification**

We believe that regular class attendance increases the scholar’s probability for successful performance and fosters the development of punctuality, self-discipline, and responsibility. Few, if any, other things could have a greater impact on your child’s school success than his or her attendance. It is the intent of these guidelines to help establish the importance of regular school attendance and to encourage parents, when necessary, to place school attendance as a priority.

ABSENCE If your child will not be in school, please email the main office [frontdesk@cologneacademy.org](mailto:frontdesk@cologneacademy.org) or call the (952-466-2276) **before 9:00 a.m.** A message can be left on the school’s automated voice mail system at any time; this message should include: student’s name, grade and homeroom teacher; the specific reason for the absence including symptoms if the student is ill; and, if the absence is only a partial day, the expected time of the student’s arrival at school.

If a child is absent, and a call has not been received, the school office will contact a parent. If there has been no contact between parents and school personnel, a note stating the reason for the absence must be sent with the student when he or she returns to school. **If a child is absent from school due to illness, they may not attend evening school functions, such as concerts, sports, etc.**

Cologne Academy has adopted an attendance policy that can be viewed on our [website](#) under School Board policies. Please read [Policy #503 Student Attendance](#) in its entirety.

### **Tardiness**

Tardiness is disruptive to the educational process and is inconsiderate to both teachers and other students; therefore, it is imperative that students are punctual. Students who arrive tardy must be checked into the Main Office by a

parent/guardian (a phone call from the parking lot is acceptable). Three or more “tardies” in any calendar month will result in a conference with the teacher & principal. Please make sure that your child(ren) arrives in their classroom between 8:15 a.m. – 8:24 a.m. After 8:30 a.m., children must check in at the office before going into class.

Students enrolled in Cologne Academy Online should be logged in and ready for class five minutes before the start of each class. Six unexcused tardies (10 minutes or greater late to class) will be the equivalent of one unexcused day of school.

### **Physical Education Attendance**

Any student needing to miss PE for more than 2 consecutive days must have a written note indicating the reason for the excuse and expected return to participation date signed by a healthcare provider. Depending on the reason, a signed statement for return to participation by the healthcare provider may be required. All notes should be given to the school nurse who will keep them in the student’s health care file and will provide copies to necessary staff.

### **Dismissal by Parent-Early**

All day attendance is important for every student, every day. If your child must leave school early, we ask that you inform the school office by email, call, or note. Parents/guardians must check-out students at the front office, and the administrative assistant will notify the student’s teacher for dismissal. The following is the procedure to follow when picking a student up during instructional time:

- ★ When you arrive to Cologne Academy, please park in the visitor parking near our gym entrance or in the adjacent lot at the Community Center.
- ★ Call the front office at (952) 466-2276 to let us know you are there to pick up your student.
- ★ The front office will call the student to the office for check out and send the student to your vehicle.
- ★ Please refrain from picking up your student after 3:00PM as the end-of-the-day is very busy in the office and our buses will begin to arrive.

In the event of dismissal following a special school event outside of the Cologne Academy School building, all students will first return to their classrooms for regular dismissal at 3:30. In some cases, teachers may have check-out sheets and students may be checked out by the teacher.

### **Dismissal for Vacations**

Cologne Academy recognizes the value of the educational experience family vacations can provide for children, but encourages family vacations/trips around times when school is not in session. However, if family trips are unavoidable, the school should be notified a minimum of one week in advance to provide teachers with adequate time to prepare student work. Make up work will be due within a reasonable time established between the teacher and family upon arrival back to school.

### **Re-Enrollment After Long-Term Leave**

All students are un-enrolled from Cologne Academy after not attending Cologne Academy for fifteen consecutive days. To qualify for re-enrollment eligibility, parents or guardians must request long-term leave from Cologne Academy’s Executive Director in writing at least 30 days before the start of the long-term leave, giving the beginning and end dates of the student’s leave from Cologne Academy as well as the reason and documentation for the long-term leave. Please see Policy 308 for additional information.

## **School Lunch**

### **Cafeteria Guidelines**

We all look forward to the lunch period as one of pleasure, relaxation, and an opportunity to socialize with friends.

Since so many students eat at the same time, the following guidelines have been established to ensure a pleasant atmosphere:

- ★ Follow directions given by the lunch-duty supervisors.
- ★ Pop, coffee, energy drinks, gum, and candy are not allowed in the cafeteria.
- ★ No glass containers.
- ★ After eating, clean your area and place waste in the appropriate container and bring your tray and silverware to the dish room counter.
- ★ Use quiet voices when talking with friends.

All children are treated the same, regardless of ability to pay. In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, or national origin.

Students attending Cologne Academy have a family account for meal payments.

## **EduTrak**

Each student can choose the day of service if they wish to have a school meal or bring a home lunch. All students can receive 1 breakfast meal and 1 lunch meal free every school day. A “Free Meal” must meet criteria that require a serving of fruit or vegetable to be taken along with the entrée. Milk is available for a charge as an a la carte item for those who bring a home lunch. All students in a family draw from the same account. Menus will be posted monthly. Receiving a meal is very easy. Every student is assigned a student PIN number that is tied to their meal account. (1 meal account per family). PIN numbers will be provided to all students.

Cologne Academy has partnered with EduTrak to provide a secure, fast, and easy to use payment system that allows parents to add money to a family lunch account, pay for student fees, activities, and more. An EduTrak account will allow you to view all transactions your student(s) make here at school, deposit money into your family's Meal Account, and submit the Application for Educational Benefits. Edutrak is also our online payment system for student fees, bus fees, activities, field trips and more.

In order to create an account, you will need the family key code provided by the district. The district will send these to families via email from Edutrak Software Admin. Please watch for an email with the subject line “Cologne Academy Online Account Access” and follow the directions in the email.

## **Milk**

State Law on Lactose Intolerance (for School Nutrition Programs) The responsibility of a school food authority to provide substitutions for any child with lactose intolerance is specified in state law (Minnesota Statutes section 124D.114). Under this law, a school district or nonpublic school that participates in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program and receives a written request from a parent/guardian shall make lactose-free milk available. The school is not required to make available any other substitute, such as juice, based on lactose intolerance. Students may choose to bring their choice of milk substitute or water to drink.

## **Food or Policy Questions**

Please email [ckerber@cologneacademy.org](mailto:ckerber@cologneacademy.org) and we'll get right back to you or call 952-466-2276

# **Transportation**

## **Busing**

All students who attend Cologne Academy are eligible to ride the bus. Those who reside within ISD #108 will be provided transportation to Cologne Academy by Cologne Transportation Services (CTS) free of charge, **with the**

**exception** of those who live in The Village of Cologne neighborhood (south of Hwy 212 within city limits) adjacent to the school. Those residing outside ISD #108 boundaries may ride the bus for a fee. Fees are collected by Cologne Academy. For the 2025-26 school year, the fee is \$475 per family.

CTS transports to a student's prearranged location(s) only. Students may not ride home on a different bus than their own assigned bus. Additionally, CTS cannot accommodate riding to a friend's home for early releases or other special occasions. Additional details regarding transportation can be found on the school [website](#).

Cologne Academy's transportation provider is Cologne Transportation Services. Questions can be made directly to CTS, 952-492-2410.

## **Rules on the Bus**

The school bus safety rules are posted on every bus:

- ★ The bus driver is the responsible authority on the bus.
- ★ Students will board and leave the buses only at specifically designated stops.
- ★ Students will remain at a safe distance from the bus when buses are arriving or departing from their stops.
- ★ Pick-up times are established, and students will be waiting 5 minutes before pick up time at designated stops.
- ★ Students will go directly to their seats. Students will stay seated when the bus is moving.
- ★ Backpacks, musical instruments, and other large items must be handled by students in such a way as to not come into contact with other students or obstruct the aisles.
- ★ For safety and cleanliness, gum, food, and drink are prohibited.
- ★ Only authorized students may ride the buses.
- ★ Students may have assigned seats. Students will remain seated at all times. Drivers and administrators may make specific seat assignments.
- ★ When crossing a road, whether boarding or leaving a bus, students will walk in front of the bus after the driver signals that it is safe to cross.
- ★ Students will not engage in noisy or boisterous conduct which might distract the driver.
- ★ Students will not use profane or indecent language.
- ★ Students will treat each other with respect.

