

Dixon Montessori Charter School

355 North Almond Street, Dixon CA 95620

707-678-8953 707-676-5215/fax

Student Handbook

2021 - 2022

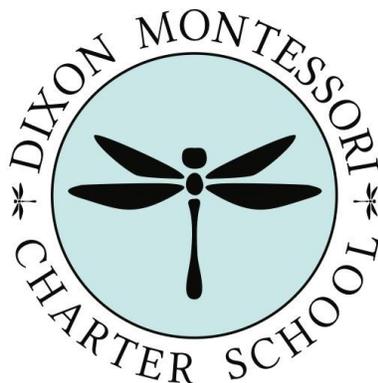


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GENERAL INFORMATION

Mission Statement

Dixon Montessori Charter School ("DMCS," "School," or "Charter School") emphasizes academic excellence and discovery within an environment that nurtures each student to achieve their individual greatest potential. DMCS' mission is to emphasize academic excellence and discovery within an environment that nurtures each student to achieve their individual greatest potential

Vision Statement

Confident in their individual strengths and skills and with a passion for exploration, DMCS students enthusiastically strive to be their best and positively impact the world around them.

Goals and Objectives

Maria Montessori said, "There is a part of a child's soul that has always been unknown but which must be known. With a spirit of sacrifice and enthusiasm we must go in search, like those who travel to foreign lands and tear up mountains in their search for hidden gold."

It is in that spirit of sacrifice and enthusiasm that families in the Dixon community created DMCS. Our guiding principles are basic and profound. The DMCS learning community agrees to:

Keep school choice affordable. Dixon is a community of contrast. As a growing semi-rural area located on the I-80 corridor, Dixon is home to a significant population of migrant farm workers as well as an increasing number of relatively affluent individuals who commute to work in the Bay Area and Sacramento. The demand for housing in Dixon is high and homes are expensive; yet some of the schools in the Dixon Unified School District ("District") have a free and reduced lunch population of more than 70%.

DMCS is rooted in the principle that all children are entitled to excellent public and tuition free educational options without regard to family income. DMCS was created as an alternative to both private schools and traditional public schools. DMCS is a vehicle to turn parent involvement, hard work and community support into a first-class educational option for Dixon families.

Encourage parent participation. DMCS promotes family interaction and parent participation in school. As parents, we are our children's first teachers and this connection should not end when our children enter kindergarten. Each DMCS family is encouraged to volunteer at least twenty (20) hours every year working in the classroom, on the facility, in the garden, on fundraisers, special events or other activities, though it is not required. Volunteering is optional and no student will be adversely impacted for their parents' lack of participation. Parents agree to limit the amount of television children watch at home, to help with homework, to promote a healthy lifestyle and to encourage the whole family to become life-long learners. Parents are also encouraged to participate in the Charter School Advisory Committee and monthly board meetings.

Meet or exceed California common core state standards. Like other public schools, DMCS is required to meet or exceed the academic standards set by the state of California. Parents can access these standards at www.cde.ca.gov.

At DMCS, student progress is monitored with regard to state standards, but students are encouraged to meet those standards individually. All students have different interests and strengths, and each learns at a different pace. Teachers at DMCS work with each child individually to ensure that they meet or exceed State standards. In addition, students who are academically advanced will always be encouraged to work on more challenging material despite grade level.

Children teach themselves. This simple but profound truth inspired Dr. Montessori's lifelong pursuit of educational reform, methodology, psychology, teaching, and teacher training -- all based on her dedication to furthering the self-creating process of the child. In the classroom, the teacher's job is to direct the child toward materials that will satisfy his/her developmental needs.

Promote peace. A global education, an understanding of cultures and communities different from our own, a respect for our environment and an appreciation of nature are tools used to promote tolerance.

Through the Montessori Method, we educate the whole child. Montessori education appeals to children and adults alike by offering many opportunities to explore and embrace the world around us. Through friendships and an understanding of other cultures, students at DMCS learn to appreciate differences and work toward unity and peace.

Inspire lifelong learners. At DMCS, our teachers, parents and members of the local community as well as our students are encouraged to become lifelong learners. Modeling a willingness to learn inspires our students and our children's love of learning inspires our own enrichment. DMCS is a place where learning is shared and enjoyed. From scientific experiments, to art projects, to drama and music, family members work with teachers to expand their own capacity for exploration while encouraging children to do the same.

"It is true we cannot make a genius," Dr. Montessori wrote. "We can only give each individual the chance to fulfill his potential to become an independent, secure and balanced human being."

Staff List

Administration and Office Staff

Administration and Office Staff

Ben Ernest	Executive Director
Lakshmi Aradhya	Dean of Students
Leticia Mendez	Business Services Administrator
Mary Whitford	Student Services Administrator
Angela Miller	Academic Services Administrator
Chris Wolf	Director of Technology
Tami Anderson	Office Manager
Maribel Valadez	Office Assistant
Wendy Guzman	School Nurse

TK/Kindergarten/First Grade

Amy Vallier Biscardi	Teacher
Robin Ferguson	Teacher
Allison Ruanto	Teacher
Valerie Andrews	Teacher
Heather Carson	Teacher

Second/Third Grade

Melissa Moore (Combo)	Teacher
Nikki Moslehi (Combo)	Teacher
Linh Huynh (3rd Grade)	Teacher
Stacey Listiak (2nd Grade)	Teacher

Fourth/Fifth/Sixth Grade

Mara Boggess	Teacher
Lara Perfecto	Teacher
David Ladd	Teacher
Kristin Mauro	Teacher
Hana Zarea	Teacher
Autumn Ernest	Teacher

Middle School

Wendy Hagmann	Teacher
Jessica Angulo	Teacher
Jennifer Stanley	Teacher
Sibylla Bricka	Teacher

Electives

Jamie Myers	Music/Band
Ryan Riemer	P.E. 1st-8th
Cameron Jones	2-6 th Science

ELD

Angela Miller	EL Specialist
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Special Education

Mary Whitford	Student Services Administrator
Kimberly Kincaid	Ed. Specialist 1- Resource Teacher
Kayla Bruce	Ed. Specialist 1- Resource Teacher
April Mae Bartelme	Speech and Language Pathologist
Brooke Mello	School Psychologist
Sara Walker	Classroom Paraprofessional (.75)
Melissa Letterman	Paraprofessional
Ceci Gutierrez	1:1 Paraprofessional
Allison Hietbrink	1:1 Paraprofessional

Response to Intervention

Sandra Sanchez	Reading Support
George Pagulayan	Math Support
Heidi Hefner	TOSA- Reading Coach

Paraprofessionals

Sara Rico	TK Paraprofessional
Silvia Villegas	K-1 Paraprofessional
Brenda Musta	K-1 Paraprofessional
Kristine Gomez	2-3 Paraprofessional
Walter Lewis	4-8 Paraprofessional and Sub

Extended Day Program

Lushawn Andrade	Extended Day Coordinator, Lunch Assistant
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Site Beautification Team

