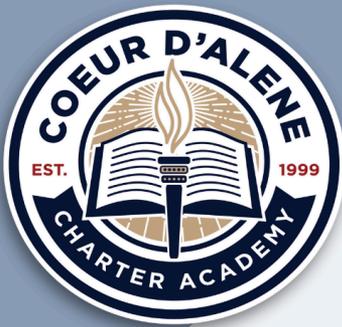




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# 2025-26 STUDENT HANDBOOK

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208-676-1667 

[WWW.CDACHARTER.ORG](http://WWW.CDACHARTER.ORG) 

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy is dedicated to providing a rigorous, content-rich, college preparatory education for any students who are willing to accept the challenge.

## **DEFINITION OF A CHARTER SCHOOL**

Charter schools are nonsectarian public schools of choice that operate under the same regulations that apply to traditional public schools. They are financed by the same per-pupil funds that all public schools receive; therefore, there is no tuition charged to the students. The “charter” establishing each school is a performance contract detailing the school’s mission, program, goals, students served, methods of assessment, and ways to measure success.

A charter school is accountable for both academic results and fiscal practices to several groups: the sponsor that grants its charter, the parents and students who choose it, and the public that funds it. This is a higher degree of accountability than is required of ordinary public schools.

Legislation enacted in 1998 authorized the establishment of charter schools in the State of Idaho. Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy received its original charter from Coeur d'Alene School District 271 and opened in the fall of 1999. In 2014, the Academy transferred its charter to the Idaho Public Charter School Commission. College preparation is the specific purpose of this school.

## **ADMISSION**

Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy accepts students in grades six through twelve.

All students entering grades sixth through twelve, currently residing in the state of Idaho, will be given the opportunity to apply for enrollment regardless of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, gender, social or economic status, or special needs. The Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy does not discriminate in the admission policy or in providing services.

Applications for new full-time students must be received by the second Friday in March. If applications for admission exceed the enrollment maximum, acceptance will be determined by a lottery drawing. Children of Academy founders, siblings of full-time returning students, and children of full-time employees of the Academy will be accommodated, provided they apply by the deadline indicated above. Returning students will complete course registration forms when prompted by the Academy.

Full-time students who apply after the second Friday in March will be placed on a waiting list based on the date and time the application is received. *Contact the registrar for information on exchange student admission.*

## **ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy is a college preparatory school and maintains high academic standards for its students. Course content is designed to challenge and educate students in the core curriculum.

### **Grading**

Grades will be computed and reported on a 4 point scale as follows:

A	4.0 (93-100)	B+	3.3 (87-89)	C+	2.3 (77-79)	D+	1.3 (67-69)	F	0.0 (0-59)
A-	3.7 (90-92)	B	3.0 (83-86)	C	2.0 (73-76)	D	1.0 (63-66)		
		B-	2.7 (80-82)	C-	1.7 (70-72)	D-	.7 (60-62)		

For Advanced Placement (AP) classes one grade point will be added to student grades, effectively creating a 5-point scale. For classes designated as Honors classes, one-half point will be added, creating a 4.5-point scale. A grade of F will not receive this weighting and will merit zero points.

### Final Exams

All teachers are required to give a comprehensive final exam for each course, each semester. The examination may take the form of a project, a written test, a presentation, or a combination of the three. Final exams will be:

- Comprehensive – i.e. contain elements that will test the knowledge, understanding, and/or application of the major concepts of the course.
- Given during the two-hour examination schedule. Parts of the exam may be administered prior to the two-hour exam period; however, significant assessment is required to be done during the two-hour exam period.
- Graded and become an important part of the student's grade in the course.

### Graduation Requirements

Credit toward graduation will be awarded to high school students for high school coursework completed with a passing grade. For students in grades six through eight, credit will be awarded for high school classes completed with a grade of 'C' or better. High school credit earned in grades six through eight will appear on the student's high school transcript, but will not be calculated into the student's high school grade point average.

For the class of 2011 and all subsequent classes, the minimum number of credits required for graduation from high school is forty-six (46) and includes the following:

- **Language Arts:** Nine (9) credits consisting of eight (8) English credits (full year each of Ancient Literature and European Literature, and four credits from American Literature, Advanced Placement Literature, Advanced Placement Language, World Literature, or approved college classes) and one (1) communication credit
- **Social Studies:** Eight (8) credits (one year each of Ancient History, European History, American History, and American Government).
- **Lab Science:** Six (6) credits (one year each of Physical Science, Biology, and Chemistry).
- **Math:** Six (6) credits\* (at least three sequential levels; e.g. Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II)
  - \*Algebra I or higher (repeated classes do not accumulate duplicate math credits);
  - Students are required to take a minimum of two semesters of math in each year of high school.
- **Foreign Language:** Four (4) credits beyond the eighth-grade Latin requirement (two sequential levels of the same language, two credits per year; e.g. Spanish I, Spanish II).
- **Health:** One (1) credit.
- **Economics:** One (1) credit.
- **Digital Literacy:** One (1) credit. \*Required beginning with class of 2028
- **Fine Arts:** Two (2) credits.
- **Electives:** Nine (9) credits – may include additional credits in any of the above.
- **Senior Project/Future Readiness Project:** All students will complete a senior project that incorporates research and an oral presentation. Future Readiness Project (required for class of 2028 and after) to include an experiential learning component.

