



# Parent-Student Handbook

## 2025-2026

*Home of the Dragons*

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*All Students Can Succeed!*



August, 2025

Dear ISAAC Families,

Welcome to another exciting year at the Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication (ISAAC)!

At ISAAC, we are proud to provide a safe, respectful, and nurturing learning environment for all students. Our dedicated team of educators are committed to delivering a rigorous curriculum grounded in our Core Values and Beliefs about Learning. We support the growth of each student by developing the academic foundations, civic responsibility, and social-emotional skills necessary for success in high school and beyond.

There have been many exciting changes this school year! We are now a 4-8 middle school, our construction tower has been completed, and many classrooms now have flexible seating to enhance student engagement, comfort, and productivity. Our goal is to foster a safe, fun, and nurturing environment that promotes hard work and effort for all who work, learn, and grow within our school community. We believe that *All Students Can Succeed* with support, high expectations, and perseverance.

At ISAAC, we empower students to become independent thinkers and empathetic leaders through authentic learning experiences. We know that strong partnerships among families, staff, and students are essential to our continued success. Clear and open communication is key, and this Parent-Student Handbook is one important tool to stay informed about school-wide expectations, policies, and procedures. Please carefully review the Parent-Student Handbook and sign and return the "Stakeholder Signature Page" to your child's advisory teacher by **Friday, August 29, 2025**.

Whether you are new to our community or a returning family, we welcome all and encourage you to reach out if there are ever any questions or concerns. Together, we can create an environment where students feel safe, supported, challenged, and inspired every single day.

We look forward to an amazing school year ahead!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tanya Collins".

Tanya N. Collins  
Principal

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### **SCHOOL INFORMATION**

FACULTY & STAFF	5
CORE VALUES & BELIEFS ABOUT LEARNING	6
VISION OF THE GRADUATE	6
COMMUNICATION FLOW CHART	7

### **SCHEDULES**

STUDENT BELL SCHEDULE/EARLY DISMISSAL/DELAYED OPENING (GRADES 4-5)	8
STUDENT BELL SCHEDULE/EARLY DISMISSAL/DELAYED OPENING (GRADES 6-8)	9

### **QUARTER ENDING DATES/POWERSCHOOL UPDATES**

**10**

### **ACADEMICS**

**11**

GRADING/REPORT CARDS	11
PROGRESS REPORTS	11
LATE/MAKE UP WORK	11
RETAKE POLICY	12
MARKING PERIODS	12
COURSES OFFERED	12
ADVISORY	12
HONOR ROLL	12
HONORS CLASSES	12
NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY	12
OTIS-LENNON GIFTED & TALENTED (OLSTAT) TESTS	13
SMARTER BALANCED (SBAC) TESTS	13
NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARD (NGSS) TESTS	13
AIMSWEB TESTS	13
STUDENT RECORDS	13
TRANSFER/WITHDRAWAL	13
SRBI (SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHED-BASED INTERVENTIONS)	14
FIELD TRIPS	14
SPECIAL EDUCATION	14
BILINGUAL PROGRAM	14

### **TECHNOLOGY**

**15**

INTERNET/CELL TECHNOLOGY/POLICIES	15
TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES	15

### **FIELD TRIPS**

**16**

### **HONOR CODE**

**16**

### **PROMOTION**

**16**

### **STUDENT LIFE**

**16**

ACTIVITIES & CLUBS	16
AFTER SCHOOL & EVENING ACTIVITIES	16
ATHLETICS	17
PUBLICITY/MEDIA RELATIONS	17

### **ATTENDANCE**

**17**

SCHOOL HOURS	17
ABSENCES	17
REPORTING ABSENCES	17

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM	18
EXTRAORDINARY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES	18
ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL	18
<b>BUS CONDUCT</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT &amp; SEXUAL ASSAULT</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>HEALTH/NURSING SERVICES</b>	<b>19</b>
IMMUNIZATIONS	20
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	20
SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SERVICES	20
VISION, HEARING, AND POSTURAL SCREENING	20
<b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	<b>21</b>
ADMISSIONS POLICY	21
INTERNET REGULATIONS	21
ALCOHOL, DRUGS, TOBACCO, E-CIGARETTES & VAPOR PRODUCTS	21
BULLYING	21
CELL PHONES	22
CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR	22
CUTTING CLASS	22
DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS	22
DRESS	22
FALSE REPORTINGS/FIRE ALARMS/EXTINGUISHERS	23
FIGHTING	23
FIRE/EMERGENCY DRILLS	23
HAZING/HARASSMENT	24
INSUBORDINATION	24
LANGUAGE EXPECTATIONS	24
LASER PENS/LIGHTS	24
LOITERING	24
ORGANIZED DISRUPTION OF SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT	24
PLAGIARISM	24
PROMOTION CEREMONY PARTICIPATION	25
SALE OF ITEMS	25
SEXUAL HARASSMENT	25
SOCIAL MEDIA	25
SURVEY & FLIERS	25
THEFT/DAMAGE	25
VAPE	25
WEAPONS	26
<b>SAFETY PROCEDURES</b>	<b>26</b>
ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT	26
MILLSTONE POWER STATION READINESS PLAN	26
FIRE EVACUATION/LOCKDOWN DRILLS	26
SECURITY CAMERA POLICY	27
ARMED SECURITY OFFICER	27
ISAAC BOARD OF DIRECTOR POLICIES	28

# 2025-2026 ISAAC Faculty and Staff

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## ADMINISTRATION

**Dr. Nicholas J. Spera**

*Executive Director*

**Tanya N. Collins**

*Principal*

**Amy J. Geary**

*Director of Special Education*

**Mercedes Alger**

*Associate Principal*

**Mike Presti**

*Athletic Director/Dean of Humanities*

## ISAAC FACULTY

### LANGUAGE ARTS

Nicole Litterio, *6<sup>th</sup> Grade*

Amy Taylor, *7<sup>th</sup> Grade*

Kendall Chrzanowski, *8<sup>th</sup> Grade*

### MATHEMATICS

Shannon Lougee, *6<sup>th</sup> Grade*

William Ferguson, *6<sup>th</sup> Grade*

Vanessa Kobyluck, *7<sup>th</sup> Grade*

Amy Wilkes, *8<sup>th</sup> Grade*

### SOCIAL STUDIES/HUMANITIES

Nicole Funk, *6<sup>th</sup> Grade*

Kevin Irvine, *7<sup>th</sup> Grade*

Michael Presti *8<sup>th</sup> Grade*

### SCIENCE

Emilee Gowrie, *6<sup>th</sup> Grade*

Xiaoxiao Cao, *7<sup>th</sup> Grade*

Denise Florio, *8<sup>th</sup> Grade*

### ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Mercedes Alger, *ELA*

Caroline Regan, *Science*

Lauren Vigorito, *Mathematics*

Rebecca Conti, *Humanities*

### UNIFIED ARTS & ELECTIVES

Tiffany Devlin-Perry, *Aquarium Science*

Amanda Grundy, *Dance/Theater*

Jessica Harvey, *PE/Health*

Aaron Kane, *Digital Arts/Coding*

Leena Faulkner, *Art, Advanced Art*

Christina Schiano, *Spanish*

Chelsey Zimmerman, *Music/Band/Chorus*

### BILINGUAL PROGRAM

Christina Schiano, *Bilingual Coordinator/Spanish*

Oscar Segura, *Bilingual Educational Assistant*

Alexis Perez-Canas, *Bilingual Educational Assistant*

### SPECIAL EDUCATION

Mary Polatschek, *Literacy Teacher*

Allison Cyr, *Literacy Teacher*

Olivia Pacheco, *4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade*

Marissa Willwerth, *4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade*

Kimbery Pesarik, *6<sup>th</sup> Grade*

Peter Gonski, *6<sup>th</sup> Grade*

Jannine Moores, *7<sup>th</sup> Grade*

Ryleigh Gonyo, *7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade*

Annaliisa Erickson, *8<sup>th</sup> Grade*

### STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Tucker Regan, *Social Worker/*

*Student Supports Coordinator*

Kathryn Di Garbo, *School Psychologist*

Amanda Giorno, *School Psychologist*

Lisa Lazarou, *SRBI Coordinator/Core Instructional Coach*

Alida Lamagna Kendell, *School Counselor*

### EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTIONISTS

Norman Harrison

Michael Kydd

Jerry Santiago

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Mildred Rivera, *Executive Assistant*