Patricia Sanchez	Lead Custodian
Joseph Altieri	Site Custodian

DMCS 21-22 Bell Schedule

Grades: Transitional Kindergarten

Monday-Friday

School in Session	8:05 AM
Recess	9:45 AM
Release Bell	11:30 AM *TK students are not eligible for take home lunches

Grades: Kindergarten-1

Monday- Thursday

School in Session	8:05 AM
Morning Recess	9:25 AM
Recess/Lunch	11:05 AM-11:55 AM *11:05 Lunch/11:30 Recess
Release Bell	2:30 PM

Grades: 2 - 3

Monday- Thursday

School in Session	8:05 AM
Morning Recess	9:35 AM
Recess/Lunch	11:35 AM-12:20 PM *11:35 Lunch/12:00 Recess
Release Bell	2:30 PM

Grades: 4-6

Monday- Thursday

School in Session	8:05 AM
Morning Recess	9:45 AM
Recess/Lunch	12:00 PM-12:45 PM *12:00 Lunch/12:25 Recess
Release Bell	3:05 PM

Grades: 7-8

Monday- Thursday

School in Session	8:05 AM
Recess/Lunch	12:25 PM-1:05 PM *12:25 Lunch/12:45 Recess
Release Bell	3:05 PM

All Grades: K-8

Friday: (No lunch recess)

School in Session	Grades K-8	8:05 AM
Release Bell	TK:	11:30 AM
	Grades K-8	12:15 PM

Minimum Days: (No lunch recess)

School in Session	Grades TK-8	8:05 AM
Release Bell	TK:	11:30 AM
	Grades K-8	12:15 PM

Dixon Montessori Charter School 2021/2022 School Calendar



July 2021							August 2021							September 2021							October 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3		1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4						1	2	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
																					31						
													16							21							19

November 2021							December 2021							January 2022							February 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3	4						1			1	2	3	4	5		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28					
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						16						13						19							17		

March 2022							April 2022							May 2022							June 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		
						19						16						19							17		

August	First Day of School 8/11 - 12:15 Release		
September	Labor Day 9/6		
October	Local Holiday 10/11	Teacher Work Day 10/29 - No School	
November	Conferences 11/1 - 11/5	Veterans Day 11/11	Thanksgiving Break 11/22 - 11/26
December	Winter Break 12/20 - 12/31		
January	Teacher PD Day 1/3 - No School	MLK 1/17	
February	Teacher Work Day 2/11 - No School	Conferences 2/14 - 2/18	Presidents Day 2/21 Ski Week 2/22-2/25
March			
April	Spring Break 4/4 - 4/8		
May	Teacher PD Day (May Fair Friday) 5/6 No School	Last Day of School 5/27 12:15 Release	Memorial Day 5/30
SCHOOL DAYS ARE SHADED			
MINIMUM DAYS			
*** ALL FRIDAYS ARE EARLY RELEASE DAYS - 12:15 DISMISSAL ***			
Trimesters	1st Trimester 8/11 - 10/28	2nd Trimester 11/1 - 2/10	3rd Trimester 2/14 - 5/27

Communication with our School

Calling the School – 707-678-8953. Please call to report any student tardy or absence before 9:00 am. The office is open from 7:30 am - 4:00 pm daily.

Calling to Leave Messages for Students – No phone calls are put through to classrooms. Please make arrangements for carpools, appointments and after school care before your child comes to school. Teachers are assigned duty during lunch recess, so messages may not be received before students are released. However, you may call the office to leave a message for your child **in an emergency**.

Calling to Pick Up a Student Early – Please call **no more** than fifteen (15) minutes before your arrival to pick up your student. The office will then call to have the student waiting in the office for you. Sending a note to the teacher on the morning your child will leave early is also recommended.

Calling Home by Students – Students will only be allowed to call home if office staff deems it necessary to call home, or if requested by the teacher using the phone within the main office.

Communication to Families Through the Listserv – Please follow the steps below so you can receive all school news as it happens, including safety updates and the newsletter:

- 1) Visit the Dixon Montessori web page at www.dixonmontessori.org
- 2) Scroll down, in the right column, click on "Subscribe today!" to subscribe to the School Newsletter
- 3) Fill in needed information.
- 4) Please make sure that you check for news@dixonmontessori.org in your SPAM folder.

DMCS Governing Board: The Governing Board sets the overall policy for the School. In addition, Board members along with staff are responsible for creating a school budget. Issues of concern regarding school-site or classroom activities must first be discussed with teachers, and if necessary, the Executive Director. If the issue is not resolved after those discussions, the issue may then be put on the agenda and brought to the Governing Board for resolution. Parents are encouraged to attend board meetings on a regular basis.

Garden: Children will be encouraged to work in classroom gardens, to plant, to water, and harvest their "crops." From time to time children may come home a little dirtier than usual – at DMCS gardening is considered hands-on science. Parents are encouraged to assist in the garden on weekends or evenings as well as during the school day.

Recycling Program: Montessori education emphasizes the importance of serving as stewards of the earth. In our school community, we encourage recycling and provide bins for cans, glass and paper. Families are encouraged to recycle their home-generated items on their own at the recycle center on C Street in Dixon.

Nondiscrimination Statement

DMCS does not discriminate against any person on the basis of actual or perceived disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, immigration status, religion, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, pregnancy or any other characteristic that is contained in the definition of hate crimes in the California Penal Code.

DMCS adheres to all provisions of federal law related to students with disabilities, including, but not limited to, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 ("IDEIA").

DMCS does not discourage students from enrolling or seeking to enroll in DMCS for any reason, including, but not limited to, academic performance, disability, neglect or delinquency, English proficiency, for being homeless or a foster/mobile youth, economic disadvantage, nationality, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. DMCS shall not encourage a student currently attending DMCS to disenroll or transfer to another school based on any of the aforementioned reasons except in cases of expulsion and suspension or involuntary removal in accordance with DMCS' charter and relevant policies.

DMCS does not request nor require student records prior to a student's enrollment.

DMCS shall provide a copy of the California Department of Education Complaint Notice and Form to any parent, guardian, or student over the age of 18 at the following times: (1) when a parent, guardian, or student over of the age of 18 inquires about enrollment; (2) before conducting an enrollment lottery; and (3) before disenrollment of a student.

DMCS is committed to providing a work and educational atmosphere that is free of unlawful harassment under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex); Titles IV, VI, and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race, color, or national origin); The Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the IDEIA; and Section 504 and Title II of the ADA (mental or physical disability). DMCS also prohibits sexual harassment, including cyber sexual bullying, and harassment based upon pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, race, religion, religious affiliation, creed, color, immigration status, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin or ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, marital status, age, sexual orientation, or any other basis protected by federal, state, local law, ordinance or regulation.

