Parent-Student Handbook

2026-2027

Home of the Dragons

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All Students Can Succeed!

Board Approved, August 14, 2026

August, 2026

Dear ISAAC Families,

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

I hope you and your family found time this summer to relax, recharge, and make lasting memories together. As we begin a new school year, I am filled with excitement and optimism for all that lies ahead. Every August brings a fresh start; a chance to grow, set new goals, strengthen relationships, and create meaningful experiences that will shape our students' futures.

At ISAAC, we are committed to providing a safe, respectful, and nurturing learning environment where every student feels seen, valued, and supported. Our dedicated faculty and staff work tirelessly to challenge students academically while also helping them develop the confidence, compassion, resilience, and character needed to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

This year, our focus is on growth; in learning and in the positive connections we build with one another each day. Together, we will celebrate successes, learn, and continue to create a school culture where kindness, curiosity, and perseverance are at the heart of everything we do. **We believe that All Students Can Succeed with effort, support, high expectations, and perseverance.** This belief guides every decision we make and every opportunity we provide for our students.

The partnership between home and school is one of the greatest strengths of our community. When families, students, and educators work together, incredible things happen. We encourage open communication throughout the year and invite you to reach out whenever you have questions. Your partnership is invaluable, and together we can ensure that every child feels safe, challenged, supported, and inspired.

Please carefully review the Parent-Student Handbook and sign and return the "Stakeholder Signature Page"to your child's advisory teacher by Friday, August 28, 2026. The handbook contains important information about our school-wide expectations, policies, and procedures, and serves as a valuable resource throughout the school year.

Whether your family is returning to ISAAC or joining our community for the first time, know that you are an important part of our school family. We are grateful for the trust you place in us each day, and we look forward to partnering with you as we make this a year filled with growth, positivity, and success for every student.

Here's to an incredible school year ahead. We can't wait to welcome our students back through our doors!

With gratitude,

M. Algu

Principal

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2026-2027 ISAAC Faculty and Staff

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Nicholas J. Spera
Executive Director

Mercedes Alger
Principal

Maria DePino-Wallig
Assistant Principal

Amy J. Geary
Director of Special Education

Mike Presti
Dean of Academics & Athletics

ISAAC FACULTY

LANGUAGE ARTS
- Madeline Gellatly, *4th& 5th* Grade
- Nicole Litterio, *6th Grade*
- Amy Taylor, *7th Grade*
- Kendall Chrzanowski, *8th Grade*

MATHEMATICS
- Lauren Vigorito, *4th& 5th* Grade
- William Ferguson*, 4th & 6th Grade*
- Shannon Lougee, *6th Grade*
- Vanessa Kobyluck, *7th Grade*
- Lauren Kang, 7th Grade
- Amy Wilkes, *8th Grade*

SOCIAL STUDIES/HUMANITIES
- Rebecca Conti, *4th& 5th* Grade
- Nicole Funk, *6th Grade*
- Kevin Irvine, *7th Grade*
- Michael Presti *8th Grade*

SCIENCE
- Ryleigh Gonyo, *4th& 5th* Grade
- Emilee Cruz, *6th Grade*
- Lisa Lazarou, *7th Grade*
- Tiffany Devlin-Perry, 7th Grade
- Denise Florio, *8th Grade*

UNIFIED ARTS & ELECTIVES
- Tiffany Devlin-Perry, *Aquarium Science*
- Amanda Grundy, *Dance/Theater*
- Jessica Harvey, *PE/Health*
- Aaron Kane, *Digital Arts/Coding*
- Bryttnie Olsen, *Art, Advanced Art*
- Christina Schiano, *Spanish*
- Hannah Thompson, *Music/Band/Chorus*

BILINGUAL PROGRAM
- Christina Schiano, *Bilingual Coordinator*
- Alexis Perez-Canas, *Bilingual Educational Assistant*

SPECIAL EDUCATION
- Mary Polatschek*, Literacy Teacher*
- Allison Cyr*, Literacy Teacher*
- Olivia Pacheco, *4th& 5th Grade*
- TBD, *4th& 5th* Grade
- Kimbery Pesarik, *6th Grade*
- Peter Gonski, *6th Grade*
- Jannine Moores, *7th Grade*
- TBD, *7th& 8th Grade*
- Annaliisa Erickson, *8th Grade*

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES
- Janice Ricketts*, Student Supports Coordinator*
- Kathryn Di Garbo, *School Psychologist*
- Amanda Giorno, *School Psychologist*
- Lisa Lazarou*, SRBI Coordinator/Core Instructional Coach*
- Jordan Buscetto, *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*
- Patrick Hawes, *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