Jereidi Alvarez, *Executive Administrative Assistant*

### HEALTH SERVICES

Carrie Gregory, *Director of Nursing Services*

Kelly Surprenant, *School Nursing Assistant*

### SAFETY & SECURITY

Bobby Harris, *Dean of Safety & Security*

Derek Robertson, *Assistant Director of Safety & Security*

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Brian Trost, *Director of Information Technology*



## CORE VALUES AND BELIEFS ABOUT LEARNING

At ISAAC Middle School, we pride ourselves on fostering a safe, fun, and nurturing environment that promotes hard work, happiness, and effort for all who work, learn, and grow within our school community. We believe that *All Students Can Succeed* with high expectations, maximum effort, and a growth mindset. Our success as an ISAAC Family is deeply rooted in the positive relationships shared among our diverse student body, devoted staff, and engaged families. Our professional learning community of talented and passionate educators is committed to the delivery of a rigorous and innovative curriculum, which promotes the shared belief that *Effort Creates Ability*. We support the growth of each student by developing the academic, civic, and social skills essential to succeed in high school and beyond.

## THE ISAAC VISION OF THE GRADUATE

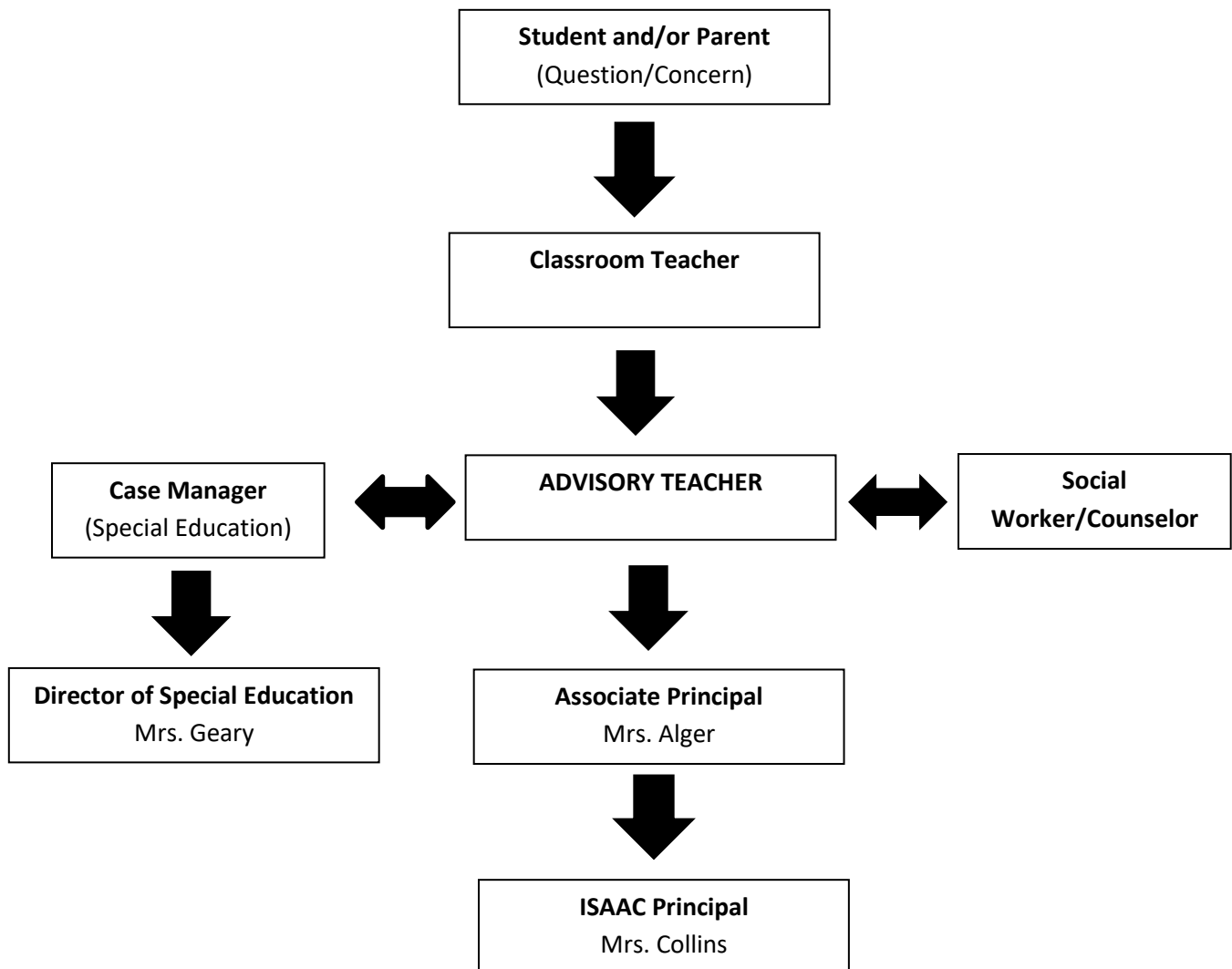
*The ISAAC Vision of the Graduate is that all graduates are proficient in the following competencies:*

- Write effectively for various purposes
- Speak to diverse audiences in an accountable manner
- Develop the behaviors needed to interact and contribute with others on a team
- Analyze and solve problems independently and collaboratively
- Be responsible, creative, and empathetic members of the community

## ISAAC Communication Flow Chart

### *Parent-School Communication Plan:*

The Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication encourages students and parents to take every opportunity to foster positive dialogue with faculty and staff (see flow chart below). In the event a question or concern arises, students and parents should make their first contact with the classroom teacher. If the situation remains unresolved, the student and/or parent should then seek conversation with the school counselor, social workers, or case manager (for special education students). Should the situation continue to be an issue, students and parents should contact ISAAC Administration beginning with the Associate Principal, Mercedes Alger, or Amy Geary, the Director of Student Supports, followed by the ISAAC Principal, Tanya Collins





## 2025-2026 SCHEDULES

### GRADES 4-5 BELL SCHEDULE

TIMES		FULL DAY SCHEDULE (Grades 4-5)
START	END	BLOCK
8:30	8:45	Morning Meeting (15 min)
8:48	9:48	Block 1 (60 min)
9:51	10:51	Block 2 (60 min)
10:54	11:14	Dragon Time (20 min)
11:17	12:06	Lunch/Recess (46 min) <i>4<sup>th</sup> Lunch: 11:17-11:40 (23 min)</i> <i>5<sup>th</sup> Lunch: 11:43-12:06 (23 min)</i>
12:09	1:09	Block 3 (60 min)
1:12	2:12	Block 4 (60 min)
2:15	3:00	Unified Arts (45 min)

TIMES		HALF DAY SCHEDULE (Grades 4-5)
START	END	BLOCK
8:30	9:05	Block 1 (35 min)
9:10	9:45	Block 2 (35 min)
9:50	10:25	Block 3 (35 min)
10:30	11:05	Block 4 (35 min)
11:15	12:15	Lunch/Recess <i>4<sup>th</sup> Lunch: 11:15-11:45 (30 min)</i> <i>5<sup>th</sup> Lunch: 11:45-12:15 (30 min)</i>