DMCS does not condone or tolerate harassment of any type, including discrimination, intimidation, or bullying, including cyber sexual bullying, by any employee, independent contractor or other person with which DMCS does business, or any other individual, student, or volunteer. This applies to all employees, students, or volunteers and relationships, regardless of position or gender. DMCS will promptly and thoroughly investigate any complaint of harassment and take appropriate corrective action, if warranted. Inquiries, complaints, or grievances regarding harassment as described in this section, above, should be directed to the DMCS Uniform Complaint Procedures ("UCP") Compliance Officer:

Mr. Ben Ernest
Executive Director
Dixon Montessori Charter School
355 North Almond Street
Dixon, CA 95620
Telephone: (707) 678-8953

The lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission or participation in Charter School's programs or activities. Charter School prohibits retaliation against anyone who files a complaint or who participates or refuses to participate in a complaint investigation.

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The Charter School aims to provide all students in our school significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps while abiding by guidelines within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act ("ESEA"). The Charter School staff recognizes a partnership with families is essential to meet this goal. Our Parent and Family Engagement Policy leverages and promotes active involvement of all families as partners with schools to ensure student success.

Board Policy #: BP 6020
Adopted/Ratified: June 15th, 2021

DIXON MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL **PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

The Governing Board of Dixon Montessori Charter School ("DMCS" or the "Charter School") recognizes that parents/guardians are their children's first and most influential teachers and that sustained parent/guardian involvement in the education of their children contributes greatly to student achievement and a positive school environment. The Executive Director or designee shall work with parents/guardians and family members to jointly develop and agree upon policy and strategies to meaningfully involve parents/guardians and family members in school activities at all grade levels; advisory, decision-making, and advocacy roles; and activities to support learning at home. DMCS will make this Policy available in the school office and on our school website. Furthermore, Dixon Montessori Charter School shall follow Administrative Regulations outlined in Board adopted *AR 6020*.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

Kindergarten through 6th grade:

Allow children to learn at their own pace. As parents and professionals involved in the development of California's education reforms, DMCS well recognizes the importance of a coherent instructional program that provides students every opportunity to succeed -- as defined through our state's academic content standards and through the daily experience, knowledge, and skills each person needs to succeed in life.

DMCS promotes strongly the belief that student success can and will be achieved best when students are motivated to learn, have family support, and have the teachers and community structures that facilitate learning; in this context students learn best at their own pace.

Through small class instruction, peer interaction and a rich academic environment, teachers at DMCS encourage a love of learning and allow all children to thrive. Montessori materials are interactive and allow students to participate in hands-on instruction.

Every child's academic journey is unique and Montessori teachers serve to guide each child's individual expedition. Learning best occurs in the student population when children are encouraged and motivated by their own success. If a child is having difficulty mastering a project or "job," the teacher might first consider whether the job was taught properly and absorbed by the student, or whether another presentation of the material might allow a child to grasp the concepts presented. Peer interaction plays a large role as the child teaches or learns a job from another child. The innate desire to assist others in the school community is fostered in a Montessori environment.

"A child's work," wrote Maria Montessori "is to create the man he will become. An adult works to perfect the environment, but a child works to perfect himself." So, Dr. Montessori, an engineer, physician, and educator developed an approach to education that would aid the child in his or her work.

The Montessori Method based on careful observation of and respect for the natural development of the child, has been used in schools around the world for over 100 years. Dr. Montessori's scientific observations of children's almost effortless ability to absorb knowledge

from their surroundings, as well as their tireless interest in manipulating materials led her to develop her educational method.

At DMCS we blend the Montessori Method with the most current teaching strategies and state standards, to provide each child with the best education.

Middle School Program (7th and 8th grades)

How is the Middle School Program different from K-6th grades? While the DMCS middle school program maintains the personalized, supportive Montessori atmosphere found in grades K-6, it increases the challenge and expectations in academics, community and access to 21st century skills. Also, Middle School provides comprehensive instruction in the specific core standards and offers project-based learning strategies to prepare students for the rigors of high school.

Why will instruction transition from Montessori to project-based learning in the Middle School program? DMCS seeks to create lifelong learners. The beauty of natural curiosity found in the Montessori approach is complemented and extended through inquiry and project development in middle school. We feel that an instructional program featuring project-based learning provides a modern skill set based on problem solving and critical thinking; a natural transition for DMCS students. This strategy fosters independent investigation, deep community connections, and opportunities for development of essential academic skills and habits of mind.

What is project-based learning? In project-based learning, teaching and learning are organized around in-depth examinations of real-world problems and issues. Students follow a rigorous learning cycle that includes problem formulation, research, interpretation, and communication. While fully enveloped in this endeavor students learn to create high-quality products and presentations that demonstrate their content and skill mastery.

State Testing

DMCS shall annually administer required state testing to the applicable grades (e.g., the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress [CAASPP].) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a parent's or guardian's written request to DMCS officials to excuse his or her child from any or all parts of the CAASPP shall be granted. Upon request, parents have a right to information on the level of achievement of their student on every State academic assessment administered to the student.

Animal Dissections

Students at DMCS may perform animal dissections as part of the science curriculum. Any pupil who provides his or her teacher with a written statement, signed by their parent/guardian, specifying the pupil's moral objection to dissecting or otherwise harming or destroying animals, or any parts thereof, may be excused from such activities if the teacher believes that an adequate alternative education project is possible. The alternative education project shall require a comparable time and effort investment by the pupil. It shall not, as a means of penalizing the pupil, be more arduous than the original education project. The pupil shall not be discriminated against based upon their moral objection to dissecting or otherwise harming or destroying animals, or any parts thereof.

California Healthy Kids Survey

DMCS will administer the California Healthy Kids Survey ("CHKS") to students at grades five and seven whose parents or guardians provide written permission. The CHKS is an anonymous, confidential survey of school climate and safety, student wellness, and youth resiliency that enables DMCS to collect and analyze data regarding local youth health risks and behaviors, school connectedness, school climate, protective factors, and school violence.

English Learners

DMCS is committed to the success of its English Learners and support will be offered both within academic classes and in supplemental settings for students who need additional support for English language learning. DMCS will meet all applicable legal requirements for English Learners as they pertain to annual notification to parents, student identification, placement, program options, English Learners and core content instruction, teacher qualifications and training, reclassification to fluent English proficient status, monitoring and evaluating program effectiveness, and standardized testing requirements. DMCS will implement policies to assure proper placement, evaluation, and communication regarding English Learners and the rights of students and parents.

Sexual Health Education

DMCS offers comprehensive sexual health education to its students in grades 7-8. A parent or guardian of a student has the right to excuse their child from all or part of comprehensive sexual health education, HIV prevention education, and assessments related to that education through a passive consent ("opt-out") process. DMCS does not require active parental consent ("opt-in") for comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education. Parents and guardians may:

- Inspect written and audiovisual educational materials used in comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education.

- Excuse their child from participation comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education in writing to DMCS.
- Be informed whether the comprehensive sexual health or HIV/AIDS prevention education will be taught by DMCS personnel or outside consultants. When DMCS chooses to use outside consultants or to hold an assembly with guest speakers to teach comprehensive sexual health or HIV/AIDS prevention education, be informed of:
 - The date of the instruction
 - The name of the organization or affiliation of each guest speaker
- Request a copy of Education Code sections 51930 through 51939.