## **Rules at the Bus Stop**

All Cologne Academy Scholars are expected to follow these rules while waiting for the bus:

- ★ The school bus driver will generally not wait for late students.
- ★ Respect the property of others while waiting at your bus stop.
- ★ Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
- ★ Use appropriate language.
- ★ Stay away from the street, road, or highway when waiting for the bus.
- ★ Wait until the bus stops before approaching the bus.
- ★ After getting off the bus, move away from the bus.
- ★ If you must cross the street, always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you. Wait for the driver to signal to you before crossing the street.
- ★ No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
- ★ No use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.

## **Consequences**

School bus/bus stop misconduct will result in consequences and will apply to all routes. Decisions regarding a student's ability to ride the bus in connection with co-curricular (for example, field trips) will be in the sole discretion of the school. Parents or guardians will be notified of any suspension of bus privileges. The school's disciplinary code will be consulted for all decisions regarding consequences. Depending on the nature of the

offense, consequences such as suspension or expulsion from school also may result from school bus/bus stop misconduct

### **Vandalism/Bus Damage**

Students damaging school buses will be responsible for the damages. Failure to pay such damages (or make arrangements to pay) within two weeks may result in the loss of bus privileges until damages are paid.

### **Criminal Conduct**

In cases involving criminal conduct (for example, assault, weapons, possession, or vandalism), the appropriate school personnel and local law enforcement officials will be informed.

### **Carline Procedures**

Students who are picked up in the carline will remain in their classrooms until they receive their carline number. They will then proceed to their number on the sidewalk until they are instructed by a CA staff member to load their vehicle. ALL parents picking up children should use these carline procedures (see diagram and video on the [website](#)). Please note: If you arrive at school before our front parking lot is open for carline, you must park in the Community Center lot. By order of the fire marshall, our families cannot line up on School Street.

Upon entering our front parking lot, park eight cars across, one in each parking space. Be sure the last name of your student is on a piece of paper on your dash/visor. A staff member will be around to assign your number. After the buses depart, the carline will begin; proceed to your number. Staff will load sixteen cars at a time. Parents do not need to get out of their vehicles or motion for the children to come. Staff will instruct children to load the cars when it is their turn and safe for the children to load. Parents are asked to keep their dash/visor tag bearing their family name visible to help expedite this process. Drivers should turn OFF their cell phones until they have left the parking lot.

Parents should not come into the building to pick up their children or cut through the carline from the parking lot to get their children. We ask that everyone is respectful of everyone's time and our community effort to keep ALL our children safe. After just a short adjustment period, the entire carline will take less than 10 minutes.

Students are ONLY allowed to be picked up in the office if they have an appointment. Picking up in the office between 3:00-3:35 PM to avoid carline won't be allowed.

## **Student Expectations and School Procedures**

### **Uniform Dress Code**

The Uniform Dress Code was created to encourage community spirit and to enhance school pride at Cologne Academy. It provides a means of focusing on the students as unique persons while diminishing the importance of external factors such as clothing.

All clothing and appearance choices should uphold the spirit in which the following dress code is written. ALL CHILDREN MUST BE IN UNIFORM EVERY DAY. If your child is not in the proper uniform when they come to school, parents/guardians will be called to bring the proper uniform item needed.

Academy students must maintain a neat, clean, and appropriate appearance at all times. Uniform clothing should be in good condition and without torn knees and be labeled with the student's name. Clothing must be worn right side out. Belts must be worn through loopholes on pants and should not dangle. Clothing is expected to be properly sized to fit. Shorts under skirts should not be visible below the skirt's hemline. Hemlines for skirts, shorts, and

skirts should be no higher than 2 inches from the knee caps.

Attire which attracts undue or negative attention or which infringes on the rights or values of others is not considered to be in the spirit of the dress code. Determination of whether clothing, hair, or accessories is suggestive or unkempt is at the discretion of the Director.

Uniforms are required on all school days except when otherwise specified. Cologne Academy allows parents to purchase uniform clothing at any clothing store. We ask that Donald's Apparel and Uniforms is used as the primary vendor for any clothing article that contains Cologne Academy's Plaid #57.

**K-4 UNIFORM BOTTOMS:** *Pants and Shorts:* Navy Blue flat or pleated front, no cargo; *K-4 Skirts, Skorts or Jumpers:* Navy Blue or Donald's plaid #57

**5-8 UNIFORM BOTTOMS:** *Pants and Shorts:* Navy Blue or Khaki/tan flat or pleated front, no cargo or LandsEnd Classic Navy Plaid *5-8 Skirts, Skorts or Jumpers:* Navy Blue, Khaki/Tan, or Donald's plaid #57 or LandsEnd Classic Navy Plaid

**UNIFORM SHIRTS:** *Sweatshirts:* Purchased through PAVE (collared shirt worn beneath sweatshirt) *Sweaters:* Navy blue, light blue, or white (collared shirt worn beneath sweatshirt) *Shirts:* Navy blue, light blue, or white short or long sleeved collared shirts without pockets or logos. Mock or full turtlenecks without logos or crests are also acceptable. \*No colors other than navy blue, light blue, or white may be visible on or under a student's uniform. (For example: girl's cami's must be navy blue, light blue, or white.)

**HAIR ACCESSORIES:** Navy blue, light blue, white, or Donald's plaid #57

**FOOTWEAR:** *Shoes:* Students are not allowed to wear flip flops and must wear socks with all footwear. *Socks:* Sock, leggings, and tights must be solid white or navy, with no visible stripes/patterns/dots.

**MAKE-UP:** Make-up that is distracting to students, peers, or staff is not allowed; this includes glitter and/or sparkles.

**JEWELRY:** Necklaces: Students are not allowed to wear long or large, bulky necklaces that may hinder safety or become a distraction from learning. Bracelets and watches: multiple bracelets or watches that distract a student from learning will not be permitted.

**HATS/HEAD COVERINGS:** Students are not allowed to wear hats of any kind in the school building during the school day. Head coverings may be worn for religious/cultural purposes. Religious/cultural head coverings need to be a solid color and must be plain in appearance with no embellishments, such as patterns, sequins, glitter, jewels, tassels, etc.

**NON-UNIFORM DAYS:** Non-Uniform clothing is acceptable on select school days; non-uniform clothing should be clean and in good condition. Slacks or jeans, skirts or dresses, T-shirts and collared shirts, and appropriate footwear are acceptable. Occasionally special events such as school picture day, holidays or special events may dictate non-uniform attire. At these times, recommended attire will be announced in advance.

**PHY ED** All 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders are required to purchase a phy ed uniform from the school.

**GRADUATION ATTIRE:** School districts and charter schools must allow American Indian students to wear American Indian regalia, Tribal regalia, or objects of cultural significance at a graduation ceremony.

## **Cellphones, Electronic devices, Music, Headphones, iPods, e-Readers, etc.**

[Please read this parent letter](#)

### General Guidelines

- Cell Phone Use: Students may NOT use cell phones during the academic day - first bell to last bell.
- Device Storage: It is strongly suggested that all electronic devices be kept off and in a locker during school hours.

### Confiscation and Consequences

- Unauthorized Use: If any electronic device, including cell phones, is seen or heard during school hours it may be confiscated by any staff member.
- First Infraction: The device will be taken to the office and the student will pick it up at the end of the school day.
- Second Infraction: A parent/guardian must pick up the device, and additional consequences may be assigned.
- Third Infraction: A parent/guardian must pick up the device, and additional consequences may be assigned.
- Fourth Infraction: Cell phone plan created. Phone may be held by administration during days or not allowed on site. Parents/Guardians devise a plan together with school administration.

### Specific Restrictions

- Locker Rooms and Bathrooms: Devices with photo-taking capabilities are NOT allowed in locker rooms or bathrooms at any time. Confiscation and search of such devices is standard procedure if found in these areas.
- Lockdowns and Fire Drills: Phone usage during lockdown and fire drills is prohibited.
- Unauthorized Recording: Students who take pictures or videos of others without permission in any school setting, including the bus, will face disciplinary actions.
- Smart Watches, Earbuds and Headphones: Smart watches, earbuds and headphones may not be worn in the hallways or cafeteria.