TIMES		2-HOUR DELAYED OPENING SCHEDULE (Grades 4-5)
START	END	BLOCK
10:30	11:05	Block 1 (35 min)
11:10	12:00	Lunch/Recess
12:05	12:45	Block 2 (40 min)
12:50	1:30	Block 3 (40 min)
1:35	2:10	Block 4 (35 min)
2:15	3:00	Unified Arts (45 min)

## GRADES 6,7,8 BELL SCHEDULE

TIMES		FULL DAY SCHEDULE
DRAGON DAYS- Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday ADVISORY-Wednesday		
START	END	BLOCK
8:30	9:45	Block 1/5 (75 min)
9:48	11:03	Block 2/6 (75 min)
11:06	12:51	Block 3/7
<i>11:03-11:33</i>		<i>Grade 6 Lunch</i>
<i>11:42-12:12</i>		<i>Grade 7 Lunch</i>
<i>12:21-12:51</i>		<i>Grade 8 Lunch</i>
12:54	2:09	Block 4/8 (75 min)
2:12	3:00	Dragon Time/Advisory (48 min)

TIMES		HALF DAY SCHEDULE
No Advisory on Early Dismissal Days		
START	END	BLOCK
8:30	9:18	Block 1/5 (48 min)
9:21	10:09	Block 2/6 (48 min)
10:12	11:00	Block 4/8 (48 min)
11:00	12:15	Block 3/7
<i>11:00-11:20</i>		<i>Grade 6 Lunch</i>
<i>11:28-11:48</i>		<i>Grade 7 Lunch</i>
<i>11:55-12:15</i>		<i>Grade 8 Lunch</i>

TIMES		2-HOUR DELAYED OPENING SCHEDULE
DRAGON DAYS- Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday ADVISORY-Wednesday		
START	END	BLOCK
10:30	11:10	Block 1/5 (40 min)
11:10	12:44	Block 3/7
<i>11:10-11:40</i>		<i>1<sup>st</sup> Lunch</i>
<i>11:42-12:12</i>		<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Lunch</i>
<i>12:14-12:44</i>		<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Lunch</i>
12:46	1:27	Block 2/6 (41 min)
1:29	2:10	Block 4/8 (41 min)
2:12	3:00	Dragon Time/Advisory (48 min)

## DATES FOR QUARTER ENDINGS & POWERSCHOOL UPDATES

### Quarter One

*8/20/2025– 10/24/2025*

10/24/25 Late Work Acceptance Deadline  
10/24/25 End of Quarter One  
10/31/25 Grades Due  
11/07/25 Report Cards Finalized

### Parent/Teacher Conferences

09/25/25- Open House  
10/9/25-Virtual Parent Conference  
04/23/26- Virtual Parent Conference

### Quarter Two

*10/25/2025 – 12/23/2025*

12/23/25 Late Work Acceptance Deadline  
12/23/25 End of Quarter Two  
01/09/25 Grades Due  
01/16/25 Report Cards Finalized

### Quarter Three

*12/24/2025 – 3/20/2026*

03/20/26 Late Work Acceptance Deadline  
03/20/26 End of Quarter Three  
03/27/26 Grades Due  
04/02/26 Report Cards Finalized

### Quarter Four

*3/21/2026 – 6/02/2026*

05/27/26 Late Work Acceptance Deadline  
06/02/26 End of Quarter Four  
06/02/26 Grades Due  
06/05/26 Report Cards Distributed

\*All teachers update PowerSchool in a timely fashion to promote communication with families and provide adequate opportunities for improvement where needed. Teachers will provide information on **Open House (09/25/2025)** explaining their grading policy and approximate PowerSchool updates

## ACADEMICS

### GRADING/REPORT CARDS

Student report cards will be finalized 4 times per year, after each marking period. ISAAC has chosen to go paperless for report cards. As a result, an email will go out to families marking the end of each quarter.

Final grading of student performance in courses is based on a fifty-point scale. Overall evaluation in a course is measured in a variety of ways: class participation, homework, written work, performance assessments, formative and summative testing at intervals during the course.

Grading is scaled in a uniform manner, which allows for a simplistic approach for students and parents to follow. Below is the breakdown of the grading scales for assignments and assessments:

**Homework:** 10 pt. increments

**Classwork:** 10 pt. increments

**Quiz:** 100 pts.

**Test:** 200 pts

**Papers/Projects:** 100 to 200 pts.

**Unit Tasks:** 100 to 200 pts.

Teachers may adjust the amount of points per assignment based upon the rigor, complexity, or time needed to complete the task.

Letter	Numerical Equivalent	Letter	Numerical Equivalent
A+	97-100	C+	77-79
A	93-96	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D	60-69
B	83-86	F	50-59
B-	80-82		

### Progress Reports

Parents/guardians can set up progress reports to be emailed once a week, once every two weeks, or once a month via PowerSchool. To set these parameters, log onto PowerSchool, input your username and password to access your child's information. Click on the "Email Notification" button to select your preference. Teachers are expected to update PowerSchool on a regular basis to promote communication with families and provide adequate opportunity for improvement where needed. Grades on PowerSchool are accessible for parents, administration, advisors, counselors, and case managers (if applicable).

### Late Work

All teachers will accept late work one week prior to the end of the appropriate quarter as listed on the ISAAC calendar. To be accepted, the work must be complete and meet all assignment requirements.

### Make-Up Work

Students who have been absent are required to consult with their classroom teachers about work missed due to their absence. Students will need to make up missed assignments in a timely manner or in the time specified by the classroom teachers. When absent, the student is responsible for work previously assigned and due on the day he/she returns (unless excused by the teacher). Students may utilize Dragon Time to complete late or missed work.

### **Retake/Extra Credit**

ISAAC follows a Growth Mindset by allowing students to improve on assignments and/or tests before the completion of a unit at the discretion of the teacher. Once the unit is complete, students will no longer be given the opportunity for a retake. To complete a retake, students must schedule a time with the teacher outside of class or during Dragon Time to discuss their assignment. At this conference, the teacher will provide productive feedback to the student and schedule a time for the retake.

### **Marking Periods**

There are 4 marking periods each school year: the first one ends in October, the second in December, the third in March and the fourth in June. Please refer to the school calendar for the exact dates that each marking period ends. Parents and students can view academic progress at any time during the marking period via PowerSchool.

### **COURSES OFFERED**

<b>CORE CLASSES</b>	<b>ELECTIVE CLASSES</b>	<b>SUPPORT SERVICES</b>
Language Arts	Spanish	Special Education
Mathematics	Theater/Dance	504 Services
Social Studies/Humanities	Health/PE	Bilingual Program
Science	Digital Arts/Animation	Advisory
	Art/Advanced Art	SRBI Support
	Aquarium/Marine Science	Literacy Lab
	Music/Band	
	Chorus	

### **Advisory**

All ISAAC students will take part in our Advisory Program where our social-emotional curriculum will be implemented (ie. growth mindset, mindfulness, healthy social and emotional living...). We want to ensure that all students' social/emotional well-being is our top priority.

### **Honor Roll**

Honor Roll is announced by the principal at the end of each quarter. To attain 'High Honors' a student must have all A's. 'Honors' consists of a combination of A's and B's (no C's).

### **Honors Classes**

Honors classes offer students the opportunity to engage in more rigorous and advanced coursework in core academic subjects. Students are selected based on a combination of academic performance, teacher recommendations, standardized test scores, and demonstrated motivation. Placement in honors courses is reviewed annually to ensure students are in the best learning environment for their success.

Parents/guardians may appeal a decision and meet with the principal. The principal shall have final say on placement into any honors class.

### **National Junior Honor Society**

The National Junior Honor Society recognizes middle school students who excel in scholarship, leadership, citizenship, service, and character. Students are eligible for consideration based on academic performance, responsibility, community involvement, and positive behavior. Selection is determined by a faculty committee and members are expected to uphold NJHS values through continued academic excellence and active participation in service projects. All NJHS selections will be made in the Spring.