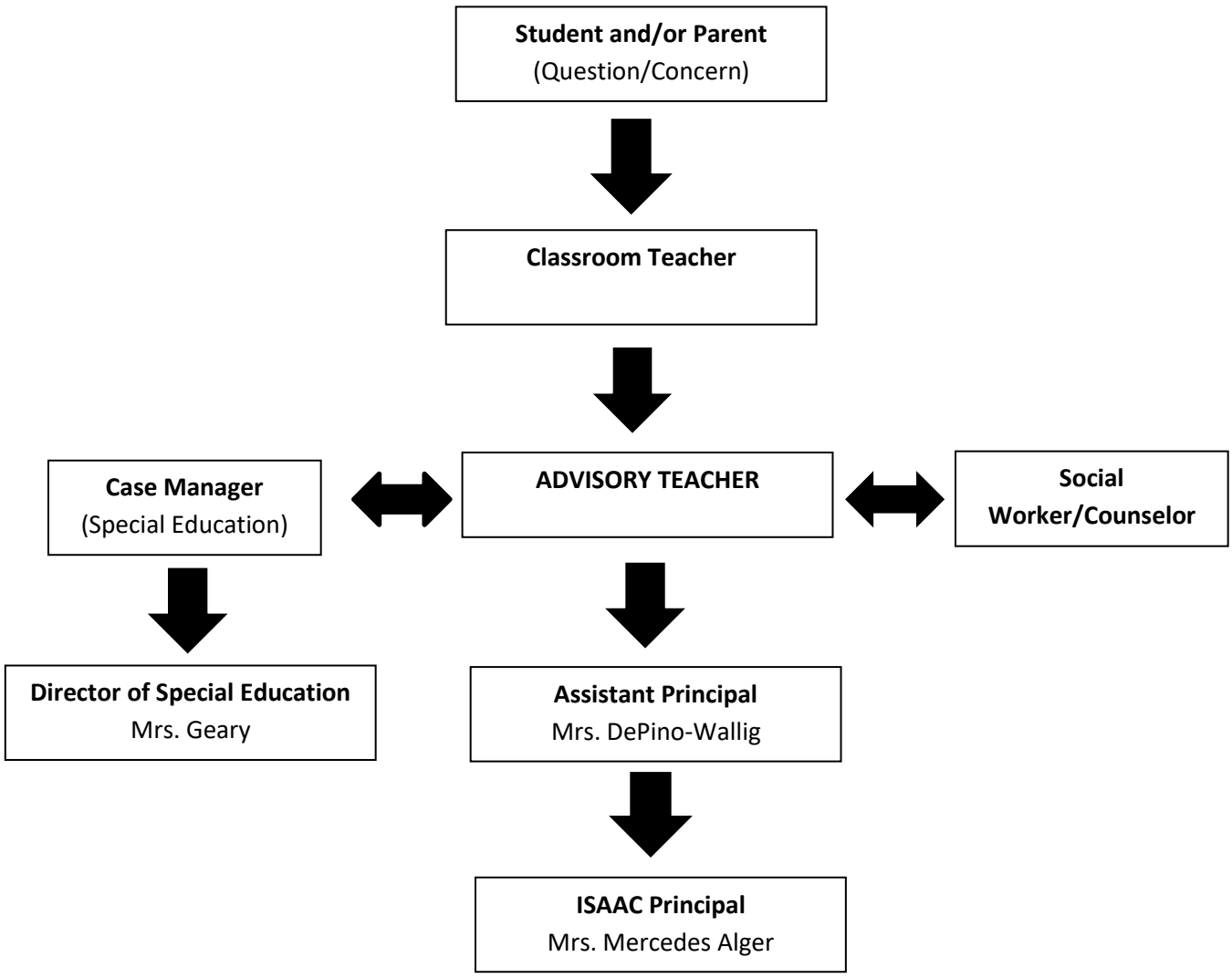
The ISAAC Vision of the Graduate is that all graduates are proficient in the following competencies:

- 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 unsolved, 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 Assistant Principal, Maria DePino Wallig, or Amy Geary, the Director of Student Supports, followed by the ISAAC Principal, Mercedes Alger.



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
11:03-11:33		*Grade 6 Lunch*
11:42-12:12		*Grade 7 Lunch*
12:21-12:51		*Grade 8 Lunch*
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
11:00-11:20		*Grade 6 Lunch*
11:28-11:48		*Grade 7 Lunch*
11:55-12:15		*Grade 8 Lunch*

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
11:10-11:40		*1st Lunch*
11:42-12:12		*2nd Lunch*
12:14-12:44		*3rd Lunch*
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)

GRADES 4-5 BELL SCHEDULE

TIMES		FULL DAY SCHEDULE
START	**END**	**BLOCK**
8:30	8:45	Morning Meeting (15 min)
8:48	9:53	Block 1 (65 min)
9:56	11:01	Block 2 (65 min)
11:04	12:09	Block 3 (65 min)
12:09	12:49	Lunch/Recess (40 min) *JV Lunch Wave/Varsity Recess: 12:09-12:29 (20 min)* *Varsity Lunch Wave/JV Lunch: 12:29-12:49 (20 min)*
12:52	1:57	Block 4 (65min)
2:00	2:20	Dragon Time (20 min)
2:20	3:00	Unified Arts (40 min)