### Investigations and Inspections

- Device Disabling: Disabling a cell phone or computer to thwart an investigation of a disciplinary matter will result in disciplinary action.
- Device Inspection: The school reserves the right to inspect a student's electronic device, through proper legal channels, if there is reason to believe the student has violated school policies or engaged in misconduct while using the device.

### School Responsibility

- Lost, Stolen, or Damaged Devices: The School is not responsible for, nor is it required to investigate, any lost, stolen, or damaged electronic devices brought onto school grounds or the bus.

### Additional Rules

- Recording and Posting: Students may not use a device to record, transmit, or post photos or videos of a person or persons on school grounds or the bus without express permission of an administrator in addition to the individual or individuals that are the subjects of the recording.
- Phone Calls: Students are not to use their phones to call or text individuals during the school day. A telephone located in the office is available for student use. Students will NOT be called to the phone during the school day except for emergencies.

### Compliance

By following these guidelines, students will help maintain a focused and respectful learning environment. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in disciplinary actions as described above.

## Discipline Plan

At Cologne Academy, a community of strong values and character, each person must be willing to accept responsibility for creating a safe, positive, and productive climate for teaching and learning. It is the right of every individual to develop his/her potential to the fullest. It is likewise the responsibility of every individual to respect this right in others.

Teachers have the responsibility to maintain a quality-learning atmosphere at all times in the classroom. Students are expected to show respect for teachers and other students, as well as all school property and materials. Lack of cooperation and disrespect by a student or his/her parents will result in disciplinary action, suspension, or dismissal.

Cologne Academy's policy on Student Discipline is located on our website. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students are aware of and comply with the school's expectations for student conduct. Such compliance will enhance the school's ability to maintain discipline and ensure that there is no interference with the educational process. The school will take appropriate disciplinary action when students fail to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct established by this policy.

A student enrolled in preschool through grade 3 cannot be subject to dismissal. "Dismissal" means the denial of the current educational program to any pupil, including exclusion, expulsion, and suspension. It does not include removal from class. Exclusions and expulsions may only be used after a school implements at least one of the following methods:

- Collaborating with the student's family or guardian, child mental health consultant or provider, education specialist, or other community-based supports.
- Creating a plan, written with the parent or guardian, that details the action and support needed for the student to fully participate in the current educational program.
- Providing a referral for needed support services, including:
  - parenting education, home visits, other supportive education interventions
  - evaluation to determine if the pupil is eligible for special education services or 504 services (when appropriate)

### Exceptions to exclusion / expulsion dismissals:

The prohibition does not apply to a dismissal from school for **less than one school day**. (*Special education student dismissals need to follow state and federal special education law*) The prohibition does not apply when there is an **ongoing serious safety threat** to the child or others.

All students have the responsibility:

- ★ For their behavior and for knowing and obeying all school rules, regulations, policies and procedures;
- ★ To attend school daily, except when excused, and to be on time to all classes and other school functions;
- ★ To pursue and attempt to complete the courses of study prescribed by the state and local school authorities;
- ★ To make necessary arrangements for making up work when absent from school;
- ★ To assist the school staff in maintaining a safe school for all students;
- ★ To be aware of all school rules, regulations, policies and procedures, including those in this policy, and to conduct themselves in accordance with them;
- ★ To assume that until a rule or policy is waived, altered, or repealed, it is in full force and effect;
- ★ To be aware of and comply with federal, state, and local laws;
- ★ To volunteer information in disciplinary cases should they have any knowledge relating to such cases and to cooperate with school staff as appropriate;
- ★ To respect and maintain the school's property and the property of others;
- ★ To dress and groom in a manner which meets school uniform policy;
- ★ To avoid inaccuracies in student newspapers or publications and refrain from indecent or obscene language;

- ★ To conduct themselves in an appropriate physical or verbal manner; and
- ★ To recognize and respect the rights of others.

## **Gum**

This is a sticky subject! We do not allow students to chew gum at school because it often becomes a distraction to other students, and often it ends in the wrong spot causing damage to furniture and carpets.

## **Gym Shoes**

Children are required to wear gym shoes for physical education classes. We prefer you select shoes with non-marking soles since they are less likely to mark the gym floor. Gym shoes stay at school and have a sole purpose of usage in the gym.

## **Phy Ed Uniform**

All 5-8<sup>th</sup> grade students will dress in a Phy Ed uniform. These will be available for purchase during pre conference time.

## **Hats**

Hats are not allowed in class. They are permitted at outside recess and may be placed under a student's seats at lunch.

## **Pledge of Allegiance & Flags**

Students at Cologne Academy shall recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America one or more times each week. Any student or teacher may decline to participate, and that decision will be respected.

Students at Cologne Academy will learn American Flag etiquette during their middle school years. They will learn The flag should be displayed during school days in or near every schoolhouse. Adherence to these rules will help to show that the school is honoring those who, in President Lincoln's words, "gave last full measure of devotion."

- ★ The flag should only be displayed from sunrise to sunset, unless it is properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.
- ★ The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.
- ★ The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day.
- ★ On Memorial Day the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon only, then raised to the top of the staff.

## **Recess**

All scholars at Cologne Academy are offered outdoor recess time during their school day. For scholars in grades K-4, this recess is required. For scholars in grades 5-8, they are offered an optional outdoor time after their lunch period.

Students will participate in recess outdoors every day unless any of the following weather-related conditions exist:

1. The temperature or wind chill is at or below -10° degrees.
2. Precipitation (rain or snow) and/or weather conditions (lightning, wind) are of a degree that it is deemed the conditions are not conducive to students' well-being.

3. The playground/turf/lot are in such condition, i.e. wet, icy, muddy, that it is deemed unsafe and/or not conducive to students well-being.
4. The Director, Principal or their designee will make decisions related to the application of this policy.

Families can help students have a safe, active recess by reminding them to wear their winter gear, including a winter jacket, snow pants, hat, gloves and snow boots to school every day. Students who fail to bring adequate winter attire will be permitted to borrow gear from the lost and found.

November through April we require all students to bring full winter gear (jackets, snow pants, boots, hat, and mittens). Due to the wet conditions that can occur during these months students should be prepared to wear boots to recess. Students are required to change out of their winter boots and into indoor footwear after recess. It is not acceptable for students to wear their winter boots in the classroom.

Children cannot be left in the classroom during recess without a teacher present. All children who attend school are expected to participate in recess. If a child is too sick to go outdoors for fresh air and exercise, the child should be kept at home. Exceptions will be made upon written request from a physician.

Many students use the playground during recess. Therefore, we have rules to ensure the students' safety. We do not allow rough games, tackle football, fighting, hardballs, snowballs, baseball bats, skateboards, or other objects that may cause injury in a congested area. School rules of courtesy and respect apply to the playground as well. If a student breaks a safety rule, the rules will be reviewed. They will be warned and the parent/guardian will be informed by a phone call or email. We are concerned for the safety of each child at our school. Please discuss the importance of following our playground safety rules with your child.

### **Student Image Use**

As a public charter school, sharing our story with the community is an important part of our mission. We may use photos or videos of scholars in school publications, local newspapers, on our website, social media, postcards, and other marketing materials. If you prefer that your scholar(s) not be included in these materials, please complete the [opt-out form](#) for each scholar. Please note that ALL scholars will be included in the yearbook and may be included in our closed ParentSquare group.

### **Safety Drills: Fire, Severe Weather, Evacuation & Lockdown**

Drills are conducted from the very first days of the school year. They are practiced during various times of the year. The purpose is to give careful instructions regarding the procedure for leaving the building or for moving to an area of safety in an orderly fashion, not only during fire emergencies, but any other emergency that may arise. During October (Fire Prevention Week) the local fire department conducts demonstrations and educational programs. During April (Severe Weather Awareness Week) we will participate in the statewide drill.

### **Search of Student Desks, Personal Possessions, & Student's Person**

Cologne Academy is a safe place for all students. The purpose of this policy is to provide for a safe and healthful educational environment by enforcing the school system's policies against contraband and harassment of any type. School desks are the property of the school. Inspection of the interior of desks may be conducted by school authorities for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. The personal possessions of students and/or a student's person may be searched when school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law or school rules. Students should not use desks or personal possessions for unauthorized purposes or to store contraband. This is a summary of the policy; the full policy can be found on the Cologne Academy website, Policy # 502: Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal

Possessions, and Student's Person.