### **Otis-Lennon Gifted and Talented Test (OLSTAT)**

The Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) is a nationally recognized assessment used to identify students for gifted and talented programs. This test measures abstract thinking and reasoning abilities through verbal and non-verbal questions. It is designed to assess a student's cognitive abilities related to learning potential, not academic achievement. The OLSAT is administered to all grade 6 students as part of the gifted and talented identification process. The results help determine if a student may benefit from enrichment opportunities, accelerated instruction, or placement in advanced academic programs.

### **Smarter Balanced Tests (SBAC)**

The SBAC is a standardized test administered annually to all students to assess their progress in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. These computer-based tests are aligned with the Common Core State Standards and are designed to measure critical thinking, problem-solving, and academic growth. SBAC results help educators and families understand student achievement and guide instructional planning. Participation is required by the state, and students are encouraged to do their best and take the assessments seriously.

### **Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Tests**

The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) are science assessments that are administered to all students in Grade 8 to measure students' understanding of science concepts, their ability to apply scientific practices, and their grasp of crosscutting themes across disciplines. The results help schools monitor progress and ensure students are prepared for college, careers, and informed citizenship.

### **AIMSweb**

AIMSweb is a benchmarking and progress monitoring tool used to assess foundational skills in reading and math. It is administered to students in grades 4-8 multiple times throughout the school year. These brief, standardized assessments help educators identify students' academic strengths and areas in need of support. AIMSweb data is used to inform instruction, guide intervention strategies, and track student growth over time to ensure all learners stay on track for academic success.

### **Student Records**

A student's school records are confidential and are protected by law from unauthorized inspection or use according to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). A cumulative record is maintained for each student that includes a listing of subjects taken, levels of achievement, attendance, and other data including standardized test scores. School records also include students' names, parents' names, addresses, birth dates and any information recorded in any way that is directly related to a student and maintained by the school.

Parents of students and eligible students may, upon request, inspect and review the student's records by submitting to the school administration a written request that identifies as accurately as possible the record or records for which the request for inspection and review is submitted. An authorized school official will notify parents or eligible students of the date, time, and location where the records may be inspected and reviewed. Requests by parents and eligible students to inspect and review the student's education records will be accommodated within ten (10) school days after the receipt of such requests.

### **Transfer/Withdrawal from School**

When a student transfers to another school or when a student withdraws from school, the parent/guardian must contact the main office to obtain a transfer/withdrawal form. The form must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian, indicating the reasons for withdrawal.

In a case where a student has not attended school for an extended period of time and the school is unable to connect with the family, the student may be withdrawn from school after official notice has been delivered via

email and mail. Moreover, if a student has not attended school for the first 5 days of school and the family has not contacted the school, the student may be withdrawn from school and the slot will be given to a student on the waiting list.

### **FIELD TRIPS**

Field trips are an important part of the learning experience and are designed to enhance classroom instruction. Please note that families do not need to sign a separate permission slip for each field trip. Instead, one general permission form is signed at the beginning of the school year called the Signature Stakeholder Page. Signing the electronic copy of the signature stakeholder page will serve as consent for all field trips and school-sponsored trips throughout the academic year.

### **SRBI Team – (SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH-BASED INTERVENTION)**

The SRBI Team consists of the executive director, principal, associate principal, special education director, SRBI coordinator, social worker, school counselor, regular education teachers, and special education teachers who meet on a regular basis. The SRBI Team looks at referrals concerning non-special education students who are experiencing academic or behavioral difficulties. The team will develop intervention strategies and program accommodations specific to the needs of the student and implement and monitor those strategies for 6-8 weeks. If the accommodations don't impact student learning and growth, then a referral to special education may be made.

Through our Scientific Research-Based Intervention System (SRBI), students will be monitored to ensure academic growth and progress through the tiered system. All students will have Tier 1 & 2 interventions within the classroom provided by the classroom teacher. If a student continues to struggle, the student will be referred to the SRBI team for Tier III for further assessments and data review. These interventions are designed to provide academic and behavioral interventions, accommodations and supports to develop the necessary skills toward college and career readiness.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

State and federal laws guarantee that a student shall receive a free and appropriate public education. In some cases, it is necessary to accommodate and/or modify the general education curriculum to meet the needs of all students who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

If a student is identified as needing specialized instruction, the student will be referred to the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) consisting of the parent, student (if appropriate), general education teacher, special education teacher, school counselor and/or social worker, administration and any other necessary related support members (ie. Speech and language therapist, Occupational therapist, Physical therapist) where the team will determine what or if evaluations are needed to determine if there is a disability. ISAAC offers co-taught ELA and Math, Literacy Intervention, and Academic Resource.

### **BILINGUAL PROGRAM**

#### **Language Assessment Scales - (LAS Links)**

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires that all school districts assess the English proficiency of all English Language Learner students (ELL). The Language Assessment Scales (LAS Links) Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking assessments will be administered to all identified ELL students in Grades 4 through 8. Students will be progress monitored using benchmark assessments two times during the year: Fall and Winter with the final assessment administered during the Spring. The state standard for achievement on the LAS Links Assessment is an "Overall" score of Level 4 or higher.

## TECHNOLOGY

### **Internet/Cell Technology/Acceptable Use Policies**

ISAAC curriculum makes extensive use of resources on the internet, which makes it vital for students to avoid dangerous, destructive, and unlawful behavior when using the internet. All students and their parents must sign an acceptable use policy that indicates that the student agrees to use the internet exclusively for educational purposes and to abide by the ISAAC Computer Technology Use Rules. Students found violating the acceptable use policy, including but not limited to viewing inappropriate sites, are subject to disciplinary consequences and revocation of computer privileges for a specified period of time. In the ISAAC technological environment, the use of a computer negates the need for cellular devices. Students may only use electronic devices distributed by ISAAC.

All cell phones should be stored away in the student's backpack, jacket, pocket, or left with administration throughout the entire day. Student use of cell phones and/or similar devices are not permitted at ISAAC.

Students using an electronic device that inhibits teaching and learning or that does not support the school mission will:

1. Receive a verbal warning to put the phone away (preferably in their backpack). *Students should not expect to receive a verbal warning each day. Repeated violations will result in immediate progression to the next step in the process.*
2. Have their portable electronic device confiscated by the staff member and returned to the student at the end of class.
3. Have their portable electronic device confiscated by a staff member, given to administration, and returned to the student at the end of the day.
4. Have their portable electronic device confiscated by a staff member, given to an administrator, and held for parents to claim.

### **Technology Resources**

For ISAAC students to achieve ISAAC academic, civic, and social competencies, it is vital that students use computers and other advanced technology responsibly and for school purposes only. Students will have access to school computer networks, laptops, and the internet on a regular basis. Students must abide by the ISAAC computer technology expectations at all times.

Students and parents should be aware that email communications using ISAAC's computers are not private and may be monitored by staff. Students may not access social media sites using school equipment, while on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity unless the posting is approved by a teacher. ISAAC will not be liable for information posted by students on social media websites such as Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, YouTube, etc. when the student is not engaged in school activities and not using school equipment.

Federal law requires ISAAC to place filtering devices on school computers to block entry to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, harmful, or inappropriate for students as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act and as determined by the Executive Director or his/her designee.

ISAAC reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review, and store at any time and without prior notice any and all usage of the computer network and Internet access and any and all information transmitted or received in connection with such usage. All such information files shall be and remain the property of ISAAC and no user shall have any expectation of privacy regarding such material.

No recording, video or audio, or photographs may be taken in school unless it is part of a lesson and all appropriate privacy protections, such as FERPA, are honored.