Anonymous, voluntary, and confidential research and evaluation tools to measure student's health behaviors and risks (including tests, questionnaires, and surveys containing age-appropriate questions about the student's attitudes concerning or practices relating to sex) may be administered to students in grades 7-8. A parent or guardian has the right to excuse their child from the test, questionnaire, or survey through a passive consent ("opt-out") process. Parents or guardians shall be notified in writing that this test, questionnaire, or survey is to be administered, given the opportunity to review the test, questionnaire, or survey if they wish, notified of their right to excuse their child from the test, questionnaire, or survey, and informed that in order to excuse their child they must state their request in writing to DMCS.

A student may not attend any class in comprehensive sexual health education or HIV prevention education, or participate in any anonymous, voluntary, and confidential test, questionnaire, or survey on student health behaviors and risks, if DMCS has received a written request from the student's parent or guardian excusing the student from participation. An alternative educational activity shall be made available to students whose parents or guardians have requested that they not receive the instruction or participate in the test, questionnaire, or survey.

Surveys About Personal Beliefs

Unless the student's parent/guardian gives written permission, a student will not be given any test, questionnaire, survey, or examination containing any questions about the student's, or his/her parents' or guardians' personal beliefs or practices in sex, family life, morality, or religion.

Teacher Qualification Information

All parents or guardians may request information regarding the professional qualifications of classroom teachers and/or paraprofessionals.

Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences will be conducted twice per year. For the 2021-2022 school year, your student's teacher will contact you to set a time to meet and review your child's academic progress. These conferences are very important to your child's academic success and it is expected that parents or guardians will attend both scheduled conferences.

All conference days are minimum school days. Students must be picked up no later than 12:15 pm.

SCHOOL OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES

Arrival and Dismissal

Students may not arrive at school before **7:45 am**, as supervision is not provided until that time. Please help us keep your children safe by making sure your children arrive to school and leave from school at the proper time. The school day begins promptly at **8:05 am** for ALL TK-6th grade students. The school day begins promptly at **8:30 am** for ALL 7th-8th grade students. We recommend having your child at school, ready to learn, no later than 8:00 am or 8:25 am, respectively.

Students arriving late will be sent to the office and given a tardy slip before continuing to class. Students arriving between 1-29 minutes late will be marked Tardy, students arriving more than 30 minutes late will be marked Tardy Truant and will be marked as a Truancy on the student's attendance record (unless accompanied by a note for an excused absence).

- TK students are released at 11:15 am Monday through Friday.
- **Kinder-3rd grade** students are released at 2:30 pm Monday through Thursday.
- **4th-8th grade** students are released at 3:05 pm Monday through Thursday.
- On **Friday Kinder-8th grade** students are released at 12:15 pm.

DROP OFF & PICK UP IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE BUS ZONE DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL. This area is for daycare vans, Readi-ride, and drop-off/pick-up for students and parents/guardians with disabilities only.

Students may be dropped off or picked up in the drop off/pick up areas located on Almond Street and the South side of the Parking lot. Traffic is to continue flowing at all times. Cross walk guards will be on duty for students to be dropped off or picked up on the North and South sides of the school on Almond Street. Parent and visitor parking is allowed in the first row and last row of the parking lot. All parking under the solar panels is reserved for staff. This allows for a safe and efficient flow of traffic during all hours of the school day. Please review the school map on our website, <http://www.dixonmontessori.org/school-map.html>, under the "Our School" section.

Parents wishing a student to be released early from class must come to the office to sign their child out. Students are not allowed to leave the school grounds during school hours unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian. Children will only be released to an adult eighteen (18) years or older, listed on the emergency card.

Students should know who will pick them up after school and the designated person must arrive no later than the release bell. TK-1st grade students must be picked up by an adult outside of the student's classroom. Students 2nd grade and above are released from class at the end of the school day and are allowed to walk or ride a bike home without an adult. Use of the office phone after school is limited to emergency situations.

A staff member will be on hand to greet each student between 7:45 am and 8:05 am. The instructional day will begin at 8:05 am for TK-6th grade students and at 8:30 am for 7th-8th grade students. Please see the bell schedule in this Handbook.

Students who ride a bike to school should enter at the South side gate & walk their bike to the bike racks. Bike riders must walk their bikes while on campus & in all crosswalks. Bikes should be locked to the bike rack. DMCS is not responsible for damaged or stolen bicycles.

Students need to be picked up promptly at their release time. Students not picked up within fifteen (15) minutes of their release time will be taken to the after school program and parents may be charged for attendance in this program for the day. For children that are repetitively left at school past the drop off time, the School may contact members listed on the emergency contact list, contact child protective services and/or the police, schedule a meeting with parents to discuss attendance, and/or work with families to set up an attendance contract.

Absences & Truancy

There is a high positive correlation to excellent school attendance and academic achievement. Students need to be at school whenever possible. DMCS supports student achievement by spending the majority of its financial resources on staffing the school with a very low student to teacher ratio. This allows each child to receive more individualized attention and it allows us to individualize learning more effectively for all of our children.

In many cases, absences from school are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. However, chronic absenteeism can have a drastic impact on your child's education. Children chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade are much less likely to learn to read by the end of third grade. By sixth grade, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign of school drop-out. By ninth grade, good attendance can predict graduation even better than eighth-grade test scores. Clearly, going to school regularly matters!

Appointments and vacations need to be scheduled outside of school time whenever possible. An independent study option may be used for absences of three (3) or more school days, otherwise only keep your children home on those days when they are too ill to attend school.

In California, people between the ages of 6 and 18 are subject to full-time education. DMCS is required by law to keep a record of all student absences and truancy. The following absences are excused by the State of California and the DMCS Attendance Policy:

- (1) Student illness;
- (2) Quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer;
- (3) dental, medical, optometric, or chiropractic visits;
 - o Students in grades 7-8, inclusive, may be excused from school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without the consent of the student's parent or guardian.
- (4) attendance at funeral services for a member of the immediate family;
 - o Excused absence in this instance shall be limited to one (1) day if the service is conducted in California or three (3) days if the service is conducted out of state.
 - o "Immediate family" shall be defined as parent or guardian, grandparent, spouse, son/son-in-law, daughter/daughter-in-law, brother, sister or any other relative living in the student's household.
- (5) Participation in religious instruction or exercises in accordance with DMCS policy;
 - o The student shall be excused for this purpose on no more than four (4) school days per month.
- (6) for certain other justifiable personal reasons as noted within DMCS' complete Attendance Policy;
- (7) For the purposes of jury duty in the manner provided for by law;
- (8) Due to the illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child of whom the student is the custodial parent, including absences to care for a sick child (the school does not require a note from the doctor for this excusal);
- (9) To permit the student to spend time with an immediate family who is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined in Education Code Section 49701, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from, deployment to a combat zone or combat support position. Absences granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be granted for a period of time to be determined at the discretion of the Charter School;
- (10) For purpose of serving as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Election Code Section 12302;
- (11) Authorized parental leave for a pregnant or parenting student for up to eight (8) weeks;
- (12) Authorized at the discretion of a school administrator, based on the facts of the student's circumstances, are deemed to constitute a valid excuse.