## **Before & After School - STARS Clubhouse Program**

Cologne Academy is partnering with STARS Early Learning Academy for our before and after school care program in addition to summer care. To learn more about enrollment, please visit their website at <https://www.starsela.org/classrooms/school-age> Parent Information

## **After School Programs**

Cologne Academy will occasionally offer voluntary after school programs/activities. These may include, but are not limited to: athletic, academic, art or social programs. Most of these programs are offered on a volunteer basis. Prompt pick up from after school programming is expected and required. Our coaches/activity leaders/chaperones are volunteers with families and personal commitments after events. If you are late picking up your scholar, you will incur a late pick up fee. The fee is payable in cash only and is due the next day.

- \$20 fee 10-19 minutes late
- \$40 fee 20-29 minutes late
- \$60 fee greater than 30 minutes late

Unpaid late fees will cost playing time for the player and may result in an expulsion/exclusion from the activity moving forward. With the exception of social activities (middle school bash/dance) each program has a ParentSquare group that can be used by parents/guardians to arrange transportation or last minute pick up help. This is the responsibility of each parent.

## **Classroom Parties**

Each class may have simple themed parties. Volunteers may be contacted for help or for refreshments.

## **Birthday Invitations**

All children love to be invited to a birthday party. We ask your cooperation in not sending birthday invitations to school to be handed out. It can be disruptive when invitations are handed out during the school day. Please reference the school directory found in Parent Square for family contact information to help with distributing birthday invites outside of school. If contact information is unavailable, you may ask your child's teacher to inquire with students' families for permission to pass along contact information.

## **Birthday Treats**

Student birthdays will be acknowledged and celebrated in the classroom in a consistent manner as determined by the classroom teacher. We recognize that your child's birthday is a special occasion, however, please do not send in birthday treats and/or trinkets with your student in order to nurture an equitable environment for all.

## **Emergency Information**

Each year, we ask parents to provide emergency contact information. The information is kept in the office for quick reference; it is not used for any other purpose. Please be sure the numbers you give us allow us to reach a person, not voicemail.

## **Enrollment Entrance Requirements**

To enter kindergarten, a child must be 5 years old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year. Children need to have an Early Childhood Screening completed before entering kindergarten. Please call 952-467-7390 for more information about ISD 108 Central Schools Early Childhood Screening or your local district. Enrollment is open to all children. Academy does not limit admission to pupils on the basis of intellectual ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, or athletic ability.

## Registration Process for Enrollment

Our annual enrollment period is from the first day of school (the Tuesday after Labor Day) to January 15th . All students applying during this window have an equal opportunity for open seats in the classrooms for the next school year. After the open enrollment period is closed and current students have indicated their intent to return, the available seats will be filled according to state of Minnesota law:

1. First, siblings of current students and foster child(ren) of a current student's parents.
2. Second, children of Cologne Academy teachers.
3. Finally, the remaining students will be selected by lottery.
4. Applications received after the lottery will be placed on the waitlist in the order they are received and offered seats after all the lottery students have accepted or declined enrollment. If anyone declines the opportunity to enroll, the next child on the waiting list will be offered a seat.

Registration forms can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the school website. To initiate the process, a Registration Form must be completed and returned to the school office. Parents are encouraged to submit registration forms as soon as a decision has been made to enroll at Cologne Academy. There is no fee. When a student transfers to Cologne Academy, Cologne Academy will ask the parent to sign a request for release of the student's records. This request will be forwarded by the administrator to the school of previous attendance.

## Field Trips

Field trips are a part of the learning program and are directly related to curriculum units. Notification, including a permission slip, will be sent home to parents prior to the field trip, briefly explaining the location and purpose of the field trip. The appropriate times of departure and arrival back at school and the means of transportation will be stated.

In order for a student to accompany his/her class on a field trip, a signed permission slip from the child's parents/guardian must have been received by the school. Students attending a field trip are required to wear their uniform, unless otherwise noted in the field trip/permission slip sent home to parents prior to the field trip. A student fee is assessed for each student to help off-set the cost of the field trip. No child will be denied a field trip experience due to family financial constraints. If parents/guardians have any questions about the experience, they should contact the classroom teacher.

Parent chaperones are determined by the homeroom teacher. Chaperone guidelines are one adult to five students (K-2) and one adult to seven students (3rd-4th) and teacher discretion for grades 5-8. Parents are not to attend field trip activities unless they are an assigned chaperone for the activity. Non- classroom students are not to attend the school-sponsored activity. **Parents are requested not to use electronic devices i.e. cell phones, iPads, etc. while serving as chaperones.**

*Please note:* Cologne Academy will occasionally utilize off-campus sites such as the Cologne Community Center, the "Blue Park" in the Village of Cologne, and the surrounding neighborhood (i.e. going on a walk as a class). These sites will be considered on-site activities and will not be required to obtain special permission from parents/guardians.

## Lost and Found

Are you looking for a missing gym shoe, mitten, or hat? Each year many items find their way to our Lost and Found box. Lost and Found items remaining at the end of December, during Spring Break, and in June will be donated to charity. You can help this problem by:

- ★ Clearly labeling your child's coats, jackets, sweaters, caps, boots, and lunch boxes with their full name and grade.

- ★ Trying to locate the item immediately upon discovering it is lost. Don't let too much time elapse. Use caution in sending articles of sentimental or monetary value to school. Trading Nintendo games or other electronic games is not allowed at school.

## Teacher Request and Classroom Assignments

At Cologne Academy, scheduling students into classes is a complicated and time-consuming process that involves both computer and hand scheduling. Many factors are taken into consideration when balancing class enrollment, including class size, gender, academics, and social composition. We believe our faculty are skilled educators and, additionally, that students need to learn the important life skill of working with many different types of teachers and students.

Please use the parent input form (available by contacting the main office) if you feel your child has a particular learning need which needs to be addressed and reviewed by the Director. The due date to submit this form is **July 1st**. Our goal is to create the best possible learning environment for all students and appreciate the trust you have in us as we make our class lists and do what is best for all of our students.

Our school receives federal funds for programs that are part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended (2015). Throughout the school year, we will continue to provide you with important information about this law and your child's education. Based on current education law, teachers must have earned State certification and licensure. State certification and licensure is the training required to be a teacher. We are very proud of our teachers and feel they are ready for the coming school year. We are prepared to give your child a high-quality education. You have the right to request information about the professional qualifications of your child's teacher(s) or paraprofessional(s). A paraprofessional provides academic or other support for students under the direct supervision of a teacher. If you request this information, CA will provide you with the following as soon as possible:

1. if the teacher has met State certification and licensing requirements for the grade levels and subjects for which the teacher provides instruction;
2. if state certification and licensing requirements have been waived (is not being required at this time) for the teacher under emergency or other temporary status;
3. if the teacher is teaching in the field of discipline for which they are certified or licensed;
4. if the teacher has met State-approved or State-recognized certification, licensing, registration, or other comparable requirements.

These requirements apply to the professional discipline in which the teacher is working and may include providing English language instruction to English learners, special education or related services to students with disabilities, or both; and if your child is receiving Title I or Special Education services from paraprofessionals, his or her qualifications.

Our staff are committed to helping your child develop the social, academic and critical thinking he or she needs to succeed in school and beyond. That commitment includes making sure that all of our teachers and paraprofessionals are highly skilled. If you would like to request information about your child's teacher(s) or paraprofessional(s), or if you have any questions about your child's assignment to a teacher or paraprofessional, please contact the executive director or appropriate principal. Teacher license [lookup is here](#).

## Visitors

All students have the right to be safe and secure at all times when they are at Cologne Academy. It is the policy of the Cologne Academy Board of Education that partnerships between community, home, and school be encouraged. Parents and community members are welcomed into our school provided the visits are not disruptive to the learning environment and are conducted within the procedures and requirements established by the school district.

To ensure safety, these procedures have been established:

- ★ During the school day, all visitors must check in and enter through the school office.
- ★ School volunteers shall wear an identification badge.
- ★ Visitors may eat lunch with students. Please notify the school at least one week ahead of time or more to ensure a meal order is placed for each student visitor. Visitors are encouraged to pack their own lunch.
- ★ Tours of the school may be scheduled before and after school or on days specifically designated by Cologne Academy administration. Parents of prospective students may arrange a tour during the school day with the administrator, teacher, or administrative designee.
- ★ Visitors on official business such as delivery people and guest presenters are allowed in the school only on designated days and times.
- ★ The Director will establish visitor procedures for special events occurring during the school day in order to maintain safety and minimize disruptions of the learning process.
- ★ Any exceptions to the above must have prior consent of the building administrator.