TIMES		HALF DAY SCHEDULE
START	**END**	**BLOCK**
8:30	9:15	Block 1 (45 min)
9:18	10:03	Block 2 (45 min)
10:06	10:51	Block 4 (45 min)
10:54	11:39	Block 3 (45 min)
11:40	12:15	Lunch/Recess *JV Lunch/Varsity Recess: 11:40-12:00 (20 min)* *Varsity Lunch/JV Recess: 12:00-12:15 (15 min)*

TIMES		2-HOUR DELAYED OPENING SCHEDULE (Grades 4-5)
START	**END**	**BLOCK**
10:30	11:30	Block 1 (60 min)
11:30	1:00	Block 3 (60 min) *JV Lunch/Varsity Recess: 11:30-12:00 (30 min)* *Varsity Lunch/JV Recess: 12:30-1:00 (30 min)*
1:00	2:00	Block 2 (60 min)
2:00	3:00	Block 4 (60 min)

DATES FOR QUARTER ENDINGS & POWERSCHOOL UPDATES

Quarter One

08/19/2026– 10/23/2026

10/23/26	Late Work Acceptance Deadline
10/23/26	End of Quarter One
10/30/26	Grades Due
11/06/26	Report Cards Finalized

Quarter Two

10/24/2026 – 12/23/2026

12/23/26	Late Work Acceptance Deadline
12/23/26	End of Quarter Two
01/08/27	Grades Due
01/15/27	Report Cards Finalized

Quarter Three

12/24/2026 – 3/19/2027

03/19/27	Late Work Acceptance Deadline
03/19/27	End of Quarter Three
03/25/27	Grades Due
04/02/27	Report Cards Finalized

Quarter Four

3/20/2027 – 5/28/2027

05/26/27	Late Work Acceptance Deadline
05/28/27	End of Quarter Four
05/28/27	Grades Due
05/28/27	Report Cards Distributed

Parent/Teacher Conferences

09/24/26	Open House
10/08/26	Virtual Parent Conference
04/22/27	Virtual Parent Conference

*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 (09/24/2026)** 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, emails 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*	***Test:***	*200 pts*
Classwork:	*10 pt. increments*	***Papers/Projects:***	*100 to 200 pts.*
Quiz:	*100 pts.*	***Unit Tasks:***	*100 to 200 pts.*

Teachers may adjust the number 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 opportunities 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 unit tests, quizzes, or projects 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. At teacher discretion, students may retake a test/quiz or complete an additional assignment to improve the student's overall quarter grade. The original test/quiz/project grade will remain as part of the student's record. To complete a retake, students must schedule a time with the teacher outside of class or during Dragon Time to discuss their assignment.

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 May. 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

CORE CLASSES	*All courses offered are also offered as honors classes to students 6-8 grade:* Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies/Humanities, Science/Honors Marine Science
ELECTIVE CLASSES	Dance, Theatre Arts, Health/PE, Art, Digital Arts, Advanced Art, Motion Media and Animation, Elementary Internship, Honors Aquarium Science, Music, Band, Music History, Music Technology, Chorus, School Media and Communications
SUPPORT CLASSES	WIN (What I Need), Co-Taught Mathematics, ELA, and Humanities, Bilingual Program, Advisory, SRBI Support, Literacy Lab, Language Academy

Advisory

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

Code of Conduct

The ISAAC Code of Conduct reflects our commitment to creating a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive. Rooted in our ISAAC Family Values, the Code of Conduct emphasizes treating others with kindness, taking responsibility for our actions, demonstrating integrity, and contributing positively to our school community. Students are expected to communicate respectfully, make thoughtful choices, and work to resolve conflicts in a constructive manner. While our goal is always to teach, support, and restore positive behavior, students who repeatedly choose not to follow the expectations outlined in the Code of Conduct may be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension, and up to severe circumstances, recommendation for expulsion as supported by Board Policy on student discipline 5114. By following these expectations, students help ensure that ISAAC remains a place where everyone feels valued, supported, and ready to learn.

The image on the following page will be displayed throughout the school as a reminder. This image will be referred to by both staff and administration as we encourage our learners to work to the best of their ability.



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, copying 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.

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 Grades 5 and 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 and IXL

AIMSweb and IXL are benchmarking and progress monitoring tools used to assess foundational skills in reading and math. They are 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 and IXL 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. Data will be discussed at Parent Teacher Conferences, 504 meetings, PPT meetings, or MTSS meetings.