- (13) A student who holds a work permit to work for a period of not more than five (5) consecutive days in the entertainment or allied industries shall be excused from school during the period that the student is working in the entertainment or allied industry for a maximum of up to five absences per school year subject to the requirements of Education Code Section 48225.5; and
- (14) In order to participate with a not-for-profit performing arts organization in a performance for a public-school student audience for a maximum of up to five days per school year provided the student's parent or guardian provides a written note to the school authorities explaining the reason for the student's absence.
- (15) Observation of a religious holiday or ceremony.
- (16) Attendance at the student's naturalization ceremony to become a United States citizen.
- (17) Appearance in court.
- (18) Attendance at an employment conference, or attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization upon written request by parent and approval by the Executive Director or designee pursuant to uniform standards established by the Board.

To excuse an absence, please call the school at (707) 678-8953 before 9:00 am if your child will not be in attendance for ANY reason.

Unless a student has a valid excuse pursuant to the DMCS Attendance Policy, a child is considered truant if they are absent for more than three (3) full days in one school year, or if the student is tardy or absent for more than any thirty (30) minute period during the school day without a valid excuse on three (3) occasions in one school year, or any combination thereof. Students are expected to be in class prior to 8:05 am, or 8:30 am for middle school, each morning as tardiness disrupts the learning process. Tardy students must go to the office before they enter class to get a tardy pass. Students will not be allowed to enter class without a tardy pass from the office even for a minute late.

Students shall be classified as truant if the student is absent from school without a valid excuse three full days in one school year, or if the student is tardy or absent for more than any 30-minute period during the school day without a valid excuse on three occasions in one school year, or any combination thereof. Any pupil who has once been reported as a truant and who is again absent from school without valid excuse one or more days, or tardy on one or more days, shall again be deemed a truant. Such students shall be reported to the Executive Director or designee.

In addition, students shall be classified as a chronic truant if the student is absent from school without a valid excuse for 10 percent or more of the school days in one school, from the date of enrollment to the current date.

Upon reaching six (6) unexcused absences or unexcused tardies over 30 minutes, the student will be referred to a Student Success Team ("SST") and the School Attendance Review Team ("SART"). In addition, the parent/guardian will receive a "Truancy Letter #3," and will be asked/invited to attend Parenting classes thru a local organization if available

The SART will determine whether the student should be recommended for involuntary removal from DMCS due to attendance concerns.

You can obtain a copy of DMCS's complete Attendance Policy at www.dixonmontessori.org under policies and upon request at the main office.

Involuntary Removal Process

No student shall be involuntarily removed by DMCS for any reason unless the parent or guardian of the student has been provided written notice of intent to remove the student no less than five (5) schooldays before the effective date of the action ("Involuntary Removal Notice"). The written notice shall be in the native language of the student or the student's parent or guardian or, if the student is a foster child or youth or a homeless child or youth, the student's educational rights holder. The Involuntary Removal Notice shall include the charges against the pupil and an explanation of the pupil's basic rights including the right to request a hearing before the effective date of the action. The hearing shall be consistent with the Charter School's expulsion procedures. If the student's parent, guardian, or educational rights holder requests a hearing, the student shall remain enrolled and shall not be removed until the Charter School issues a final decision. As used herein, "involuntarily removed" includes disenrolled, dismissed, transferred, or terminated, but does not include suspensions or expulsions pursuant to the Charter School's suspension and expulsion policy.

Upon parent/guardian request for a hearing, DMCS will provide notice of hearing consistent with its expulsion hearing process, through which the pupil has a fair opportunity to present testimony, evidence, and witnesses and confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, and at which the pupil has the right to bring legal counsel or an advocate. The notice of hearing shall be in the native language of the student or the student's parent or guardian or, if the student is a foster child or youth or a homeless child or youth, the student's educational rights holder and shall include a copy of DMCS' expulsion hearing process.

If the parent/guardian is nonresponsive to the Involuntary Removal Notice, the Student will be disenrolled as of the effective date set forth in the Involuntary Removal Notice. If parent/guardian requests a hearing and does not attend on the date scheduled for the hearing the Student will be disenrolled effective the date of the hearing.

If as a result of the hearing the student is disenrolled, notice will be sent to the student's last known district of residence within thirty (30) days.

A hearing decision not to disenroll the student does not prevent DMCS from making a similar recommendation in the future should student

truancy continue or re-occur.

Section 504

DMCS recognizes its legal responsibility to ensure that no qualified person with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program of DMCS. Any student who has an objectively identified disability which substantially limits a major life activity, including, but not limited to learning, is eligible for accommodations by the School. The parent of any student suspected of needing or qualifying for accommodations under Section 504 may make a referral for an evaluation to the Executive Director. A copy of DMCS's Section 504 policies and procedures is available upon request at the main office.

Special Education /Students with Disabilities

We are dedicated to the belief that all students can learn and must be guaranteed equal opportunity to become contributing members of the academic environment and society. DMCS provides special education instruction and related services in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Improvement Act ("IDEA"), Education Code requirements, and applicable policies and procedures of the SELPA. These services are available for special education students enrolled at DMCS. We offer high quality educational programs and services for all our students in accordance with the assessed needs of each student. DMCS collaborates with parents, the student, teachers, and other agencies, as may be indicated, in order to appropriately serve the educational needs of each student.

Pursuant to the IDEA and relevant state law, DMCS is responsible for identifying, locating, and evaluating children enrolled at DMCS with known or suspected disabilities to determine whether a need for special education and related services exists. This includes children with disabilities who are homeless or foster youth. DMCS shall not deny nor discourage any student from enrollment solely due to a disability. If you believe your child may be eligible for special education services, please contact the Special Education Department via the main office.

Education for Homeless Children and Youth

The term "homeless children and youth" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence due to economic hardship. It includes children and youths who:

1. Are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
2. Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings;
3. Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and/or
4. Migratory children and unaccompanied youth (youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) may be considered homeless if they meet the above definition of "homeless."

Homeless status is determined in cooperation with the parent or guardian. In the case of unaccompanied youth, status is determined by the School Liaison.

School Liaison: The Executive Director or designee designates the following staff person as the School Liaison for homeless students:

Lakshmi Aradhya
Dean of Students
Dixon Montessori Charter School
355 North Almond Street
Dixon, CA 95620
Telephone: (707) 678-8953

The School Liaison shall ensure that:

1. Homeless students are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies.
2. Homeless students enroll in and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed at DMCS.
3. Homeless students and families receive educational services for which they are eligible, including services through Head Start programs (including Early Head Start programs) under the Head Start Act, early intervention services under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, any other preschool programs administered by DMCS, if any, and referrals to health

care services, dental services, mental health services and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services.