### **FIELD TRIPS**

ISAAC delivers some of its curriculum through field trip experiences. Given the experiential nature of some courses at ISAAC, your signature on the “Stake Holder” page, grants permission for students to attend all academic field trips for the 2025-2026 school year. Travel will most commonly be by school van or bus. Students may be excluded from participating in field trips for the following reasons:

- Social Concerns
- Academic Concerns
- Behavioral Concerns

### **HONOR CODE**

Students are responsible for all work that is assigned to them. Students are not to give their work to or take the work of others. This includes plagiarism, the copying of information from the Internet, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) or other written sources presenting it as their own work. This Honor Code applies to all classes. Students copying the work of others or cheating on quizzes, tests, reports or other assignments:

- Materials will be collected and submitted to the teacher.
- A failing grade would be given for that assignment.
- Parents/guardians will be notified.

Students forging a signature:

- Notification of parent/guardian
- A referral to the Administration

Please note: Students involved in any plagiarism, forgery, or copying/ cheating incidents, may be removed from consideration for any school activity or awards.

### **PROMOTION**

ISAAC is dedicated to the best total and continuous development of each student as part of the Vision of the Graduate. Therefore, ISAAC will establish and maintain the highest standards required for each grade and monitor student performance in a continuous and systematic manner. The administration and faculty have established a system of grading and reporting academic achievement to students and their guardians.

In order to foster student achievement and reduce social promotions, ISAAC is committed to the following initiatives:

- Adoption of rigorous standards and development of a curriculum to support them
- Interventions to prevent early school failure and assistance to students through our SRBI Team
- Maintenance of a safe and orderly learning environment
- Working in partnership with parents/guardians to enhance students’ academic abilities

### **STUDENT LIFE**

**Activities and Clubs:** Students may join a variety of club activities offered at ISAAC. Parents/guardians will receive written or digital notification of after-school club offerings throughout the year. Privileges to participate in clubs/enrichment activities may be revoked due to grades, attendance, disciplinary referrals, suspensions, or misbehavior. Please refer to the “After-School Program Handbook” for more information.

**After school and evening activities:** Only ISAAC students are allowed to attend school dances. A student may not attend an evening activity or program if he/she has been absent.

**Athletics:**

- All students are eligible to participate in intramural and interscholastic athletics.
- All students must have a current physical examination on record with the school nurse before they can participate. Yearly exams must be recorded on the school health physical form. It must be dated within one year of the last day of the sport season. Exams scheduled during the summer will cover all sports for the following school year.
- All academic work is to be up to date with grades of C- or better.
- Permission slip and/or FamilyID signed by parent/guardian consenting to the child's participation.
- Privileges to participate in athletics may be revoked due to grades, disciplinary referrals, suspensions, attendance or behavioral issues of concern.
- The Administration or coach may remove a student from participation at any time for just cause.

**Publicity/Media Relations**

To promote the school's core values and beliefs about learning and properly inform the public about ISAAC, all students and their parents are asked upon registration at ISAAC to provide the school with a signed permission form authorizing photographic, video, and television coverage of events involving students, including the annual ISAAC Lip Dub.

**ATTENDANCE**

**School hours** are from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Students who arrive between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. will have breakfast available in their first block class.

***Absences:***

According to the State Board of Education, pursuant to section 10-198b of the general statutes, State law requires school districts and schools to have specific policies and procedures regarding students who are truant. A truant is defined as a student who has 4 unexcused absences from school in one month (30 consecutive calendar days) or 10 unexcused absences in one school year.

If a student becomes truant, ISAAC administration will request a meeting with the parent/ guardian within a reasonable amount of time to address the concerns. In this meeting, administration will work with the student and parent/guardian to put interventions and supports in place to address the needs of both student and families. Schools should also work with community agencies in providing child and family services to address the student's barriers to coming to school.

**Reporting Absences/Tardiness:** If a student is absent, the parent/ guardian must contact the school by 9:00 a.m. on the day of the absence (860-447-1003). Otherwise, the absence will be recorded as unexcused, and parents/guardians will be contacted by the school. If the student has an appointment that causes him/her to be late or absent, a note should be sent in with the student when he/she returns to school for the tardy/absence.

After the ninth excused absence, students may only be excused with proper documentation for the following reasons:

- Student illness (to be deemed excused, an appropriately licensed medical professional must verify all student illness absences, regardless of the length of the absence)
- Student's observance of a religious holiday
- Death in the student's family or other emergency beyond the control of the student's family

- Mandated court appearances (additional documentation required)
- The lack of transportation that is normally provided by a district other than the one the student attends
- Extraordinary educational opportunities pre-approved by administration
- *All other absences will be considered unexcused*

Absences for the purposes of vacation are unexcused. Such absences count toward the total absences for the student. **If a parent/guardian elects to take his/her child on vacation during the school year, he/she does so, knowing that the student's absences will be recorded as unexcused, which could contribute to chronic absenteeism concerns.** Schoolwork for an unexcused absence may or may not be given to a student prior to his/her absence and must be made up upon return to school. The timeframe for completing the work will be determined by the teachers. A parent/guardian may request schoolwork on the second day of a student's absence from school.

Students arriving late to school any time after 8:30 are to report to the main office for a late pass. Tardiness due to bus-related situations will be excused. Students who are tardy for a period greater than or equal to one-half of the school day are considered absent.

The Administration will determine if an absence is excused. When the student has four (4) unexcused absences, a referral will be made to the Administration. The Administration will arrange a meeting with the parent/guardian and evaluate the reason. This meeting shall be held no later than ten (10) days after the child is identified as a truant. If the parent/guardian declines to attend the meeting, that fact shall be documented, and the meeting will be held without the parent/guardian being present. The Administrative and Attendance Teams will develop a plan to help improve the student's attendance.

If a student identified as "truant" has ten (10) unexcused absences and the parent/guardian fails to attend the required meeting or to cooperate with the school in trying to solve the truancy problem, the Administration may refer the student to the Youth Service Bureau, the Juvenile Review Board and/or file a written complaint with the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

At the beginning of each school year, any student who had ten (10) or more unexcused absences in the previous year will be identified as an "at risk student" and will be monitored by the SRBI team. A letter will be sent to parents and the team to set up a meeting with the student to discuss the importance of regular attendance.

**Chronic Absenteeism:** A student whose total number of absences at any time during the school year is equal to or greater than ten percent of the total number of days that such student has been enrolled at such school during the school year is considered to be a "chronically absent child." Such a student will be subject to review by the SRBI Team. This amounts to 18 or more absences over the span of a 180 day school year.

**Extraordinary Educational Opportunities:** To qualify as an extraordinary educational opportunity: it must be educational in nature and must have a learning objective related to the students' course work or plan of study; be an opportunity not ordinarily available to the student; be grade and developmentally appropriate, and include content that is highly relevant to the student. The Executive Director has the ultimate decision-making in granting this request.

**Arrival Procedures:** Parents/guardians dropping off students must do so in front of the main entrance. Please DO NOT park and block the street or entrance to the parking garage.

**Early Dismissals:** Parents/guardians must come to the Main Office to sign students out if picking up the student at any time other than regular dismissal time. Early dismissal is discouraged and should be requested only in emergency and/or unusual situations. Should someone other than the parent/caregiver come to pick up a child, that person must be certified in writing by the parent/caregiver as the one to whom the child may be released. Persons unknown to the school office will be required to present identification.

**Dismissal Procedures:** At dismissal, parents picking up their children should do so in front of the main entrance. Please DO NOT park and block the street or entrance to the parking garage. Students who take the bus will be dismissed to the cafeteria where their buses will be called. Walkers are to leave school grounds immediately after dismissal onto Governor Winthrop Blvd.

## **BUS CONDUCT**

School transportation privileges are extended to students conditional upon their satisfactory behavior on the bus. Students may be suspended from transportation services for unsatisfactory conduct while awaiting or receiving transportation to and from school which endangers persons or property or violates a Board policy or administrative regulation.