If a student transfers into the Academy with high school credits obtained elsewhere, their transcript must be evaluated by the principal or designee to determine which credits will be applied toward Academy graduation credits.

## **Promotion Requirements**

Promotion requirements for grades sixth through eighth, and freshman through senior standing:

### **Sixth Grade Promotion**

A student in the sixth grade will not be promoted to the seventh grade until he/she has passed both Language Arts and Math, and either Science or Geography. Students failing to gain promotion to seventh grade will not be enrolled in seventh-grade classes, but will retake the entire sixth-grade courses.

### **Seventh Grade Promotion**

A student in the seventh grade will not be promoted to the eighth grade until he or she has successfully completed two of the seventh-grade core classes of English, Geography, and Life Science. A seventh-grade student who receives promotion but fails any one of these classes will be required to retake that class in the place of an eighth-grade elective, while taking a full load of eighth-grade core classes. Students failing to gain promotion to eighth grade will not be enrolled in eighth-grade classes, but will retake the entire seventh-grade schedule.

### **Eighth Grade Promotion**

A student in the eighth grade will not be promoted to the ninth grade until he or she has successfully completed two of the eighth-grade core classes of English, Civics, Earth Science, and Latin I. An eighth-grade student who receives a promotion but fails any of these classes will be required to repeat the failed classes. Students failing to gain promotion to ninth grade will not be enrolled in high school classes; rather, they will be required to repeat all eighth-grade classes.

### **Freshman Standing**

A student does not have freshman standing until he or she has successfully completed two of the eighth-grade core classes of English, Civics, and Earth Science, and Latin I, and is on track to graduate in four years. Having failed any one of these classes, a student will be required to retake that class in the place of a ninth-grade elective, while taking a full load of ninth-grade core classes.

### **Sophomore Standing**

A student does not have sophomore standing until he or she has completed all of his or her ninth-grade core classes of literature, social studies, science, foreign language, and math, has accumulated at least ten credits, and is on track to graduate in three years.

### **Junior Standing**

A student does not have junior standing until he or she has successfully completed all of his or her tenth-grade core classes of English, social studies, science, foreign language, and at least two credits of high school math, has accumulated at least 22 credits, and is on track to graduate in two years.

### **Senior Standing**

A student does not have senior standing until he or she has successfully completed all of his or her eleventh-grade core classes of English, social studies, science, at least four credits of high school math, one credit of fine arts, two credits of foreign language, has accumulated at least 32 credits, and is on track to graduate by the end of the school year.

### **Elective Credit**

At the principal's discretion, the Academy will award elective credit for classes that are not offered at the Academy and are needed to graduate or enhance a student's career objectives. In order to qualify, parents must present a copy of the curriculum covered, documentation of hours, and the name and qualifications of the instructor. One (1) credit for every seventy (70) hours of instruction may be awarded. Grades will

be on a pass/fail basis and will not be calculated in the grade point average. Also, students can receive, on a one-time basis, one (1) credit for ninety (90) hours of documented volunteer activity. In addition to a log of hours, students will be required to write a minimum three-page report discussing the nature of the volunteer work, and any lessons learned and value gained from the experience.

### **Remediation**

If a student fails any course required for graduation, (or any course required for completion of grade seven or eight) the student must retake the course before continuing on to the next course level. In addition, to move forward in any sequential courses (e.g., math, foreign language), a student must have a minimum grade of C-. The course may be retaken at the Academy the next time it is offered, space permitting.

### **Dual Enrollment**

Dual enrollment is defined as taking classes for credit, including on-site, online, or independent study courses, at or through another accredited learning institution while enrolled as a full-time student at the Academy. To be classified as a full-time high school student, a student must take more than 3 credits per semester at the Charter Academy. Junior and senior students may maintain full-time status through a combination of credits at the Charter Academy and an accredited post-secondary institution.

Contact the school counselor for a complete copy of the dual enrollment policy.

## **ATTENDANCE AND TARDIES**

### **Philosophy**

The Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy expects excellent attendance and punctuality to class and all other school commitments. Students should miss school only in cases of illness and personal or family emergencies. Health care appointments, vacations, and other non-emergencies should be scheduled whenever possible to avoid school absences. In order to maintain a high academic standard and develop an outstanding work ethic, attendance is of the utmost importance.

An **Absence** shall be defined as any class not attended for any reason. Absence in one class will not affect the attendance record in any other class. Attendance will be taken in each class, and all absences (excused and unexcused) will be recorded.

- **Excused Absences** are defined as absences that result from illness or emergency. Students will be allowed to make up work missed due to excused absences. The teacher will establish reasonable timeframes for completion of make-up work.
- **Excused Arranged Absences** are defined as absences that occur with the parent's permission but do not meet the standard criteria for excused absences (i.e., family vacations) and for which the student and the parent have made prior arrangements with the student's teachers and the office. The student will be required to obtain assignments/ homework from their teacher prior to the absence(s) in order to receive credit. Missed school work must be completed and turned in upon the day of return. Any additional work assigned by the teacher during the absence period will be due on a set date as prescribed by the teacher. Failure to make arrangements with the teacher and the office will result in the absence being counted as Unexcused.
- **Unexcused Absences** are defined as absences that occur with the parent's permission but do not meet the criteria for excused absences (i.e., for reasons other than illness or emergency). Students will not receive credit for work missed during an unexcused absence.
- **The primary difference between "excused arranged absences" and "unexcused absences" is whether the student's teachers and the attendance office have been notified PRIOR to the absence in sufficient time to obtain assignments and homework.**
- **Truancy** is defined as absence without the parent's permission for reasons other than illness or emergency. Truancy is unexcused and will be reported to law enforcement as appropriate.