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

Retention

Retention is an extraordinary measure that should be the result of the combined professional judgment of the school principal, teachers, and/or other support personnel. The Executive Director or his/her designee has the authority to develop procedures that are designed to foster student achievement and reduce the incidence of social promotion. Such procedures may require students who have substantial academic deficiencies that

jeopardize their eligibility for promotion or graduation to attend after school programs, summer school or other programs that are designed to assist students in remedying such deficiencies.

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. Your signature on the "Stake Holder" page, grants permission for students to attend all academic field trips for the 2026-2027 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

MTSS Team – Multi-Tiered Systems of Support

The MTSS Team consists of the executive director, principal, assistant principal, special education director, SRBI coordinator, social worker, school counselor, regular education teachers, and special education teachers who meet on a regular basis. The MTSS 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 Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), 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 3 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

For our Bilingual Monthly Newsletters and Resources, please refer to our Bilingual Program page on our ISAAC website.

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 or left with administration throughout the entire day. Student use of cell phones and/or similar devices, including but not limited to Meta Glasses and Smart Watches, 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.

At no time should students take pictures or record on their personal cellular devices. If a student is found to have recorded or have taken pictures during the school day, a student may receive similar if not more severe consequences based on the violation of school policy.

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.

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

Students must have a parent or guardian present to attend after school or evening activities, this excludes 8th grade prom. A student may not attend an evening activity or program if he/she has been absent. Only ISAAC students are allowed to attend 8th grade prom.

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.

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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.

School Cancellation/Delayed Opening/Early Dismissal

In the event of a school cancellation, delay, or early dismissal due to inclement weather, a phone call, email and/or a text message will be sent through SchoolMessenger and ParentSquare to notify parents. SchoolMessenger and ParentSquare are parent-notification systems that allow administrators to deliver messages to home phones, work phones, cell phones, email addresses and text message devices in a matter of minutes.

EARLY DISMISSAL:

If the weather causes ISAAC to close early, dismissal will be determined by the Executive Director and an announcement will be made on the local television stations as well as through SchoolMessenger and ParentSquare.

DELAYED OPENING:

If the weather causes ISAAC to have a delayed opening, there will be a 2 hour delay; school will begin at 10:00 a.m. and an announcement will be made on the local television stations as well as through SchoolMessenger and ParentSquare.

You may also listen to local radio announcements or local TV news for your local school district's announcements. Your local district's decision may differ from ISAAC's closings or delay. For example, if your local district decides to cancel school and ISAAC is still open, you may choose to drive your child to the school, as there will be no transportation provided by your district. If a student does not attend ISAAC when their local district is closed, it will be marked as a EXCUSED absence. As with any absence, the student is responsible for any missed work or assignments. The same is true when the delayed opening times are different.

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.

TRANSPORTATION

Under current charter school law, transportation to ISAAC is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) or of the home school district if it chooses to provide transportation. Students or parents should contact their local superintendent's office to obtain information on transportation procedures.

Students are reminded that flagrant disobedience, misconduct or jeopardizing transportation safety can result in disciplinary action up to, and including suspension, temporary removal of students from school transportation to and from ISAAC or participating in ISAAC field trips.

Bus and/or Van Conduct

School transportation privileges are extended to students conditional upon their satisfactory behavior on the bus and/or van. 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.

Visitors

All visitors must sign in immediately at the school office before proceeding to other areas of the school or school grounds. Parents or other visitors desiring a meeting with school staff must arrange an appointment in advance. Students are not allowed to bring visitors to school, except for school purposes and with prior authorization from the school administration. Visitor access is allowed unless the visit is not in the best interest of students, staff, or the school district as determined by administration. **Student visitors and alumni are not permitted during school hours.** Parents/guardians of students who are potential applicants must contact the guidance office to schedule an appointment.

Motorized Transportation

Battery powered scooters, bikes, or other electronic forms of transportation are prohibited from ISAAC. Unlike traditional transport, powered devices carry high-density lithium-ion battery packs. Uncertified, damaged, or improperly handled batteries can experience "thermal runaway" – a runaway chemical reaction that can cause sudden, high-intensity fires and release toxic gases.

Restricting motorized devices from the ISAAC campus prevents these unstable battery packs from entering the school building, classrooms, or other storage structures.

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 .

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 assistant principal, Mrs. DePino-Wallig at mdepino @isaacschool.org who is the McKinney-Vento liaison.

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, 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. (ISAAC 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. 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, blankets, 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 Assistant 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. (ISAAC 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. (ISAAC 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, Google suite, 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 ISAAC 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 the approval of the Executive Director.

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 ISAAC Policy #5114

XXVII. TOYS AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS:

Students are not permitted to bring toys and/or personal belongings. This includes, but is not limited to fidgets, stuffed animals, Matchbox cars, action figures, diaries, personal drawing books, slime and silly putty, Lego's, and trading cards.

XXVIII. 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.

XXIX. 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

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