## **CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT**

All school employees, including teachers, administration, coaches of intramural or interscholastic athletics, paraprofessionals and other professional school staff including guidance counselors, social workers, psychologists, and licensed nurses are obligated by law (C.G.S. 17a-101) to report suspected child abuse, neglect, or if a child is placed in imminent danger of serious harm or sexual assault by a school employee to the Connecticut State Department of Children and Families Services. Specific procedures governing the reporting of abuse and neglect are in effect, and staff receive training in their use, as required by state law. Reporting of child abuse, neglect and sexual assault by a school employee is a responsibility that is taken seriously. If there is any doubt about reporting suspected abuse, neglect or a sexual assault, a report will be made. The school will work with the parents and appropriate social agencies in all cases.

## **McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance**

ISAAC is committed to supporting students and families experiencing homelessness under the McKinney-Vento Act. This federal law ensures that all children and youth have equal access to a free, appropriate public education, regardless of their housing situation.

If you or your family are experiencing homelessness, including living in shelters, motels, cars, or temporarily doubled-up with others, please know that you have rights to immediate enrollment, transportation, and support services. The school's McKinney-Vento liaison is available to help connect you with resources such as school supplies, counseling, and community assistance.

For help or more information, please contact the Mrs. Collins [tcollins@isaacschool.org](mailto:tcollins@isaacschool.org) who is the McKinney-Vento liaison.

## **Health/Nursing Services**

The school nurse maintains a cumulative health file for each student which includes illness notations, results of physical examinations, and other pertinent health information. Each parent must complete an emergency medical information form, an immunization record, and a yearly health update to be kept on file.

Any student who becomes ill or injured while at school should inform the nearest faculty member and report immediately to the school nurse. If the student is unable to do so, the school nurse will be called

to the scene. Parents must notify the school nurse in cases of student illness. Any request to limit a student's participation in a school activity for an extended time must be accompanied by a signed statement from a physician.

Parents of students requiring either prescription or over-the-counter medication during school must contact the school nurse. A medication administration form signed by a physician is required to permit the administration of ANY medicine in school. **All medication whether over the counter or prescription must be delivered to the school by an adult and be in the original container with proper labeling.**

Parents may authorize the administration of acetaminophen or ibuprofen by the nurse in accordance with ISAAC's standing orders from the medical advisor. Parents must complete, sign, and return the appropriate medication form.

### **Immunizations**

In accordance with state law and accompanying regulations, The Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication (ISAAC) requires each child to be protected by adequate immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, Hemophilus influenza type B, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, varicella, pneumococcal diseases, meningococcal disease and any other vaccine required by the schedule for active immunization as determined by the Commissioner of Public Health pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-7f, prior to enrolling in any program or school under its jurisdiction. Among other requirements, before being permitted to enter seventh grade, ISAAC requires each child to be vaccinated against meningococcal disease. ISAAC further requires each child to receive a second immunization against measles and tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) before being permitted to enter seventh grade.

### **Mental Health Services**

The well-being of our students is a top priority. If students are feeling overwhelmed, anxious, or struggling emotionally, help is available from our school counselor, social worker, and school psychologist. These mental health professionals are available for confidential support and can connect you with additional resources. ISAAC also partners with local mental health organizations to provide access to therapy, crisis support, and wellness programs. If there are any concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

### **School-Based Health Services**

The Community Health Center, Inc. provides school-based health services during the school day. Licensed healthcare providers are available to provide expanded medical treatment (for illnesses or injuries, and physicals) and behavioral health (individual, group, and family therapy). School-based health center (SBHC) services work in conjunction with the care provided by your child's pediatrician and are not intended to replace regular care by your child's primary healthcare provider. Our school nurses work closely with the SBHC and are the initial point of contact for students and families. The ISAAC school nurses will often refer students to the SBHC. All SBHC services are confidential, and parents must complete a Parent Permission form for students to receive services.

### **Vision, Hearing, and Postural Screening**

To support student health and learning, vision, hearing, and postural screenings are conducted for all students in grades 4 and 5. These screenings help identify any issues that may affect academic performance or well-being.

- **Vision Screening:** Checks for common vision problems such as nearsightedness or farsightedness.
- **Hearing Screening:** Assesses the ability to hear a range of sounds to detect any hearing difficulties.
- **Postural Screening:** Evaluates posture and spinal health to identify concerns like scoliosis.

Parents will be notified if any concerns are found during the screenings, and referrals for further evaluation may be recommended. If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Health Services Carrie Gregory at [cgregory@isaacschool.org](mailto:cgregory@isaacschool.org).

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### I. ADMISSIONS POLICY:

The Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication (ISAAC) is a free public charter school open to all 4-8 grade students in Southeastern Connecticut. Our charter states that our student population is based on 50% New London residents and 50% from surrounding towns. Transportation is guaranteed to students in the New London school district. Other towns may elect to provide transportation. All students who wish to attend ISAAC must submit an application. Student applications are available on our website, [www.isaacschool.org](http://www.isaacschool.org), and in the main office. Each year, ISAAC admits new students for each grade, depending upon the availability of open slots. Students are selected based on a fair, random lottery, which ensures all students have an equal opportunity to enroll. The lottery is held during late winter/early spring. Students that are not selected will be added to a waiting list.

If an opening occurs, the first student on the waiting list at that grade level will fill the vacant space.

### II. ACCEPTABLE USE REGULATIONS FOR THE INTERNET:

This is an annual agreement, which will pertain to every ISAAC student for the full year. Because the Internet is used as part of school activity, the school's code of conduct applies to network activities. Students may only visit school-appropriate websites while in attendance at ISAAC. Failure to adhere to regulations will result in a loss of privilege or other appropriate disciplinary action. (ISAAC Policy #5008)

### III. ALCOHOL, DRUGS, TOBACCO, E-CIGARETTES, AND VAPOR PRODUCTS:

The Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication (ISAAC) is required by Connecticut law to prescribe rules for the management and discipline of its schools. In keeping with this mandate, the unlawful use, sale, distribution or possession of controlled drugs, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, as defined in C.G.S. Section 21a-240, or alcohol on or off school property or during any school-sponsored activity is prohibited. It shall be the policy of ISAAC to take positive action through education, counseling, discipline, parental involvement, medical referral, and law enforcement referral, as appropriate, in the handling of incidents in the schools involving the unlawful possession, distribution, sale, or use of substances that affect behavior. (ISAAC Policy #5131).

ISAAC prohibits smoking, including smoking using an electronic nicotine delivery system (e.g. e-cigarettes) or vapor product (vapes), on the real property of any school or administrative office building or at any school-sponsored activity. Real property means the land and all temporary and permanent structures comprising the ISAAC, and administrative office building and includes, but is not limited to, classrooms, hallways, storage facilities, theaters, gymnasiums, fields, and parking lots. As defined by Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-233a(h), a school-sponsored activity "means any activity sponsored, recognized or authorized by a board of education and includes activities conducted on or off school property." (ISAAC Policy # 1009)

### IV. BULLYING

"Bullying" means the repeated use by one or more students of a written, oral or electronic communication directed at or referring to another student attending ISAAC, or a physical act or gesture by one or more students repeatedly directed at another student at ISAAC, that:

- (1) causes physical or emotional harm to such student or damage to such student's property;
- (2) places such student in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself, or of damage to his or her property;
- (3) creates a hostile environment at school for such student;
- (4) infringes on the rights of

such student at school; or (5) substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school. (ISAAC Policy # 5011)

**V. CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES:**

Please see, *Internet/Cell Technology/Acceptable Use Policies for more information*

Students are required to use an ISAAC-issued laptop for all ISAAC-issued assignments. Privately-owned technological devices may not be used during instructional time, except as specifically permitted by instructional staff or unless necessary for a student to access the district's digital learning platform. A student's privately owned technological device may be searched if the device is on Board property or in a student's possession at a school-sponsored activity and if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school. (Policy #5009)

**VI. CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:**

Improving student behavioral outcomes requires ensuring all students have access to the most effective and accurately implemented instructional and behavioral practices and interventions. In order to create an environment that ensures all students feel emotionally, intellectually, and physically safe, ISAAC staff is committed to providing students with a positive classroom environment that is engaging for all students.