## **Accumulated absences will result in the following action:**

### 1-6 absences per class per semester

Parents will be notified of each absence. On the sixth absence, the school will send home a letter that reiterates our attendance policy and explains the consequences of continued absences. Teachers have the prerogative to not allow make-up work for classes missed due to unexcused absences.

### 11+ absences per class per semester

Regardless of the nature of the absences (excused and/or unexcused), credit may be denied for any class in which a student has accumulated 11 or more absences. The determination to grant or deny credit will be made by the principal, with input from the classroom teachers.

### **Procedure:**

Parents should notify the office as soon as possible when their child will be absent. This can be done by calling the office. An absence will be registered as excused only when a parent or guardian contacts the office and verifies the date and reason for the absence. This verification must be provided within two (2) days of the student's return to school. If no verification is received within two (2) days, the absence will remain unexcused. Only the principal or his designee can excuse an absence. Their decision will be based on the documentation provided by the parent.

### **Tardies**

A **Tardy** is defined as the condition or situation when a student is not in his/her assigned seat with all of the necessary study materials at the start of the class period.

**Rationale:** The first few minutes of class at the Academy set the stage for the day's lesson. Generally, a teacher has an "anticipatory set" which engages the students' inquiry or curiosity and prepares the students for the day's lesson. Class time at the Academy is valuable. Teachers design lessons so that learning is maximized and interruptions are minimized within the allotted time. When a student is late to class, the entire class is interrupted, the teacher is interrupted, and the tardy student has missed a vital part of the day's lesson. Timely attendance at the Academy is mandatory. Punctuality to class and all activities is paramount. There is no excuse for habitual tardiness. Tardies are excused for dental, medical, and legal appointments, and for health reasons.

### **Procedure:**

1. A student will be allowed up to three (3) unexcused tardies per class, per semester, regardless of the circumstances. In consideration of the individual situation, the teacher will attend to the tardy as they best see fit. A grade penalty or loss of score may possibly be the result.
2. Upon the fourth unexcused tardy, the student will automatically be assigned one (1) hour of detention to be served after school, and the parents of the child shall be notified.
3. Upon the fifth unexcused tardy, the student will automatically be assigned two (2) hours of detention to be served after school, and the parents of the child shall be notified.
4. Upon the sixth unexcused tardy, the student will be suspended from attending school and student activities for one (1) day without the possibility of appeal.
5. Upon each subsequent unexcused tardy, up to and including eleven (11), the student will serve another two-hour detention per occurrence, and the parents of the student will be notified.
6. Upon the twelfth (12) unexcused tardy, the student will be suspended from attending school and student activities for one (1) day without the possibility of appeal.
7. Upon the thirteenth unexcused tardy, and up to the seventeenth unexcused tardy, two-hour detentions will be assigned for each tardy.
8. Upon the eighteenth tardy, and each subsequent tardy, the student will be assigned two (2) days of suspension.

### **Continued Enrollment/Tuancy**

If a student does not attend school for ten (10) consecutive days, and the parent has not communicated with the school or responded to contacts from the school during that period of time, the student will be considered as having withdrawn from the school. Further, the student will be reported to juvenile authorities as truant.

### **Make-up Work**

The faculty is understanding about work missed during an excused absence and will allow a reasonable amount of time for such work to be completed. Parents will be responsible for picking up homework assignments during extended absences, by arrangement with the classroom teachers. However, a student who is absent on the day of a test or a major assignment due with no valid excuse will be given a zero for the work missed.

### **CLASSROOM INTERRUPTIONS**

Classroom interruptions will not be permitted except in the event of an emergency. Non-emergency messages will not be delivered to the classroom. Students are not allowed to leave their class to use the phone or for any other non-emergency reason. Every effort will be made at all times to ensure the integrity of the classroom. The office staff does not accept or deliver items such as flowers, balloons, gifts, etc. to students. Only items such as homework, lunches, or uniforms may be left for a student on the drop-off table (located by the front entry). The student may check for his/her item between classes or during lunch. Valuable items should be brought to the office.

### **CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Cell phones, iPods, laptops, tablets, "smart" devices, Bluetooth-capable devices, and all other personal electronic devices are not permitted during school hours [7:55 – 2:45, including passing time and lunch]. Students found to be in possession of these devices will have them confiscated and given to the office. The student will need to speak with an administrator in order to receive their device at the end of the day. Repeated violations will result in a short-term suspension.

Students will be allowed to use their cell phones or the phones in the commons after 2:45 P.M. to communicate regarding their pick-up time.

### **COMMUNICATION**

#### **Daily In-School Communication**

Daily bulletins will be announced to the student body and staff via the P.A. system. Parents receive the announcements twice weekly via email. Announcements will also appear on the video screens in common areas throughout the day.

#### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Parent-teacher conferences are held during the first semester. Parents are encouraged to schedule additional conferences with a teacher as soon as any concern or question arises. Teachers will respond as quickly as possible, and in less than two (2) working days in the absence of unusual circumstances.