## Communication

Cologne Academy's mission inspires us to communicate frequently with parents through ParentSquare, newsletters, email, notes, social media, and/or telephone calls from teachers and school leaders to keep them informed of activities in each classroom, share accomplishments of students, and discuss concerns. School-wide information will be communicated from the administrative offices on a regular basis via ParentSquare or the school website. Hard copies will be available upon request. Please note: Although CA has a Facebook page, this is not the forum for communication. Please refer to the ParentSquare app, school website, and newsletters for the most up-to-date information.

### ParentSquare

ParentSquare is the parent communication platform that CA will use to communicate with you. There is a ParentSquare app for your smart devices. Stay in the know = Parent Square

- ★ School updates & information
- ★ Instant safety & weather notifications
- ★ Club & organization updates

ParentSquare works on any device and is viewable via your web browser. Smartphone users can download a free app. The browser link for sign in is <https://www.parentsquare.com/signin>. While you are able to send direct messages to staff via ParentSquare, it is the preferred method to communicate with staff via email.

### Infinite Campus

Our online student database is called Infinite Campus. This system helps us share information about our students and use the data to improve the educational programming here at Cologne Academy by streamlining some of our procedures. The parent/guardian component is called Infinite Campus Parent Portal. The Parent Portal currently provides parents/guardians with online access to their child's contact information, schedule, progress reports and report cards. Upon enrollment, you will be provided with an activation code specific to your child/ren's information. *Please note:* All report cards should be accessed on the portal and will not be printed or mailed. Additionally, address/phone number changes should be made directly in your Infinite Campus account.

### Parent/Teacher Conferences

Cologne Academy will collaborate and enhance the process with parents as partners in their child's education.

Conferences will be held in August, October, and February.

The parents and family are your child's first educators, this remains the primary determinant in the student's attitude and behavior; a home-school community partnership is a natural and essential element in building and maintaining a positive learning environment for all students.

An important ingredient in meaningful home-school community relationships is the opportunity for open communication. Two-way communication is essential, and the best time to begin home-school community communication is early in the school year. We will have a student pre-conference in August. School personnel will listen to their students and encourage parents to become actively involved with their child's education. The early conference enables parents to provide input for the child's learning plan. Subsequent conferences will be scheduled in October and February.

### **Report Cards**

Report cards/grades will be accessed through Infinite Campus at the end of each trimester.

### **Parent/Teacher Issue Resolution**

The communication procedure for *issues* with teachers is as follows:

- ★ Direct communication with the teacher. This shows respect for the teacher and also for the parent communicating the information.
- ★ If the division remains unresolved, the School Assistant Principal will coordinate a meeting between the parents, teacher, and School Assistant Principal
- ★ Direct communication with the Executive Director and/or School Board of Directors.

### **Custody Procedures**

Often in family situations, a court has given one parent or another certain legal rights. These rights most often delineate custody issues for minor children involved in the family situation. When a court awards sole legal custody, sole physical custody, or creates other specific language that requires the school to limit normal family involvement, the school must have appropriate copies of the court papers. Without such information, the school will assume joint legal custody and joint physical custody.

## **Academic Information**

**We are excited that you will be joining us in August 2025.**

### **Academic Integrity Policy**

Cologne Academy is committed to providing an atmosphere which values academics and character. Cologne Academy intends to cultivate an academically honest environment and therefore prohibits academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty occurs when students obtain or assist others in obtaining credit for work which is not their own through acts of cheating or plagiarism.

Study or homework collaboration is not considered academic dishonesty unless prohibited or limited by expectations established by the teacher. **Teachers shall guide students in understanding when collaborative efforts are not appropriate. In addition, parents or tutors may dialogue with a student about an assignment but may not do the assignment for the student.**

Plagiarism is the act of taking and using as one's own work, another's published or unpublished thoughts, ideas,

and/or writings. This definition includes computer programs, drawings, artwork, and all other types of work that are not one's own.

Types of plagiarism include word-for-word, mosaic (rearrangement or rewording without documentation), and indirect (paraphrasing of a passage without documentation). Material taken from another source without adequate documentation may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- ★ failing to cite with quotation marks the written words or symbols of another author;
- ★ failing to footnote the author and sources of materials used in a composition;
- ★ failing to cite research materials in a bibliography;
- ★ failing to name a person quoted in an oral report;
- ★ failing to cite an author whose works are paraphrased or summarized;
- ★ presenting another person's creative work or ideas as one's own in essays, poems, music, art, computer programs or other projects;
- ★ copying or paraphrasing ideas from literary criticism or study aids without documentation.

The consequences for academic dishonesty may include, but are not limited to, following the discipline guidelines after ensuring that the student's academic dishonesty was intentional. As always, multiple facts will be considered including age of student, if there have been other attempts at dishonesty, etc. Some possible consequences may include:

- ★ The teacher will communicate the violation to the student,
- ★ And the student's parent(s)/guardian(s),
- ★ And/or Cologne Academy administration;
- ★ The teacher may request a meeting with the student, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), and Cologne Academy administration;
- ★ The teacher may assign an appropriate academic penalty (e.g., the student receiving no credit for the academic work or examination involved).

## **Equal Educational Opportunities**

All students shall be afforded the right and opportunity to an equal education. No student shall be excluded, segregated, or discriminated against in the school's educational environment for reasons of race, color, national origin, gender, economic status, disability, religion or religious affiliation, or sexual orientation.

MultiLingual Student Education is a program designed to provide students who speak another language with the English skills necessary to succeed in all areas of school and out in the real world. Our goal is to enable English Language Learners to take full advantage of their education by achieving academic language proficiency in Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking.

## **Books & Supplies**

Textbooks for each student are provided by the school. It is the responsibility of Cologne Academy students to return textbooks, classroom library books, e-readers, and any other school materials at the end of the school year in good condition. When a book or other school material or equipment is damaged or lost, the student will pay the cost for repairs or replacement. Parents provide the required school supplies for each grade level; school supplies are listed on the school's website.

## **Assessments**

(Please see <https://www.cologneacademy.org/district-services/curriculum-assessments> for more information)

## **State Assessments**

(below is from MN Department of Education)

*What is the MCA?* The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) are state tests in reading, mathematics, and science that are used to meet federal and state legislative requirements. The tests are administered every year to measure student performance relative to the Minnesota Academic Standards that specify what students in a particular grade should know and be able to do.

*Why do we give these tests?* We use the MCA to find out how well schools have aligned curriculum to and instructed students in the Minnesota Academic Standards in reading, mathematics, and science. The reading and mathematics assessments are also used in federal and state accountability measurements. Schools use the information to improve classroom teaching and learning. Teachers and principals look for areas where students do well so they can reinforce the ways they teach these skills. They also look for areas that need improvement so they can increase instructional time or modify their instruction.

*Who must take these tests?* All students in public schools are required to participate in the statewide assessment program. Reading and mathematics tests are administered in grades 3–8 and the Science MCA is administered to students in grades 5 and 8. With very few exceptions, all public school students in the above grades take the MCA.

Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan may be eligible for accommodations. Some students with significant cognitive disabilities may be eligible to take the Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS) instead of the MCA. The MTAS is an alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards in reading, mathematics, and science. For more information, see the MTAS Eligibility Requirements on the MDE website (Go to Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Minnesota Tests).

All grades of the Reading, Mathematics, and Science MCA are administered online only. Paper accommodations are available for eligible students, including large print and braille. The online Reading and Mathematics MCA are adaptive tests, which means that the test adjusts to each student's responses.

- ★ For reading, the test adjusts at a passage level, so a student's responses to a set of items for a passage determine the next group of passages and items a student will receive.
- ★ For mathematics, every time a student answers a question, his or her response helps determine the next question the student will answer.

### **Show What You Know (a.k.a. Interim Assessments)**

All students will take quarterly interim tests in math and reading. The school's focus towards these assessments in terms of data review, student success, teacher effectiveness, and curriculum needs is well supported in recent research and uses best practices as directed from our Authorizer and School Board.