4. Parents/guardians are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.
5. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children is disseminated at places frequented by parents or guardians of such youths, and unaccompanied youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, and in a manner and form understandable to the parents and guardians of homeless youth and unaccompanied youth.
6. Enrollment/admissions disputes are mediated in accordance with law, DMCS charter, and Board policy.
7. Parents/guardians and any unaccompanied youth are fully informed of all transportation services, as applicable.
8. School personnel providing services receive professional development and other support.
9. The School Liaison collaborates with State coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless children and youths.
10. Unaccompanied youth are enrolled in school; have opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards as the State establishes for other children and youth; and are informed of their status as independent students under section 480 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and that the youths may obtain assistance from the School Liaison to receive verification of such status for the purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid described in section 483 of the Act.

The California Department of Education publishes a list of the contact information for the Homeless Education Liaisons in the state, which is available at: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/>

Acceptance of Course Work: DMCS will accept any coursework satisfactorily completed at any public school, a juvenile court school, a school in a country other than the United States, and/or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency by a homeless student.

DMCS will provide homeless students credit for the partial completion of courses taken while attending a public school, a juvenile court school, a school in a country other than the United States, and/or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency. If the student did not complete the entire course, DMCS shall not require the student to retake the portion of the course the student completed unless DMCS, in consultation with the holder of educational rights for the student, finds that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate from high school. When partial credit is awarded in a particular course, the homeless student shall be enrolled in the same or equivalent course, if applicable, so that the student may continue and complete the entire course. These students shall not be prevented from taking or retaking a course to meet California State University or the University of California admission eligibility requirements.

For any homeless student who enrolls at DMCS, a copy of DMCS' complete policy shall be provided at the time of enrollment. A copy of the complete Policy is available upon request at the main office.

Education of Foster and Mobile Youth

Definitions: For the purposes of this annual notice the terms are defined as follows:

1. "Foster youth" refers to any child who has been removed from their home pursuant Welfare and Institutions Code section 309 and/or is the subject of a petition filed under Welfare and Institutions Code section 300 or 602. This includes children who are the subject of cases in dependency court and juvenile justice court.
2. "Former juvenile court school pupils" refers to a student who, upon completion of the student's second year of high school, transfers from a juvenile court school to the Charter School.
3. "Child of a military family" refers to a student who resides in the household of an active duty military member.
4. "Currently Migratory Child" refers to a child who, within the last 12-months, has moved with a parent, guardian, or other person having custody to the Charter School from another Local Educational Agency ("LEA"), either within California or from another state, in order that the child or a member of the child's immediate family might secure temporary or seasonal employment in an agricultural or fishing activity, and whose parents or guardians have been informed of the child's eligibility for migrant education services. "Currently Migratory Child" includes a child who, without the parent/guardian, has continued to migrate annually to secure temporary or seasonal employment in an agricultural or fishing activity.
5. "Pupil participating in a newcomer program" means a pupil who is participating in a program designed to meet the academic and transitional needs of newly arrived immigrant pupils that has as a primary objective the development of English language proficiency.

Within this notice, foster youth, former juvenile court school pupils, a child of a military family, a currently migratory child, and a pupil participating in the newcomer program will be collectively referred to as "Foster and Mobile Youth." Within this notice, a parent, guardian, or other person holding the educational rights for a Foster and Mobile Youth will be referred to as a "parent."

Foster and Mobile Youth Liaison: The Executive Director or designee designates the following staff person as the Liaison for Foster and Mobile Youth:

Lakshmi Aradhya
Dean of Students
Dixon Montessori Charter School
355 North Almond Street
Dixon, CA 95620
Telephone: (707) 678-8953

The Foster and Mobile Youth Liaison's responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

1. Ensuring and facilitating the proper educational placement, enrollment in school, and checkout from school of foster children.
2. Assisting foster children when transferring from one school to another school in ensuring proper transfer of credits, records and grades.

School Stability: The Charter School will work with foster youth and their parent to ensure that each pupil is placed in the least restrictive educational programs, and has access to the academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all pupils, including, but not necessarily limited to, interscholastic sports. All decisions regarding a foster youth's education and placement will be based on the best interest of the child and shall consider, among other factors, educational stability and the opportunity to be educated in the least restrictive educational setting necessary to achieve academic progress.

Foster youth, currently migratory children and children of military families have the right to remain in their school of origin if it is their best interest. The Charter School will immediately enroll a foster youth, currently migratory child or child of a military family seeking reenrollment in the Charter School as the student's school of origin (subject to the Charter School's capacity and pursuant to the procedures stated in the Charter School's charter and Board policy). If a dispute arises regarding a foster youth's request to remain in the Charter School as the school of origin, the foster youth has the right to remain in the Charter School pending the resolution of the dispute. The Charter School will also immediately enroll any foster youth, currently migratory child or child of a military family seeking to transfer to the Charter School (subject to the Charter School's capacity and pursuant to the procedures stated in the Charter School's charter and Board policy) regardless of the student's ability to meet normal enrollment documentation or uniform requirements (e.g. producing medical records or academic records from a previous school).

Foster youth, currently migratory children, and children of military families have the right to remain in their school of origin following the termination of the child's status as a foster youth, currently migratory child or child of a military family, as follows:

1. For students in Kindergarten through eighth grade, inclusive, the student will be allowed to continue in the school of origin through the duration of the academic year in which the student's status changed.
2. For students enrolled in high school, the student will be allowed to continue in the school of origin through graduation.

Acceptance of Course Work: The Charter School will accept any coursework satisfactorily completed at any public school, a juvenile court school, a school in a country other than the United States, and/or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency by a Foster and Mobile Youth.

The Charter School will provide Foster and Mobile Youth credit for the partial completion of courses taken while attending a public school, a juvenile court school, a school in a country other than the United States, and/or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency. If the student did not complete the entire course, the Charter School shall not require the student to retake the portion of the course the student completed unless the Charter School, in consultation with the holder of educational rights for the student, finds that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate from high school. When partial credit is awarded in a particular course, the Foster and Mobile Youth shall be enrolled in the same or equivalent course, if applicable, so that the student may continue and complete the entire course. These students shall not be prevented from taking or retaking a course to meet California State University or the University of California admission eligibility requirements.

Student Records: When the Charter School receives a transfer request and/or student records request for the educational information and records of a foster youth from a new local educational agency ("LEA"), the Charter School shall provide these student records within two (2) business days. The Charter School shall compile the complete educational record of the pupil, including but not limited to a determination of seat time, full or partial credits earned, current classes and grades, immunization and other records, and, if applicable, a copy of the pupil's special education records including assessments, IEPs, and/or 504 plans. All requests for student records will be shared with the Foster and Mobile Youth Liaison, who shall be aware of the specific educational record keeping needs of Foster and Mobile Youth.

The Charter School shall not lower a foster youth's grades as a result of the student's absence due to a verified court appearance, related court ordered activity, or a change the placement of the student made by a county or placing agency. If a foster youth is absent from school due to a decision to change the placement of the student made by a county or placing agency, the grades and credits of the pupil will be calculated as of the date the student left the Charter School.