#### **Grievance Policy**

The daily conduct of the business of the Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy is under the direction of the principal, and he is the authority over all daily decisions, such as disciplinary issues, uniform compliance, and attendance/absentee issues. Most issues, however, do not require the principal's intervention.

In the event that a student has a concern about something at school, we encourage the student to advocate for himself or herself by approaching the teacher. In most cases, the teacher and student can work things out.

Sometimes, however, a student may have a serious grievance that requires parental involvement. The Charter Academy has adopted the following procedure for dealing with such issues:

- The student approaches the teacher outside of class with the problem. If the problem is not resolved,
- Parent contacts the teacher outside of class. If the problem is not resolved,
- Parent contacts the administration. The administration will make a determination. That determination is the final decision, unless the parent believes the Principal has violated school policy in his or her decision.
- If the parent believes the administration's determination constitutes a violation of school policy, the parent may approach the Academy Board. The Board is not an arbitrator of classroom practices or discipline issues.

Along each step, the faculty and administration will attempt to resolve the grievance to mutual satisfaction, consistent with the mission and policies of the school.

## **COMPUTER USE**

In order to access school computers, an Acceptable Use Policy form must be signed by parents and students. Computer use is a privilege, and the guidelines for use must be strictly adhered to. Students are liable for any damage they cause to computers, which may include the cost of repair or replacement.

## **DRIVING INFORMATION**

### **Driver Education Policy**

In order to qualify for a driver's permit or license, students under the age of eighteen must obtain a letter from the Academy verifying that they are in compliance with Academy attendance requirements.

A letter will not be issued to a student who has been denied credit based on attendance in the previous or current term. In the case of a student who has exceeded the number of allowable absences and is appealing the denial of credit, the verification letter will be withheld pending the outcome of the appeal.

### **Student Parking**

Any student who plans to drive to school must follow these rules:

- Each student must register with the office and obtain a parking permit.
- The permit must be placed in the lower passenger side of the front windshield. The permit is not transferable.
- Students will park in the designated parking area only.
- Students must enter and leave the campus according to the traffic patterns specified.
- Once students arrive on campus, vehicles are off limits until the time of departure.
- If a student fails to observe all traffic laws and school regulations, or if the student operates his/her vehicle in any manner that endangers the health and safety of any person, that student will be subject to disciplinary action.

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy offers various activities beyond the classroom. All extracurricular activities will be supervised by a member of the Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy staff plus parent chaperones, as needed. Participation is a privilege that can be revoked for failure to comply with any requirement of the activity in question. Permission slips from parents will be required for any activity that involves leaving the Academy property and must be on file prior to any trip. Academic probation procedures apply to all students involved in extracurricular activities.

### **Eligibility Guidelines**

Extracurricular Eligibility will be based on official Charter Academy quarter grade reports. Eligibility status will be determined at the established deadline for grades to be submitted to the registrar for progress reports and grade reports.

The minimum grade requirements for full eligibility are passing at least four classes while having no F's and no more than one D. Classes used to determine extracurricular eligibility include:

- all Charter Academy classes
- all dual enrollment classes
- all classes taken from non-traditional schools such as home schools or online schools.

Any class, regardless of duration, will be considered for eligibility purposes when the grade is reported on an official grade report.

For purposes of determining extracurricular eligibility, grades earned on fourth-quarter Charter Academy grade reports and/or college spring semester grade reports will carry over to the Charter Academy for the first quarter of the following school year.

All sixth and ninth-grade students are eligible to participate in first-quarter activities, with the exception of students who are repeating sixth or ninth-grade classes. In the case of dual enrollment, college semester grade reports will also be used to determine extracurricular eligibility.

### **Academic Ineligibility**

Any student who receives one or more F's on a Charter Academy quarter grade report and/or a college semester grade report will be ineligible for participation in extracurricular activities until the next Charter Academy quarter grade report indicates they are no longer failing any Charter Academy class. If the failing grade(s) are on a college fall semester grade report, the Charter Academy third quarter grade report will present the first opportunity for a dual enrolled student to regain eligibility. During the period of ineligibility, students will not be allowed to participate in sports and/or other extracurricular activities; they may not practice, rehearse, meet, compete, perform, assist, or in any way participate in an extracurricular activity.

In no circumstance may eligibility be regained during the summer.

### **Academic Probation**

Any student who receives two or more D's on a Charter Academy quarter grade report and/or a college semester grade report will be placed on academic probation. While a student is on academic probation, he or she may practice or rehearse but may not participate in games or events. If the first Charter Academy school-wide progress report following a report card indicates a student on academic probation has raised his/her grades to meet the minimum grade requirements, they will be removed from academic probation and be allowed to participate in games or events.

## **Pathway to Eligibility**

A student who is ineligible because of one or more F's may earn probationary status by raising his or her grades to passing on the first Charter Academy school-wide progress report following a report card. This student will be allowed to practice or rehearse, but may not participate in games or events, until and unless his or her grades are passing (no F's, no more than one D) at the next quarter grade report. **Under no circumstances may an ineligible student gain full eligibility prior to the quarter grade report.**

If a student does not sufficiently raise their grades during these time periods, they will become ineligible for any participation in extracurricular activities until the Charter Academy quarter grade report indicates the grades are at or above the minimum grade requirements. In lieu of Charter Academy grade reports and school-wide progress reports, the school administration will provide an alternative method of determining extracurricular eligibility for non-traditional students who are on academic probation. A non-traditional student is defined as a student who is not enrolled full-time in Charter Academy and/or college dual-enrolled courses.