Advantages of Interim Tests (Bambrick-Santoyo, 2010):

- ★ *Road Map for instruction:* When educators know precisely what skill level their students must reach on each standard, they will have a clear framework for creating a challenging and dynamic curriculum.
- ★ *Improvement in teaching:* Well-designed interim assessments serve to identify weaknesses during the course of the school year. Meticulous attention to results and a constant feedback loop allow teachers to improve their craft, changing strategies in response to changing needs.
- ★ *Targeted Focus:* By creating concrete benchmarks, interim assessments allow for classroom strengths and weaknesses to be clearly identified and systematically targeted.
- ★ *Accountability:* The cumulative nature of interim assessments helps hold teachers and principals accountable for student learning results throughout the year. Rather than waiting for a year-end result, interim assessments make it possible to identify failed teaching strategies while there is still time to fix them.
- ★ *Visibility:* Interim assessments allow for performance to be charted graphically so that school leaders and staff may see visual evidence of improvement.
- ★ *Checking for understanding without teacher support:* Because of their formal written nature, interim assessments

measure student understanding without what is often called “scaffolded” support (teacher hints and guidance in problem solving), which can often reveal great differences between student output when supported by the teacher and when not!

- ★ *Preparing students for high-stakes assessment:* The written format can also be used to simulate the high-stakes test by which states measure academic achievement.

## **Homework/Academic Rigor**

Homework is an integral part of the child’s educational process. The Core Knowledge Curriculum requires student preparation outside of school and is enhanced by parent support and involvement with homework completion. Homework leads to responsibility and practice in a particular subject. It is carefully assigned as a meaningful part of the learning experience.

The amount of the homework depends on the grade of the child. Homework may be the completion of class work that was not finished in school, but most often it is an extended lesson for student enrichment. Completion of homework is an expectation of all students at Cologne Academy.

Cologne Academy’s commitment is to develop the academic potential of each student. Below is the estimated hours of weekly homework per grade. Each student possesses work ethic and motivation in different ways, so this is a guideline only:

- ★ Grade K-4: 10 minutes-1 hour per night; guideline is 10 minutes for K, 20 minutes for 1<sup>st</sup>, etc.
- ★ Grade 5-8: 1-1.5 hours per night.

In addition to homework, students are encouraged to read 10-30 minutes each night and to practice their math computation fluency. In the event a student is experiencing more homework than these guidelines, please contact the homeroom or classroom teacher.

## **Media in the Classroom**

The following guidelines will be used for viewing of movies: Parental permission must be received before showing any movies with the rating of PG [K-4] and PG-13 [grades 5-8]. We will provide alternative learning experiences for the students who have not received parental permission.

## **Boost Reading and IXL**

All families in grades K-5 can use Boost Reading at home to further their reading instruction.

- ★ Go to <https://reading.amplify.com/>
- ★ Log-in by following the prompts. Please contact your scholar’s homeroom teacher if you need help with log-in information.

All families in grades K-8 can use IXL to further math instruction.

- ★ Go to [www.IXL.com](http://www.IXL.com)
- ★ Log-in by following the prompts. Please contact your scholar’s homeroom/advisory teacher if you need help with log-in information.
- ★ You may also download IXL as an app on your device

## **Special Education**

Special education is federal law and, as a MN public school, it is offered at Cologne Academy. These services are available for students who have been identified as having special needs in a minimum of one of thirteen (13) areas defined by federal law.

## **Title I Programs**

Title I is a federally funded program that gives qualified students an extra boost in the areas of reading and math. These programs are carried out through our interventions and taught by our Accountability Specialists. Students that need additional instruction to grasp concepts will be recommended to interventions. It is CA's desire to remediate specific skills in a timely manner rather than wait for a larger learning gap to occur.

## **Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)**

Cologne Academy is committed to the social, emotional and character development of students. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is infused in K-8 classrooms. SEL is defined by the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning as "the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions". SEL is delivered in a variety of ways to K-8 students. Students in grades K-4 receive SEL instruction as a specials class and via Core Virtue lessons. Students in grades 5-8 receive SEL instruction via targeted SEL lessons throughout the school year focusing on important social, emotional and character topics.

Cologne Academy's SEL is rooted in teaching students:

- ★ CA's 11 Core Virtues: Respect, responsibility, integrity, honesty, generosity, gratitude, courage, loyalty, compassion, forgiveness and diligence
- ★ Self Management/Self-Regulation Strategies: Identifying emotions, identifying and selecting regulation strategies, how to use self regulation strategies and problem solving skills to grow emotional and self regulation independence
- ★ Responsible Decision Making: Teaching problem solving and critical thinking skills
- ★ Relationship Skills: Listening, communicating, problem solving and leadership skills to foster positive relationships
- ★ Social Awareness: Empathy, compassion, perspective taking and diverse customs and beliefs to learn about others and the world
- ★ Self Awareness: Learning about one's identity, strengths, limitations and interests to understand oneself

## **Health Services**

### **Health Examinations and Immunization Records**

Student health records are required in compliance with Minnesota law. Students transferring to Cologne Academy from another Minnesota school must provide a copy of appropriate health information. Students also must have immunizations completed as specified by the Minnesota Department of Public Health. Should vaccine shortages occur, the Minnesota Department of Public Health requires a written note from the healthcare provider stating that the "vaccine is deferred" until the supply is again available. Immunization record form is available on the Cologne Academy website.

Cologne Academy's policy requires that health records including immunizations be provided prior to the first day of school. To assure that all students are adequately protected from preventable communicable diseases, Minnesota law states that students who are not in compliance with these health requirements must be excluded from school. New students entering school in September should provide the records by August 15th. All students, including transfer students, must provide such health records prior to attending classes.

### **Conscientious or Medical Objection to Health Examination/Immunization**

If a student's parent/guardian objects to any or all of the health examination, or to immunizations on religious grounds, the parent must present a signed and notarized statement detailing the grounds for the objection. If a

student is exempted from the health examination or immunizations on medical grounds, the examining healthcare provider shall provide written documentation regarding the contradiction.

### **Ill or Injured Students**

Students exhibiting signs of illness (fever, vomiting, etc.) should be cared for at home to enhance their own recovery and to prevent the spread of illness to other students. Students who become ill or injured at school will not be sent home without prior contact with a family member or authorized adult. While Health Services provides interim care, the responsibility for the treatment and care of the student rests with the family once notification has been provided. Students may not be in school with:

- ★ Temperatures over 100.0 Fahrenheit
- ★ Inflamed or red eyes
- ★ A rash, lesion or open wound that is not yet healed over
- ★ Vomiting, diarrhea, or severe abdominal pain
- ★ Persistent cough
- ★ Swollen glands
- ★ Ear ache
- ★ Acute cold

A child should remain out of school until his or her temperature has been below 100.0 F for 24 hours without medication (such as Tylenol). An elevated temperature indicates that the child's body is working to eliminate the cause of the elevated temperature; the child may still be contagious to other children. If you have been to your physician or clinic for a strep test, please ask when the child may return to school. A child should be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school. If a child is absent from school due to illness, they may not attend evening school functions, such as concerts, sports, etc. If a child has been absent from school for three (3) consecutive days, a doctor's note will be required to return.

Please see Attachment for further guidance on SPECIFIC DISEASE EXCLUSION FOR SCHOOLS :

<https://www.hennepin.us/-/media/hennepinus/residents/health-medical/infectious-diseases/specific-exclusion-school.pdf>

**WHEN A CHILD IS ILL OR INJURED, HEALTH OFFICE PERSONNEL WILL:**

1. Call the parent or guardian as listed on the emergency card and ask him or her to arrange transportation and care for the student.
2. If a parent or guardian is not available, the alternate person(s) designated on the emergency card will be called to provide transportation and care for the student until the parent/guardian can be contacted.
3. No student will be allowed to walk home or be taken home without the permission of an adult who is responsible for the student.

The classroom teacher refers students to the office whenever symptoms indicate the possibility of illness and/or pain. Minor injuries are treated at school. In an extreme emergency, an ambulance will be called, and your child will be taken to the nearest hospital. (This will be billed to the parent/guardian.) Should your child sustain a trauma to their head, Cologne Academy will follow the concussion protocol that is found on the Cologne Academy website under the health office tab, <http://cologneacademy.org/support-services/health-services/>

If an injury or illness requires any restrictions or adaptations at school (including physical education class), please have the physician write instructions to be followed at school.