In accordance with the Charter School’s educational records and student information policy, under limited circumstances, the Charter School may disclose student records or personally identifiable information contained in those records to certain requesting parties including but not limited to a foster family agency and state and local authorities within a juvenile justice system, without parental consent.

Discipline Determinations: If the Charter School intends to extend the suspension of any foster/ youth pending a recommendation for expulsion, the Charter School will invite the student’s attorney and an appropriate representative from the relevant county agency to participate in the meeting at which the extension of the suspension will be discussed.

If the Charter School intends to suspend for more than ten (10) consecutive school days or expel a student with a disability who is also a foster youth due to an act for which the recommendation for expulsion is discretionary, the Charter School will invite the student’s attorney and an appropriate representative from the relevant county agency to participate in the Manifestation Determination Review meeting.

Complaints of Noncompliance: A complaint of noncompliance with any of the requirements outlined above may be filed through the Charter School’s Uniform Complaint Procedures. A copy of the Uniform Complaint Policy and Procedures is available upon request at the main office.

Availability of Complete Policy: For any Foster and Mobile Youth who enrolls at the Charter School, a copy of the Charter School’s complete foster youth policy shall be provided at the time of enrollment. DMCS has adopted a policy governing the education of foster youth, consistent with state and federal law. A copy of the complete Policy is available upon request at the main office.

Independent Study

Short Term Independent Study (“I.S.”), is a program designed to provide students with schoolwork when parents know in advance that they will be out of class for a certain number of days. DMCS contracts may be for a minimum of three (3) school days, with a maximum of ten (10) school days. In order to be considered for Independent Study Students must have grades that are considered passing or satisfactory.

Circumstances requiring more than ten (10) school days need to be approved by the DMCS Governing Board.

I.S. is a joint agreement between the Teacher, the Parent, the Student & the Executive Director. The Parent & Student must meet with the Teacher a minimum of one (1) day prior to the start of the I.S. contract to go over the assigned work. I.S. contracts (master agreements) must be signed by the Parent and Teacher before a student may begin I.S. Academic I.S. work may not be sent home with the child with the I.S. contract has not been signed.

All completed work assignments are due to the teacher on the date noted on the contract. Any incomplete assignments will void the contract & your student’s attendance will be noted as unexcused absences for the dates the student was out of school.

For more information regarding Independent Study please refer to our Board Policy and Administrative regulations (BP 6158, AR 6158).

Independent Study Timeline

2 Weeks prior to leaving	Notify the Office & Teacher of your desire for Short Term Independent Study and submit an Independent Study request to the office.
3 Days prior to leaving	Confirm a meeting time with your teacher
1 day prior to leaving	Meet with the assigned person and student to go over the written agreement & assigned work
While you are gone	Assist your child daily with their assignments
Day before your return	Gather all of the assignments & confirm completion
Day of return to school	Return completed assignments to the Office or your teacher

STUDENT HEALTH & SAFETY

Emergency Cards

New emergency cards are required each year. These cards go home on the first day of school and are due the next day. Please make sure that you take special care to provide names and telephone numbers of individuals who are authorized to care for your child when you cannot be reached. All emergency contacts must be over the age of eighteen (18). Once the card has been returned to the School, please call the school if you have changes in the information listed on the card. In an emergency, every minute counts. Please provide current phone numbers. Cell numbers are also encouraged. **Children cannot be released to anyone whose name is not on the child’s emergency**

card.

After school care

After school care is available through the DMCS Extended Day Program. This program is run on-site by our own personnel, on a for-fee basis. The program is available daily immediately after the release bell until 6:00 pm and on non-school days, Monday through Friday. Please contact the program directly for more information at 707-693-4990.

Student Health

The DMCS office has first aid supplies for minor injuries. If a child has a fever, is vomiting or is hurt, a staff member will phone the parents from the emergency contact information sheet. The child will wait in the office with an adult until a parent or guardian arrives. In the event of a serious emergency, emergency personnel will be notified.

If your child shows signs of illness such as fever, nausea, or flu s/he should not attend school. If a child becomes ill while at school, a parent or other authorized person will be called and will be required to pick up the child as soon as possible.

Allergies - If your child has food or other allergies please let both your child's teacher and the Office Manager know what should be avoided. Sometimes snack is a communal activity and our garden harvests will be enjoyed throughout the year. Please be sure that staff is aware of any allergies.

Prescription medication: Students are generally prohibited from carrying over-the-counter or prescription medication (inhalers, allergy medication, Tylenol, cough drops, etc.) at school. However, if the student has a valid Administration of Medications Form on file with the school, the student may be allowed to carry and self-administer an Epi-Pen or asthma medication.

If your child's doctor has prescribed medication that must be taken during the school day, even on an occasional basis, please contact the office for the appropriate paperwork & procedural information.

TYPE 2 DIABETES

DMCS provides an information sheet regarding type 2 diabetes to the parent or guardian of incoming 7th grade students. The information sheet shall include, but shall not be limited to, all of the following:

1. A description of type 2 diabetes.
2. A description of the risk factors and warning signs associated with type 2 diabetes.
3. A recommendation that students displaying or possibly suffering from risk factors or warning signs associated with type 2 diabetes should be screened for type 2 diabetes.
4. A description of treatments and prevention of methods of type 2 diabetes.
5. A description of the different types of diabetes screening tests available.

Please contact the main office if you need a copy of this information sheet or if you have any questions about this information sheet.

Immunizations

Pursuant to the California Health and Safety Code and the California Code of Regulations, children must have a minimum number of immunizations (shots) before they can attend school. Immunization records will be required for all incoming students. Verification of immunizations will be completed with written medical records from the child's doctor or immunization clinic. To ensure a safe learning environment for all students, DMCS follows and abides by the health standards set forth by the state of California. Students will not receive classroom-based instruction until all require records have been received. The immunization status of all students will be reviewed periodically. Those students who do not meet the State guidelines may be excluded from classroom-based instruction until the requirements are met. Students who have been exposed to a communicable disease for which they have not been immunized may be excluded from classroom-based instruction at the discretion of DMCS.