If a student who is ineligible to participate withdraws from the Academy for any reason and returns after any length of time, that student shall be ineligible to participate until an Academy quarter grade report indicates grades are at or above minimum grade requirements.

Also, at any time, regardless of probationary status, students may not be allowed to go on class trips that will cause them to miss classes where their grades are deficient, defined as a D grade or lower. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of the teachers, with the principal having final determination in cases of disagreement. In this manner, we expect to maintain the high academic standard for which this school was founded and to provide the proper expectations for student success.

## **Eligibility for Non-Traditional Students**

In accordance with IHSAA 8-16-1, home school students and students who do not attend accredited schools shall demonstrate composite grade-level academic proficiency on any state Board of Education recognized achievement test or any nationally-normed test. It shall be the responsibility of the student to make all arrangements to take the required test and provide the principal of the Academy with the results of the test prior to being granted eligibility for activities.

## **Attendance Requirement for Student Participation in Extracurricular Activities**

Students who are absent from school one or more periods on the day of an extracurricular activity in which they are scheduled to take part will not be allowed to participate in that activity. This includes games, practices, meetings, and/or rehearsals. Exceptions may be made by the activities director for verified medical appointments, unavoidable circumstances, or other prearranged cases.

This policy affects all Charter Academy extracurricular activities, i.e., sports, drama, music, debate, clubs, etc. Any extracurricular activity involving in-school time or out-of-school time requires attendance at school that day. Coaches/advisors of the various activities will advise their students of this requirement and be responsible for monitoring its implementation.

Any students suspended from school for disciplinary reasons will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activity on the days they are out of school.

## **Sports Physicals and Interim Questionnaires**

Students are required to undergo a physical examination and have the Idaho Health Examination and Consent Form (included in the Academy's Athletics & Activities Packet) on file in the school office prior to their first practice for any Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy-sponsored sport. An Interim Questionnaire

must be completed and on file in the school office in any year a physical exam is not taken. The required Idaho Health Examination and Consent Form and the Interim Questionnaire are available on the school website, at the school office, or from the coach of a specific sport. Physical exams must be conducted by a licensed physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner.

For any student in grades sixth through eighth to participate in sports, a physical exam taken after May 1st of the student's fifth-grade year will remain valid for the duration of middle school. The Idaho Health Examination and Consent Form is valid for all three years of middle school.

Physicals are required in the ninth and eleventh grade years and must be taken after May 1st of the eighth grade or tenth grade year. Students who have a physical in their tenth grade year must have another in their eleventh grade year. Students will not be required to take an additional physical examination during the tenth and twelfth grades unless:

- The physician recommends that the student have an additional examination.
- The parents request an examination in the Interim Questionnaire.
- Affirmative answers on 1-9 of the Interim Questionnaire indicate a possible need for a repeat physical examination.
- A student has transferred to Idaho from another state.

## **FUNDRAISING**

In order to prevent overlap and duplication, all fundraising efforts (PTO, ASB, Faculty) **must be coordinated through the Academy business manager.** (Policy Title: Student Activity Fund Management)

## **LOCKERS**

Student lockers will be assigned during the first week of school. Locks are available from the office for a charge of \$10.00. At the end of the school year, locks must be returned to the office, and the student will receive a refund of \$5.00. Only school locks may be used on school lockers, and the office retains the right to open any locker for unannounced inspection at any time. Any change to locker assignment must be made by administration.

## **LOST & FOUND**

A lost-and-found bin will be maintained during the school year. Students or parents may check the receptacle at any time for missing items. The bin will be emptied as needed, and all unclaimed items will be taken to a local charity outlet. All uniform articles look alike; therefore, identify yours by putting your name on the label.

## **LUNCHESES**

Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy does not participate in the federal student lunch program, which provides free and reduced lunches. Therefore, students need to bring a sack lunch from home or may purchase lunch from our approved vendors.

## **MEDIA POLICY**

All videos/movies shown in the classroom must have serious academic value and approval from the principal prior to being shown to students. G-rated videos/movies may be utilized by classroom teachers without parental notification. Movies with PG rating or higher will be shown only if parents have been notified in advance. Parents have the right to restrict their child from viewing those videos/movies without penalty to the student.

## **CHARTER PARENT ORGANIZATION (CPO)**

All parents are encouraged to participate in their child's education. Parents are represented at Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy by the Charter Parent Organization (CPO). Through the CPO, parents may provide support for the mission and operation of the school. Because we are a charter school operating with limited public funds, we depend on parents and the community for many extras that provide opportunities for our students. Parents are encouraged to render assistance, either financial or in volunteer activities, as they are able.

## **SCHOOL SAFETY**

### **Closed Campus/Visitors**

Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy is a closed campus. A student may not leave the campus between the scheduled time of arrival and the scheduled time of departure without permission from the office and his/her parent or guardian. Students leaving and returning to school, and all visitors, must check in at the office before proceeding to class or other locations in the building. All visitors must wear a visible visitor pass while on campus. No loitering by any person on school grounds will be allowed.