Children cannot be left in the classroom during recess without a teacher present. All children who attend school are expected to participate in recess. If a child is too sick to go outdoors for fresh air and exercise, the child should be

kept at home. Exceptions will be made upon written request from a physician.

All students (even middle school) must be seen by the school nurse before calling parents because they are sick.

## **Medication Administration**

Medicine shall not be administered in school unless the student's health would be jeopardized without it. If possible, medications that are to be given three times a day should be given at home before and after school and at bedtime.

If a child needs medicine during school hours:

1. Written parent/guardian permission *and* a written physician's order is required for *prescribed medication* to be given in school.
2. Medication to be given in school is to be supplied in the original prescription bottle or container. Two containers of the medication should be prepared by the pharmacist, one for home and one for school. Any over-the-counter medication prescribed by the student's physician must be in the original container.
3. All medications must be accompanied by specific instructions including when and how it is to be given and for how many days.
4. All medication will be administered in the health office and will be kept in a secured storage facility.
5. Under no circumstances will any school personnel supply any other over-the-counter medication to students.
6. Students with asthma using inhalers during the school day must follow the above medication policy. They will be allowed to carry and be responsible for the administration of their own inhalers with written and signed consent of their parent/guardian.
7. Special arrangements must be made with the school nurse concerning administration of medication through gastrostomy tubes, rectal, or injectable routes. Forms are available in the School Office.

\* Students in middle school (7th/8th grade) may carry their own Ibuprofen or Tylenol with written consent from their guardians, which will be kept in the health office. The medication must be labeled in its original bottle, and kept in the student's bag. Sharing medication with other students is not allowed.

## **Opiate Antagonists**

In compliance with Minnesota statute 121A.224, Cologne Academy must maintain a supply of opiate antagonists.

- 1) two doses of nasal naloxone are to be available on-site
- 2) opiate antagonists must be administered in compliance with the (MN Statutes 151.37subd.12).

For emergency administration, nothing in (MN Statutes 151.37 subd. 12) prohibits the possession and administration of naloxone pursuant to the Good Samaritan Law (MN Statutes 604.04) .

## **Communicable Disease Policy**

It is the policy of the Cologne Academy school board that students and employees with communicable diseases should not be excluded from attending school in their usual daily attendance setting so long as their health permits and their attendance does not create a significant risk of the transmission of illness to students or employees of the school. Employee and student health information shall be shared within the school only with those whose jobs require such information and with those who have a legitimate educational interest (including health and safety) in such information and shall be shared only to the extent required to accomplish legitimate educational goals and to comply with employees' right to know requirements.

The full policy can be found on the Cologne Academy website, Policy# 420: Students and Employees with Sexually Transmitted Infections and Diseases and Certain Other Communicable Diseases and Infectious Conditions.

## **Screenings**

Different grade levels are screened for hearing and vision ability each year. Referral sheets will be sent to parents if your child fails either screening. These sheets are to be filled out by your doctor and returned for our health files. If you wish to have your child's vision or hearing screened, please contact the main office.

## **Vision and Hearing Screening**

Cologne Academy Health Services provides vision and hearing screenings as suggested by the Minnesota Department of Health and by request. Physicals from the doctor are requested before kindergarten. Students are also encouraged to see their dentist at least once a year. All health records are kept locked in the Cologne Academy office.

## **Special Health Needs**

A student with a special health need (e.g., asthma, ADHD, diabetes, migraines, perceptual defects, personal problems, seizure disorders, or on daily medications) should be known to school Health Services prior to the student entering school. To provide for safe daily care and emergency procedures, such health information gathered from the family and health records will be sensitively shared with faculty and staff members with whom the student has contact.

## **Allergies**

We are an "allergy aware" building, not allergy free. Every effort is made to make your student with allergies safe at school.

## **Pets**

Pets are not allowed in the building.

## **Latex**

Please do NOT bring in any latex balloons.

# **District Policies**

## **Copies of Policy**

Copies of all policies may be obtained by parents and eligible students at the Cologne Academy office or on the school website, <https://www.cologneacademy.org/school-board>.

## **Bullying and Hazing**

A safe and civil environment is needed for students to learn and attain high academic standards and to promote healthy human relationships. Bullying, like other violent or disruptive behavior, is conduct that interferes with students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to educate students in a safe environment. The school cannot monitor the activities of students at all times and eliminate all incidents of bullying between students, particularly when students are not under the direct supervision of school personnel. However, to the extent such conduct affects the educational environment of the school and the rights and welfare of its students and is within the control of the school in its normal operations, it is the school's intent to prevent bullying and to take action to investigate, respond, remediate, and discipline those acts of bullying which have not been successfully prevented. The purpose of this policy is to assist the school in its goal of preventing and responding to acts of bullying, intimidation, violence, and other similar disruptive behavior.

Additionally, "hazing" means committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act,

that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other school-related purpose.

Policy #514: Bullying Prohibition Policy is located on our [website](#) or is available from the main office. To report an incident, fill out [this form](#).

Policy #526: CA Hazing Prohibition is located on our [website](#) or is available from the main office. To report an incident, please reach out to the building administration.

## **Data Privacy Policy**

### **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Annual Notice for Disclosure of School Directory Information**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that requires the school district, with certain exceptions, to obtain your written consent prior to disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's educational records. However, the school may disclose some student information without written consent when the information is designated "Directory Information" unless you advised the district to the contrary in accordance with district procedures.

Academy has designated the following as Directory Information:

- ★ Student name
- ★ Grade Level
- ★ Dates of attendance
- ★ Address
- ★ Phone numbers
- ★ Emails

The primary use for Directory Information by the district is to include this type of information in certain school publications. It is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released. Examples of school publications are:

- ★ Music or drama performance
- ★ Annual school yearbook
- ★ Honor roll
- ★ OSAs
- ★ School/student directory
- ★ School website

Directory information can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parents' written consent, regardless of the reason for or the source of the requested data. Two federal laws require school districts that receive assistance under No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories - names, addresses, and telephone listings - unless parents have notified the district that they do not want their child's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want Cologne Academy to disclose directory information about your child without your prior consent, you must notify the school in writing by October 1<sup>st</sup>, or within 30 days of your child's attendance, if newly enrolled.

### **FERPA Annual Notice of Student Education Record Privacy**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student educational records. The law applies to all schools that receive federal funds. FERPA gives parents certain rights

with respect to their child's education records. When a student reaches the age of 18 or attends a postsecondary school or college, the parents' rights transfer to the student, and the student is then an "eligible student" under the law. Under FERPA, parents and students have the following rights:

- 1) To inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school within 10 (ten) working days of the date a written request is received, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. The request should identify the record(s) being inspected. The school is not required to provide copies of records and may charge a copy fee if copies are requested. The following staff person may be contacted to seek access to your child's records:
  - ★ Executive Director of Academy
  - ★ You will be notified of the place and time the record(s) may be available for review.
- 2) To request that a school records believed to be inaccurate or misleading, the request must be in writing and clearly specify:
  - a) The part of the record you are requesting to be changed, and
  - b) Why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to a hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement in the record about the contested information.

The school is not required to consider requests for grade or disciplinary decisions, opinions of school officials in the education record, or the child's special education determination. The following staff person may be contacted to request an amendment to your child's record:

★ Executive Director of Academy

- 3) To control the disclosure of their child's personally identifiable information from their education record, parents may request that the school, with certain exceptions, obtain written consent prior to the disclosure of student information. An exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school staff with legitimate interests, such as a person employed by Cologne Academy:
- 4) The following individuals may have a legitimate need to request student information: a person serving on the school board, a person or company with whom Cologne Academy has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, or therapist); a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a grievance or disciplinary committee or assisting another district official; or an official of another school district in which a student seeks to enroll. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill professional responsibility.
- 5) To file a complaint with the US Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school district to comply with the requirements of FERPA at the following address:  
Family Policy Compliance Office  
US Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20202-4605

### **Firearms and Weapons Prohibition Policy**

Cologne Academy does not allow any student or non-student to have in his or her possession or use any type of weapon within the schools or on the school grounds or premises where Cologne Academy students are present in connection with a school activity. The full policy can be found on the Cologne Academy website, Policy #501: Possession or Use of Weapons.