Consideration for the rights and privileges of others, cooperation with all personnel in the school community, and respect for oneself and others are basic principles guiding ISAAC's expectations for student behavior. Students will be expected to conduct themselves in keeping with the behavioral expectations established by our school. Any conduct that is disruptive of the educational process and that infringes upon the rights of others is prohibited.

**VII. CUTTING CLASS:**

Cutting a class (intentionally not attending any portion of a class) counts as an unexcused, unauthorized absence and will result in a parental conference and may be subject to further disciplinary action with repeated offenses.

**VIII. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS:**

The primary responsibility of ISAAC is to provide students with a rewarding education. As with any organization, there are rules, regulations, and a Code of Conduct that students must follow to maintain an environment conducive for learning. To support a positive learning experience, a sequence of corrective measures is in place to address a broad range of student behaviors. ISAAC is committed to repairing the harm caused to our community by student behavior and working restoratively with students to prevent further offenses. Administration reserves the right, at all levels of infractions, to implement various instructional activities and actions geared toward students developing positive behaviors. Administration will manage students' more significant or repetitive negative behaviors with a progressive disciplinary system in which consequences become increasingly severe. Discipline is at an administrator's discretion and will be based on a full investigation of the incident.

**IX. DRESS:**

The primary responsibility for wearing appropriate clothing in school rests with the parents/guardians and students. However, it is the school's responsibility to dictate that school dress is, healthy, non-distractive, appropriate, comfortable, safe, and functional. ISAAC reserves the right to determine what constitutes dress that is disruptive to the educational climate or process. For these reasons, the following guidelines are set forth:

1. The following list of items are not permissible to wear in school: head coverings, bandanas, hoods, hats, bathing suits, open-toed shoes such as flip flops and slides, sleepwear such as pajama tops and bottoms, lingerie-type and camisole-type clothing, slippers, see-through clothing, tank tops, cut-off shirts with excessive armholes, strapless tops, backless shirts, open midriffs shirts/ blouses, and low-cut clothing. Religious reasons are exempt.
2. No short shorts, skirts, dresses or see-through leggings worn as pants. Shorts, dresses, skirts of mid-thigh length, or leggings worn under acceptable shorts or skirts are appropriate.
3. No undergarments should be visible (e.g.: boxers, shorts worn underneath pants, underwear, bras, bra straps, etc.). Pants must be worn at the waistline and must allow the student to move freely for safety purposes.
4. The midriff area should be covered. No visible skin between midriff shirts and low-rise pants/shorts/skirts are permitted.
5. Students cannot wear clothing/jewelry displaying alcohol, drugs, tobacco, violence, sexuality, or inappropriate language are prohibited. Due to the constantly changing nature of these symbols, determinations will be made by the administration.
6. Students cannot wear spiked or studded bracelets, oversized or multi-fingered rings, belts or any other article or attire with spikes, studs, or chains.
7. Students are not allowed to wear "costumes" or Halloween masks to school. In addition, students are not allowed to wear sunglasses in school during the school day unless a doctor's note has been provided to the school nurse and the Associate Principal.
8. If required, masks should be worn properly, except for lunch and scheduled mask breaks, covering the nose and mouth.

*If there is a violation of the dress code, students will be asked to change or call a parent to bring in a change of clothes. Refusal will result in the student being sent to the administration. Students who continually fail to comply with the dress code will be subject to disciplinary action.*

**X. FALSE REPORTINGS/FALSE FIRE ALARMS/FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:**

Causing an emergency evacuation, lockdown, fire alarm, and/or using extinguishers improperly are major safety concerns for the school and the town authorities. Violators will face disciplinary consequences and may be referred to local authorities.

**XI. FIGHTING:**

Fighting, other conduct that endangers persons or property, or conduct seriously disruptive to the educational process which may lead to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, removal from class, suspension and/or expulsion in accordance with the board policy. (#5114)

**XII. FIRE/EMERGENCY DRILLS:**

Fire and emergency drills will be held periodically during the school year. At the sound of the fire alarm, everyone is to leave the building immediately by the nearest exit. Students are to remain with and under the supervision of their teacher. Attendance will be taken. If unassigned, students should report to the closest faculty member. Students should stand away from the building to allow a fire lane and should maintain order and quiet so that emergency procedures can be executed.

**No cell phones or electronic devices will be in use during a drill.** No one is to re-enter the building until instructed to do so by an administrator. Lockdown procedures are posted, reviewed, and practiced periodically.

**XIII. HAZING/HARASSMENT:**

Hazing/harassment of any student or group of students is strictly prohibited. Disciplinary consequences may include co-curricular discipline, suspension, expulsion, and/or referral to the police.

**XIV. INSUBORDINATION:**

Students are expected to respond promptly and politely to requests and directions from staff members. Failure to do so will result in teacher consequences and, as appropriate, referral to administration. **Any obscene language directed towards a teacher or staff member will result in disciplinary action.**

**XV. LANGUAGE:**

Appropriate and non-abusive language is expected from everyone. Swearing, intimidating, or harassing language is not allowed.

**XVI. LASER PENS/LIGHTS:**

Laser pens/lights are not permitted for students. Public Act 99-256 prohibits persons under the age of eighteen from possessing a laser pointer on school grounds or in any public place. The Act also provides that no person shall sell, offer to sell, lease, give or otherwise provide a laser pointer to a person under eighteen years of age. A person may temporarily transfer a laser pointer to a person under eighteen years of age for educational or other lawful purposes if the minor is under the direct supervision of a parent, legal guardian, teacher, employer or another responsible adult.

**XVII. LOITERING:**

Loitering or other activity interfering with academic progress shall not be allowed in the corridors or areas adjacent to the building, including the parking lot. Students must have teacher permission when they are not in class.

**XVIII. MACE**

For the safety of all students and staff, mace, pepper spray, and any similar chemical self-defense products are strictly prohibited on school property, in school buses, or during any school-sponsored events. Possession or use of these items will result in disciplinary action as outlined in the school's code of conduct policy #5114.

**XIX. ORGANIZED DISRUPTION OF SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT:**

Students are expected to always demonstrate appropriate behavior both in and out of the classroom, at school functions, and on school grounds. Disruptive behavior or class pranks that involve damaging or destroying property, disrupting class or instruction, endangering students, or interfering with the mutual respect between students and staff are prohibited for reasons of liability, concerns about student safety and well-being, accountability, and the condition of our facilities. Students who engage in any inappropriate activities of this type will be subject to an investigation that may lead to disciplinary actions.

**XX. PLAGIARISM: (See Honor Code)**

The use of or copying of the academic work of another individual and presenting it as the student's own work, without proper attribution; or any other form of academic dishonesty such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) use is plagiarism. This conduct may lead to disciplinary action. (ISAAC Policy #5114)

## **XXI. PROMOTION CEREMONY PARTICIPATION**

Graduation and related senior activities shall be established as opportunities to honor and to recognize those who have successfully completed ISAAC's course of study and are qualified to be promoted to high school. The Board believes that these students deserve a public celebration that recognizes the pursuit of learning throughout their lives. In order to encourage high standards of student conduct and behavior, the principal may deny the privilege of participating in promotion ceremonies and/or activities in accordance with school rules. School rules shall ensure that the student and parent/guardian receive written or verbal notice of the loss of privilege(s), the reasons for such denial and the means whereby a student may appeal this decision.

## **XXII. SALE OR TRADE OF ITEMS**

ISAAC strictly prohibits the sale or trade of any items, including but not limited to cookies, candy, drinks, trading cards, and clothing, on ISAAC school grounds or during any school-sponsored activities off school grounds. No money shall be exchanged for goods among ISAAC students and between ISAAC students and between ISAAC students and staff.