We have a closed campus, so after your child arrives at school, they may not leave campus without a parent or other pre-arranged adult (i.e., carpool, relative) until leaving for the day.

### **Leaving Campus During Unscheduled Class Periods**

Juniors and seniors in 'good standing' will be given the privilege of leaving campus during periods they have no classes scheduled. In order to attain 'good standing', juniors and seniors must meet all of the following requirements:

- Juniors must have at least 22 credits earned and be on track to graduate with their class.
- Seniors must have at least 34 credits earned and be on track to graduate with their class.
- Have no suspensions for behavior or other school violations within the current school year
- Have no failing grades on the most recent quarterly grade report
- Sophomores who are 16 years old may leave **during study lab only** under the same behavior and grade requirements.

The following rules apply to students with a valid permission to leave campus form on file:

- May not be off campus during the lunch break unless they have no class scheduled during period 4 or 5.
- May not leave campus during Study Lab unless noted on the reverse form.
- A student leaving campus during the school day is required to sign in and out at the office. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in loss of privilege.
- A student who is tardy to class upon returning to campus more than 3 times in a semester will lose the privilege to leave campus during unscheduled class periods. Parents will be notified if privileges are revoked.
- A student who remains or who arrives on campus during study hall periods must sign in and be seated in the North MPR. For safety reasons, if students leave the North MPR, it must be noted on the sign-in sheet.
- Students MUST sign in and out at the HS office.
- Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy will not monitor, nor take responsibility for, transportation methods used by students leaving campus during study hall periods and/or returning to campus to attend scheduled classes.

### **Drop-off and Pick-up of Students**

All persons driving on campus will observe a safe and efficient traffic pattern established by the administration in cooperation with the Coeur d'Alene Police Department. The directions for drop-off and pick-up will be available in the office.

## **After School Supervision Procedures**

The Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy does not provide transportation to or from school for our students. It is the responsibility of each family to make all the necessary arrangements to provide this transportation for their child(ren).

At the Academy, regular classes end at precisely 2:45 P.M. each day. After 2:45 P.M. the students have until 3:00 P.M. to gather their things, take care of any business, and vacate the building. Due to supervision and liability issues, the Academy will not allow students to 'hang out' in the hallways or playground areas after school. **All students must be out of the halls and off the playground no later than 3:00 P.M.**

Students who have made arrangements to be picked up by 3:00 P.M. may wait in front of the building for their ride to arrive. **Students who are going to be picked up after 3:00 P.M. must check into our supervised study hall room or be in a classroom with another teacher until their ride arrives.** Study hall is in the North MPR and is open from 3:00 – 4:00 P.M. Monday-Friday. **All students accessing the after-school study hall must be picked up no later than 4:00 P.M.** (The only exception is that students beginning an activity at 4:00 P.M. must go immediately to their coach/advisor no later than 4:00 P.M.)

Other than the supervised study halls, meeting with individual teachers in their classrooms, and supervised extracurricular activities, the Academy does not provide supervision of students after 3:00 P.M. **These procedures also apply to students who are waiting after school for sports or other extracurricular activities.** Please be aware of your child's extracurricular schedules and make all the necessary arrangements for transportation immediately at the end of the scheduled activity.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We are committed to the safety and well-being of our students, and having them on campus unsupervised is not acceptable to us.

## **Emergency Drills/Procedures**

Fire and lockdown drills will be conducted at unannounced times during the school year. During the first week of school, students will be instructed by their classroom teachers as to routes and procedures to be followed. Instructions will be given regarding responding to intruders in the building, hazardous material exposure, and other safety issues. It is crucial that all students follow these rules for the safety of all persons in the building. In addition, this school has a zero-tolerance policy for weapons on campus (see Student Behavior/Discipline). A student who notices a condition that could be dangerous should inform a staff member immediately.

## **Emergency Information File**

Each student will have on file, in the office, all information required to assist the student in an emergency situation. Included will be phone numbers for contact persons, known medical conditions, doctor's numbers, and any other pertinent information. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to keep this information current.

## **Medication Policy**

Students requiring prescription or nonprescription medication during the school day must bring the medication to the office upon arrival at school, in its original container with the student's name clearly visible on the bottle. (No Baggies or pillboxes allowed.) A completed Medication Administration form from the parent or guardian must accompany the medication, specifying the time(s) and amount(s) of required dosages. If the medication is to be administered at different times or in different amounts from what is specified on the label, a physician's signature is required. The medication will be administered to the student by the school secretary (or other authorized staff member) in the school office.

No medicines of any kind may be retained by the student in lockers or backpacks, except for students who have been instructed in the self-administration of medication for treatment of a serious condition (e.g. asthma, allergies, diabetes). Those students shall be permitted to possess and use a prescribed medication (e.g. inhaler or EpiPen) at all times, provided the school has received, and administration has approved, a signed prescription or written direction from his/her physician or health care provider stating that the carrying of such medication is medically necessary.

There will be disciplinary action for students who violate this policy.

### **Expected Behavior**

Students at Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy are expected to be courteous and well-mannered, respectful of teachers, staff members, and each other. They are expected to be honest and trustworthy. The following rules shall pertain to all students of Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy and shall be in effect during school hours and at all school-sponsored activities.