## **Gender Inclusion Policy**

The purpose of this policy is to foster an educational environment that is safe and supportive for all students, regardless of gender identity or gender expression. Cologne Academy is committed to providing a respectful and inclusive learning environment for all students. Cologne Academy will act to improve the educational integration of transgender and gender nonconforming students and foster cultural competence and professional development for school staff on transgender and gender nonconforming issues. The full policy can be found on the Cologne Academy website, Policy #560: Gender Inclusion.

## **Tobacco Free Environment**

Cologne Academy seeks to maintain a tobacco-free campus. The full policy can be found on the Cologne Academy website, Policy #419: Tobacco-Free Environment.

## **Harassment & Violence**

Cologne Academy seeks to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from religious, racial or sexual harassment, and violence. Any form of religious, racial or sexual harassment, and violence will not be tolerated by any pupil, teacher, administrator, or other school personnel of the school system to inflict, threaten to inflict, or attempt to inflict religious, racial, or sexual violence upon any pupil, teacher, administrator, or other school personnel.

The school system will act to investigate all complaints, either formal or informal, verbal or written, of religious, racial or sexual harassment, or violence, and to discipline to take appropriate action against any pupil, teacher, administrator, or other school personnel who is found to have violated this policy. This is a summary of the policy; the full policy can be found on the Cologne Academy website, Policy #413: Harassment & Violence.

## **Internet & Technology Resources**

Cologne Academy uses a variety of digital tools to support student learning. Technology vendors and software is utilized to support work as we help all students develop the skills necessary to succeed in an ever-changing world.

We have an inventory of our curriculum, testing, and assessment tools posted on our website and include an outline of the student data elements within each tool. This list is maintained and communicated annually to all families at the start of the school year.

Please reach out to the office for additional questions regarding specific digital tools used in classrooms.

Schools are required by MN State Statute 2020, section 13.32, Subd. 14. To notify students and parents, within 72 hours of the access, that the school-issued device was accessed and a written description of the interaction, including which features of the device were accessed and a description of the threat.

Cologne Academy recognizes its responsibility for the management of the technology resources of the school system. Included are resources involving all voice, video and data systems. These systems are: telephones, television monitors, various computers, servers, local and wide area networks, the connections to other computer networks and the Internet, and stored electronic data.

In making decisions regarding student use of the school system, computer system, and the Internet, the school

system considers its own stated educational mission, goals, and objectives. Electronic information research skills are now fundamental to preparation of citizens and future employees. Access to the school computer system and to the Internet enables students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, bulletin boards, and other resources while exchanging messages with people around the world. The school expects that faculty will blend thoughtful use of the school system computer system and the Internet throughout the curriculum and will provide guidance and instruction to students in their use.

Users are expected to use Internet access through the school system to further educational and personal goals consistent with the mission and policies of Cologne Academy.

The use of the school system and access to use of the Internet and voice, video, and data technology is a privilege, not a right. Depending on the nature and degree of the violation and the number of previous violations, unacceptable use of the school system or Internet, or other voice, video or data technology may result in one or more of the following consequences: suspension or cancellation of use or access privileges; payments for damages and repairs; discipline under other appropriate school system policies, including suspension, expulsion, exclusion or termination of employment, or civil or criminal liability under other applicable laws.

This is a summary of the policy; the full policy can be found on the Cologne Academy website, Policy #524: Internet Acceptable Use & Safety.

### **Medication Policy**

Cologne Academy acknowledges that some students may require prescribed medication during the school day. The following provisions are necessary to provide for the safe, proper, and timely administration of non-emergency prescription medication to students in the schools.

A Medication/Treatment Authorization Form must be completed annually and/or when a change in the prescription occurs. Prescription medication must come to school in the original container labeled for the student by a pharmacist and must be administered in a manner consistent with the instructions on the label.

This is a summary of the policy; the full policy can be found on the Cologne Academy website, Policy #516: Student Medication.

### **Section 504 - Disability Nondiscrimination Policy**

It is the policy of Cologne Academy to protect students with disabilities from discrimination and to identify and evaluate learners who, within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, need accommodations, special services, or programs in order that such learners may receive the required free, appropriate public education.

Section 504 in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination against persons with a disability in any program that receives federal financial assistance. The Act defines a person with a disability as anyone who: 1. Has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, including learning; or 2. Has a record of such an impairment, or 3. Is regarded as having such an impairment.

Learners may be protected from disability discrimination and be eligible for services under the provisions of Section 504 even though they do not require individualized education program services pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

### **Title IX**

Earlier 2020, the Office for Civil Rights (“OCR”) at the U.S. Department of Education announced new Title IX requirements defining sexual harassment in federal regulations for the first time and governing sexual harassment

complaints and investigations. The new standards outline comprehensive notice and procedural requirements schools must follow when responding to sexual harassment claims from both students and employees. The full policies can be found on the Cologne Academy website. 413 HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE; Grievance Form; POLICY 522 STUDENT SEX NONDISCRIMINATION

### **Wellness Policy**

The school board has approved a wellness policy that assures a school environment that promotes and protects student's health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity. This policy encourages parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks and to refrain from including beverages and foods without nutritional value.



**Family Support Pledge**  
(also at the beginning of the handbook)

I (We) have read the Family Handbook, reviewed its contents with my (our) child(ren) and understand that Cologne Academy maintains that parental involvement empowers the parents by providing each parent and family with a greater stake in the school's success. As such, I (we) agree that I (we) will abide by all rules, regulations, and policies of Cologne Academy. As parent(s)/guardian(s), I (we):

- Complete the Annual Update each year in Infinite Campus to ensure that our emergency contact information is up-to-date.
- Support my (our) child(ren)'s academic and personal achievements by ensuring that they do their homework and read at home daily;
- Support my (our) child(ren)'s academic and personal achievements by making sure they attend school except when there is an illness and by ensuring the timely arrival to school in the mornings;
- Support my (our) child(ren)'s academic and personal achievements by ensuring that assignments missed due to excused absences are completed in a timely manner;
- Support my (our) child(ren)'s academic and personal achievements by attending parent/teacher conferences; and,
- Support my (our) child(ren)'s academic and personal achievements by volunteering in at least one PAVE event/fundraiser, recurring task/committee, lunchroom food server, or other identified volunteer opportunity.

I (We) fully understand that non-adherence to the Parent/Student Handbook's rules, regulations, and policies by child(ren) enrolled in the schools or by their parent(s) or guardians may result in failure to make adequate growth or in a very unlikely case, a child's expulsion from the school.



BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION
INCIDENT REPORTING FORM

Please return this form to the administrator at the building.

1. Name of Reporter/Person Filling Out Report:
(NOTE: Reports may be made anonymously, but no disciplinary action will be taken against an alleged aggressor solely on the basis of an anonymous report.)

2. Check whether you are the: [ ] Target of the behavior [ ] Reporter (not the target)

3. Check whether you are a: [ ] Student [ ] Staff member [ ] Parent [ ] Administrator [ ] Other (specify)

Your contact information/telephone number (optional)

4. State your school or worksite:

5. Nature of bullying (check all that apply):

- [ ] Physical (persistent pushing/shoving, making threats, defacing property, stealing, etc.)
[ ] Emotional (persistent name calling, teasing, insulting, harassing phone calls, etc.)
[ ] Social (persistent gossiping, teasing about looks, excluding someone from groups, arranging public humiliation, etc.)
[ ] Cyber (persistent texting/messaging threats, posting defamatory Websites, e-mailing derogatory photos, etc.)

\*\*\*\*\*

6. Name of Student or Group of Students Targeted by Bullying Behavior:

Person or Persons Who Are Doing the Bullying:

Date(s) of Incident(s)

Time When Incident(s) Occurred:

Location of incident(s)

\*\*\*\*\*

7. Witnesses (list people who saw the incident or have information about it):

Name: student(s)

8. Physical Evidence: Graffiti\_Notes Email Websites \_

Video/audio tape Other

9. Describe the details of the incident (including names of people involved, what occurred, and what each person did and said, including specific words used). Please use additional space on back, if necessary.

Please return this form to the administrator at the building.

FOR ADMINISTRATION USE ONLY

Signature of Director Date Received