## **XXIII. SEXUAL HARASSMENT:**

Sexual harassment is illegal and is prohibited by the Connecticut Discriminatory Employment Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of the Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. Sexual harassment means any unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors or any conduct of a sexual nature when such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work or performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or learning environment. Examples of sexual harassment include: unwelcomed sexual advances; suggestive or lewd remarks; unwanted hugs, touches, or kisses; request for sexual favors; derogatory or pornographic posters, cartoons, or drawing; sexting; or retaliation for complaining about sexual harassment (ISAAC Policy #4118).

## **XXIV. SOCIAL MEDIA:**

Using computer systems, including email, instant messaging, text messaging, blogging, or the use of social networking websites, or other forms of electronic communication, to engage in any conduct prohibited by this policy may lead to disciplinary action (including, but not limited to, removal from class, suspension, and/or expulsion in accordance with policy #5114)

## **XXV. SURVEYS & FLIERS:**

Non-school-sponsored surveys and fliers shall be distributed at ISAAC. All requests for surveys and distribution of fliers that are not part of the regular educational program must have a the approval of the Executive Direction.

## **XXVI. THEFT/DAMAGE:**

Property damage, theft, or endangering the well-being of others is not permitted. If damage is caused to a school building, equipment, or property and the damage can be clearly connected to an identifiable group (a class, club, team, etc.), then that group will share in covering the costs incurred by the school in repairing the damage. Loss of social privileges for that individual or group may also occur. Conduct that may lead to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, removal from class, suspension and/or expulsion in accordance with this policy #5114

## **XXVII. VAPE**

To promote a safe and healthy learning environment, Trident Vape Detectors have been installed in all student bathrooms. These devices are designed to detect vaping and other air quality concerns, allowing school staff to respond promptly and support student well-being.

Students found vaping or tampering with the detectors will face disciplinary consequences in accordance with the school's discipline policy #5114 and/or substance policy #5131.

#### **XXVIII. WEAPONS:**

Dangerous weapons or facsimiles thereof are not permitted on school property wherever or whenever students are under the jurisdiction of the school. Weapons mean any BB gun, any blackjack, any metal or brass knuckles, any police baton or nightstick, any dirk knife or switch knife, any knife having an automatic spring release device by which a blade is released from the handle, having a blade of over one and one-half inches in length, any stiletto, any knife the edged portion of the blade of which is four inches and over in length, any martial arts weapon or electronic defense weapon, or any other dangerous or deadly weapon or instrument, unless permitted by law under section 29-38 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Students may be disciplined for conduct on school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity that endangers persons or property, is seriously disruptive of the educational process, or that violates a publicized policy of ISAAC. (ISAAC Policy #5114)

## **SAFETY PROCEDURES**

### **Asbestos Management Annual Notification**

ISAAC has submitted an asbestos management plan and is in compliance with AHERA and EPA regulations. In accordance with 40C.F.R. Section 763, "Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools", we are required to inform families that an asbestos management plan is available which confirms that ISAAC has asbestos-containing materials in the building. We will continue to monitor these materials. The Management Plan is available and accessible to the public at the ISAAC main office. If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Facilities at 860-447-1003.

### **Millstone Power Station Readiness Plan**

The nuclear response plan was developed by the Safety Committee, in direct consultation with the local and state emergency preparedness agencies. In the event of a nuclear emergency, the first and most likely scenario considered would involve a slow-moving type of event giving local and state officials time to gather information and take the following actions:

- Follow our regular dismissal procedures putting students in the care of their parents/guardian
- Follow our regular early dismissal procedures, putting students in the care of their parents/guardian
- Cancel school for the day or multiple days allowing students to remain at home in the care of their parent/guardian

The main goal for ISAAC is when there is no immediate threat to health and safety is reunifying children with their families so that the family can continue to monitor the situation along with the rest of the population. If an evacuation is considered necessary by emergency management officials and the Governor gives the directive to evacuate before local officials can reunite their students with their families, ISAAC in collaboration with other school districts, will transport students and staff to the state-designated evacuation facility.

### **Fire, Evacuation and Lockdown Drills**

School safety is an absolute priority at ISAAC. Detailed instructions for emergencies are posted in all areas of the school, and periodic practice drills are conducted by school staff. All students and staff are expected to familiarize themselves with emergency procedures and cooperate promptly and fully with school authorities in all emergencies and emergency drills. ISAAC will work with local emergency agencies to ensure proper procedures and precautions are in place for the safety of all students, faculty, and staff.

In the event of a fire drill, evacuation or lockdown exercise, students must follow ALL instructions given by teachers and administrators. The New London Police Department, upon being notified, will quickly respond to the school to ensure student safety. Police officers will contain an incident and advise the administration and students of evacuation procedures. Students will be instructed to follow the directions of the police officers.

### **Security Camera Policy**

The ISAAC Board of Directors supports the limited use of video cameras on ISAAC property for the purpose of enhancing school safety and security. The goals are to promote and foster a safe and secure teaching and learning environment for students and staff, to ensure public safety for community members who visit or use school property and diminish the potential for personal and district loss or destruction of property. Appropriate signage is posted at the school entrance to notify students, staff, and the general public of the use of security cameras. Security cameras are installed in public areas only. These areas include common areas, stairwells, hallways, large gathering areas, and exterior entrances or exits to the school building.

Restrooms, changing rooms, private offices, nurse's offices, and locker rooms are excluded from security camera use. Security camera use is prohibited in any space where there is a reasonable expectation for privacy. No sound is monitored or recorded in connection with the video surveillance system. All video recordings are stored in a secure place to avoid tampering and to ensure confidentiality in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Recordings will be saved for a period consistent with state law and ISAAC record retention policies, after which all recordings will be appropriately deleted.

### **Armed Safety Officers**

The ISAAC Board of Directors (the "Board") authorizes the placement of armed safety officers in its school buildings during times that the Executive Director or his/her designee deems necessary in order to provide for a safe school environment. The armed safety officers shall support the school administration and staff in maintaining a safe and positive school environment and shall work under the immediate direction and supervision of the principal and under the overall direction of the Executive Director.

At the discretion of the Board, the armed safety officers shall be authorized to carry firearms on school grounds in the performance of their duties, consistent with state and federal law, Board policy and administrative regulations, and any applicable memorandum of understanding or agreement with the city of New London. An armed safety officer shall be authorized to utilize such firearms only when necessary in order to protect a person on school grounds from the use of deadly physical force.

The Executive Director will adopt and maintain administrative regulations to implement this Policy.

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-244a

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-217b

ADOPTED: June 15, 2022

## ISAAC BOARD OF DIRECTOR POLICIES

All ISAAC Board Policies including those listed below can be found on the ISAAC website along with other ISAAC Board policies: [www.isaacschool.org](http://www.isaacschool.org)

ISAAC GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE FOR TITLES VI AND IX, SECTION 504

NON-DISCRIMINATION

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

STUDENT HARASSMENT POLICY

BULLYING

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

PROMOTION/ACCELERATION/RETENTION

EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL FOR DISCIPLINARY PURPOSES

HOME TO SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

STUDENT RECORDS: CONFIDENTIALITY

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

DANGEROUS WEAPONS IN THE SCHOOLS

ADMINISTERING MEDICINES TO STUDENTS

CHILD ABUSE

YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION POLICY

FIELD TRIPS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SEARCHES

STUDENT SURVEYS

COMPUTER USE, E-MAIL, AND INTERNET POLICY

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

USE OF AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILATORS (AEDs)

HEALTH SCREENINGS

COMMUNICABLE/INFECTIOUS DISEASES

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

STUDENTS/STAFF WITH HIV, ARC (AIDS RELATED COMPLEX) OR AIDS

STUDENT SAFETY

HEALTH RECORDS