### **Prohibited Behavior**

The Academy expects appropriate conduct at all times. The following is a partial list of some of the misbehaviors that will be dealt with by the staff of the Academy:

- Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, plagiarism, use of AI content generators, and other forms of academic fraud will not be tolerated.
  - All teachers are required to report all incidents of academic dishonesty to the principal. The consequences of academic dishonesty are severe.
- Assault, provoking assault, and fighting
- Hazing/harassment
- Possession of a weapon
- Willful disobedience
- Disruptive behavior
- Vandalism
- Vulgarity or profanity
- Use of any kind of tobacco (cigarettes, e-cigarettes/vaping systems, chew/dip, etc.)
- The use, sale, and/or distribution of controlled substances
- Stealing
- The operation of any motorized vehicle in a dangerous manner on or near school property
- Outward displays of affection
- Any behavior that is harmful to the school, the school community, or any individual

The range of consequences for any inappropriate behavior includes, but is not limited to, parent contact, detention, out-of-school suspension, and expulsion. Multiple infractions or unacceptable behaviors will result in compound consequences. The Academy staff follows a progressive discipline model to encourage positive changes in behavior.

Only the Board of Directors can expel a student.

It is the policy of Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy to maintain a learning environment that is free from harassment. Each student and employee has the right to attend school and work in an atmosphere that promotes equal opportunities and that is free from all forms of discrimination and conduct that can be considered harassing, coercive, or disruptive.

Students attending the Academy are:

- Prohibited from engaging in any conduct which could reasonably be construed as constituting harassment on the basis of sex (including sexual orientation), race, color, national origin, age, religious beliefs, ethnic background, or disability;
- Prohibited from sexually harassing other students, district employees, and patrons; and
- Required to report, to the school principal or designee, harassment of which the student becomes aware.

This policy applies to all conduct on the district's premises and at school-sponsored events, conduct during transportation to and from school and school-sponsored events, and conduct off the district's premises that has an adverse effect upon a student's educational environment.

### **DEFINITION OF HARASSMENT**

Harassment is defined to include verbal, written, graphic, photographic, audio or video depictions of any kind, or physical conduct relating to an individual's sex or sexual orientation, race, color, national origin, age, religious beliefs, ethnic background, or disability that is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent so as to interfere with or limit the ability of an individual to participate in or benefit from the district's programs that:

- Has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating or hostile environment.
- Unreasonably interferes with an individual's educational performance.
- Otherwise, it adversely affects an individual's educational opportunities.

Harassment also includes an act of retaliation taken against:

- Any person bringing a complaint of harassment
- Any person assisting another person in bringing a complaint of harassment, or
- Any person participating in an investigation of an act of harassment.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Any investigation will be conducted, to the maximum extent possible, in a manner that protects the privacy of both the complainant and the accused. However, if it is suspected that child abuse has occurred, such abuse will be reported to the proper authorities as required by state law.

### **Weapons**

Possession of any dangerous item while attending school or on school property at any time is prohibited. School administrators and staff are authorized to confiscate such items immediately. The Academy has a zero-tolerance policy for weapons.

### **Zero Tolerance Policy**

STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES, AND ALL VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL ARE FORBIDDEN TO KNOWINGLY AND/OR VOLUNTARILY POSSESS, HANDLE, TRANSMIT, OR USE ANY INSTRUMENT THAT CAN REASONABLY BE CONSIDERED A WEAPON WHILE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY. THIS POLICY WILL EXTEND TO ANY PROPERTY IN USE FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES OR EVENTS.

### **Possession/Use**

Any student found to be in possession, using, or attempting to use any object as a weapon will result in the student's immediate suspension or possible expulsion. Any student expelled from the Academy for a weapons violation will be reported to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

Any person not a student at the Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy found similarly engaged will be removed from the school property and referred to law enforcement authorities.

The safety of our students will take priority over any other considerations.

## **Suspension/Expulsion Procedure**

A student can be suspended for up to five (5) days for an offense. The Board of Directors, upon request of the principal, can extend a suspension for up to a total of ten (10) days. Any student recommended for expulsion will immediately be placed on suspension pending the Board of Directors' approval of the expulsion.

In the case of a suspension or expulsion proceeding, parents will be notified immediately regarding the nature of the offense and the consequences. Suspensions can be appealed first to the principal, and then to the Board of Directors. Expulsions can be appealed directly to the Board of Directors.

## **STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

The purpose of the Associated Student Body (ASB) organization is to provide an opportunity for students to express themselves through their elected representatives concerning those phases of the school program on which students may take action. They take an active role in serving as a liaison between the student body and the administration, where the students can assume as much responsibility for organizing their high school activities as they are able to handle. The student council consists of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, plus ASB representatives for each grade level, elected by the student body at large in each respective grade. Elections take place at the end of the school year for the upcoming year. There is an ASB organization for high school and a separate ASB for middle school.

## **TELEPHONE POLICY**

A telephone will be available at the office for students' use before and after school and during their lunch break. Students will not be excused from classes to use the phone except in emergencies.

## **UNIFORM POLICY**

### **General Guidelines**

All students will arrive on campus in uniform and stay in uniform until they leave for the day. Parents and students are expected to know and follow the uniform policy.

### **Commentary on the Expectations of the Uniform Policy**

School uniforms are an important facet of our school culture and an integral part of our mission and purpose. A distinctive uniform is a unifying factor within our school community and underscores the Academy's seriousness of purpose by encouraging students to think of their attire as an aspect of their work. In addition, neatness and modesty are essential aspects of the Charter school environment. The Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy is a college preparatory school, and we want our students to distinguish themselves by their academic performance, their citizenship, their behavior, and their attitude and effort on a day-to-day basis. Additionally, we strive to eliminate the self-consciousness and social competition which popular fashion trends tend to promote.

Clothing or accessories that are worn with the obvious intent of being different or unique are not in keeping with the purpose of the uniform policy.

The Charter Academy uniform colors are white, navy blue, and black. Samples can be seen in the school offices if clarification is necessary.

All uniform items must fit properly.

## **Test for Appropriateness (TFA)**

*If something about your dress or physical appearance causes you to stand out from other students, it will be considered in violation of the Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy uniform policy.*

## **Uniform Violations**

It is the responsibility of each student to be in uniform while on campus. Students who are out of uniform will not be allowed to remain in classes until the violations are corrected. It is the family's responsibility to provide proper uniform attire for any child out of uniform while at school. The school does not provide uniform clothing. Students who miss class to correct a uniform violation will receive an unexcused tardy or absence.

Students with repeated uniform violations will be referred to the vice principal for disciplinary action.

## **Specific Uniform Requirements**

### **PANTS**

- Khaki or navy blue casual dress pants that reach at least the ankle bone when standing.

The following are not allowed:

- Denim
- Cargo Pants
- Jogger Pants with elastic at the ankles
- Capris
- Jeggings
- Leggings, or tights, worn as pants
- Loose fringe (must be hemmed)

### **SHORTS**

- Khaki or navy blue dress shorts that are not shorter than one hand width above the knee and do not fall below the knee.

### **SKIRTS**

- Khaki or navy blue skirts that reach at least the top of the kneecap when standing.

### **UNDERGARMENTS**

- Undergarments must not be visible, with the exception of white undershirts showing at the neckline.

### **SHIRTS**

- White, navy blue, or black short/long-sleeved, collared polo shirts with an approved Academy logo.
- White, navy blue, or black button-up dress shirts or blouses with or without an approved Academy logo. Dress shirts must be worn tucked in.
  - Solid-colored navy blue or black blazers may be worn over button-up dress shirts only.
  - Solid-colored or striped ties may be worn with Oxford shirts, provided they are worn with the knot at the shirt's collar. (see TFA)

The following are not allowed:

- Shirts with any logos showing other than the approved Academy logo.

### **SHOES/SOCKS**

- Flip-flops, sliders, slippers, or any footwear without a fixed backstrap are not allowed. This includes Croc-style sandals whose backstraps are not fixed.
- Socks must be navy blue, white, or black and may not reach higher than the bottom of the knee.
- Boots may be worn only with long pants or skirts. Boots taller than standard "cowboy boots" may not be worn unless covered by pants.

### **JEWELRY/ACCESSORIES**

- See TFA
- Scarves and hats may not be worn inside school buildings

### **HAIR**

- Hair must be a natural hair color
- Hair accessories must pass the TFA

### **OUTERWEAR**

- Approved outerwear that can be worn with or without an approved Academy logo includes the following (navy blue or black only, must be logo-free if the Academy logo is not featured):
  - Micro-fleece or soft-shell jackets
  - Pea Coat
- Crew-neck sweatshirts with the approved Academy logo on the upper left chest (see list of approved uniform vendors) or the large “yearbook-styled” logo silk-screened in the center of the chest (available through the school only). Sweatshirts must be navy blue or white.

The following are not allowed:

- “Sherpa” or “sheep”-style fleece.
- Any outerwear with a hood.
- Uniform and non-uniform outerwear tied around the waist or hanging on the shoulders.

**Non-uniform outerwear is NOT allowed in school buildings during the school day and must be taken off when entering.**

Jackets may not be worn as shirts. Students must wear a uniform top under a jacket.

### **P.E. UNIFORM**

- Athletic gray short-sleeve or long-sleeve shirt with the Charter Panther PE logo approximately 8.5” on the center front.
  - An optional gray crew-neck sweatshirt with the PE logo in the center front may also be worn.
- Navy athletic shorts or sweatpants. No logo required on shorts.
- Shorts must meet uniform requirements for length
- Athletic shoes are required for PE classes.

### **VARIATIONS**

- Approved letter jackets are considered part of the school uniform. (Get approval prior to purchase.)
- Non-uniform Charter ‘spirit wear’, and clothing from school teams or activities can be worn with permission only.
- Performance attire, as defined by the teacher and approved by the administration, may be worn on performance days.
- Clothing for special class projects, as defined by the teacher and approved by the administration, may be worn on the day of the event.
- Closed-toed shoes are required for some classes; teachers have discretion in requiring certain kinds of shoes for safety reasons.

### **DEFINITIONS**

- Uniform – having the same appearance as others of the same group; conforming to a given standard; being or looking the same; consistent in appearance.
- Outerwear – coats, jackets, sweatshirts.
- Oxford Shirt – a long or short-sleeved shirt with buttons up the front all the way to the collar.

**ANY JUDGMENTS REGARDING CLOTHING OR APPEARANCE WILL BE MADE BY THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION.**

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This handbook can also be found on our website, [www.cdacharter.org](http://www.cdacharter.org).