These required immunizations include:

Child's Grade	List of shots required to attend school
Entering Kindergarten	Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus (DTaP) - Five (5) doses Polio - Four (4) doses Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) - Two (2) doses Hepatitis B (Hep B) - Three (3) doses Varicella (chickenpox) – Two (2) doses NOTE: Four (4) doses of DTaP are allowed if one (1) was given on or after the fourth birthday. Three doses of DTaP meet the requirement if at least one dose of Tdap, DTaP, or DTP vaccine was given on or after the seventh birthday (also meets the 7th-12th grade Tdap requirement.) One or two doses of Td vaccine given on or after the seventh birthday count towards the requirement for DTaP. Three (3) doses of Polio are allowed if one (1) was given on or after fourth birthday. MMR doses must be given on or after first birthday. Two doses of measles, two doses of mumps, and one dose of rubella vaccine meet the requirement,

	separately or combined. Combination vaccines (e.g., MMRV) meet the requirements for individual component vaccines.
Entering 7th Grade	<p>Tetanus, reduced Diphtheria, and acellular Pertussis (Tdap) - One (1) dose Varicella - Two (2) doses</p> <p>NOTE: In order to begin 7th grade, students who had a valid personal belief exemption on file with a public or private elementary or secondary school in California before January 1, 2016 must meet all requirements for children 7-17 years old (i.e., polio, MMR, varicella and primary series for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis), in addition to the 7th grade requirements for Tdap and two (2) doses of varicella (varicella requirement for seventh grade advancement expires after June 30, 2025). At least one dose of pertussis-containing vaccine is required on or after the 7th birthday.</p>

Exemptions from Immunization Requirements

All students must be fully immunized in accordance with the California Health and Safety Code, the California Code of Regulations, and this Policy with the following exceptions:

1. Students who show proof of a medical exemption by a physician licensed to practice medicine in California pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 120370.
 - a. Commencing January 1, 2021, the California Department of Public Health standardized medical exemption form shall be the only documentation of a medical exemption that the School shall accept.
 - b. On and after July 1, 2021, the School shall not unconditionally admit or readmit, or admit or advance any student to 7th grade, unless the student has been fully immunized or files a California Department of Public Health standardized medical exemption form as required by law.
 - c. Medical exemptions issued before January 1, 2020 will continue to remain valid until the child enrolls in the next grade span, defined below.
2. Students who are enrolled in a home-based private school or independent study program and do not receive any classroom-based instruction.
3. Students who, prior to January 1, 2016, submitted a letter or affidavit on file at a private or public elementary or secondary school in California stating beliefs opposed to immunization, and who provides said letter or affidavit to DMCS, shall be allowed to enroll at the Charter School without being fully immunized until the student enrolls in the next grade span pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 120335(g).
 - a. "Grade span" means each of the following:
 - i. Birth to Preschool.
 - ii. Kindergarten and grades 1 to 6, inclusive, including transitional kindergarten.
 - iii. Grades 7 to 12, inclusive.

Students are screened for vision, hearing, and scoliosis in accordance with the law and DMCS charter, as applicable for the grade levels served by DMCS.

Availability of Health Insurance

Children—regardless of immigration status (foster youth, pregnant women, and legally present individuals, including those with deferred action for childhood arrivals ["DACA"] status) may be eligible for no- or low-cost Medi-Cal insurance. Medi-Cal covers immunizations, checkups, specialists, vision and dental services, and more for children and youth at no- or low-cost. Medi-Cal enrollment is available year-round.

Covered California is where legal residents of California can compare quality health plans and choose the one that works best for them. Based on income and family size, many Californians may qualify for financial assistance. Enroll during Open Enrollment or any time you experience a life-changing event, like losing your job or having a baby. You have sixty (60) days from the event to complete enrollment. Information regarding the availability of insurance is provided with enrollment forms and available at: http://hbex.coveredca.com/toolkit/PDFs/ALL_IN_Flyer_EnrollGetCareRenew_CC.pdf

DMCS shall not discriminate against a pupil who does not have health care coverage or use any information relating to a pupil's health care coverage or interest in learning about health care coverage in any manner that would bring harm to the pupil or the pupil's family.

Human Trafficking Prevention

California has the highest number of incidents of human trafficking in the U.S., and all students may be vulnerable. DMCS believes it is a priority to inform our students about (1) prevalence, nature of and strategies to reduce the risk of human trafficking, techniques to set healthy boundaries, and how to safely seek assistance, and (2) how social media and mobile device applications are used for human trafficking.

In accordance with the California Healthy Youth Act, DMCS will provide age-appropriate instruction on the prevention of human trafficking, including sexual abuse, assault, and harassment. You have the right to excuse your child from all or part of instruction on prevention of human trafficking. An opt-out form is available upon request at the main office. Your consent for this instruction is NOT required. If we do not receive a written request to excuse your child, your child will be included in the instruction.

Information and materials for parents/guardians about the curriculum and resources on prevention of human trafficking and abuse, including sexual abuse, assault, and harassment are available on DMCS's website for your review.

Mental Health Services

DMCS recognizes that when unidentified and unaddressed, mental health challenges can lead to poor academic performance, increased likelihood of suspension and expulsion, chronic absenteeism, student attrition, homelessness, incarceration, and/or violence. Access to mental health services at DMCS and in our community is not only critical to improving the physical and emotional safety of students, but it also helps address barriers to learning and provides support so that all students can learn problem-solving skills and achieve in school and, ultimately, in life. The following resources available to your child:

Available on Campus:

- **School-based counseling services** – your child is encouraged to directly contact a DMCS counselor by coming into the main office during school hours and making an appointment to speak with a counselor. The counseling office can also be reached at via the main office. Our DMCS counselors support students by providing individual sessions, group or parent consultations whenever a student is having a difficult time due to academic stress, transition to changes in their environment, or social concerns, including isolation. Counseling services, whether provided by DMCS or by an outside provider listed in this letter, are voluntary.
- **Special education services** – if you believe your child may have a disability, you are encouraged to directly contact the Special Education Department via the main office to request an evaluation.
- **Prescription medication while on campus** – if your child requires prescription medication during school hours and you would like assistance from School staff in providing this medication to your child, please contact the main office

Available in the Community:

- Dixon Family Services (707) 678-0442

Available Nationally:

- National Suicide Prevention Hotline - This organization provides confidential support for adults and youth in distress, including prevention and crisis resources. Available 24 hours at 1-800-273-8255.
- The Trevor Project - This organization provides suicide prevention and crisis intervention for LGBTQ youth between the ages of 13 and 24. **Available at 1-866-488-7386 or visit <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/>**
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America – This organization is a community- based mentorship program. Community-specific program information can be found online at <https://www.bbbs.org> or by calling (813) 720-8778.

Oral Health Assessment

Students enrolled in kindergarten in a public school or while enrolled in first grade if the student was not previously enrolled in kindergarten in a public school are required to have an oral health assessment completed by a dental professional. Please contact the main office if you have questions about this requirement.

Physical Examinations and Right to Refuse

All pupils are to have completed a health screening examination on or before the 90th day after the pupil's entrance into first grade or such pupils must have obtained a waiver pursuant to Health and Safety Code Sections 124040 and 124085. This examination can be obtained from your family physician or possibly through the services provided by your County Health Department. Information and forms are distributed to pupils enrolled in kindergarten. If your child's medical status changes, please provide the teacher with a physician's written verification of the medical issue, especially if it impacts in any way your child's ability to perform schoolwork.

A parent/guardian having control or charge of any child enrolled in DMCS may file annually with the Executive Director of the school in which the child is enrolled a written and signed statement stating that he or she will not consent to a physical examination of the child. Thereupon the child shall be exempt from any physical examination, but whenever there is a good reason to believe that the child is suffering from a recognized contagious or infectious disease, the child shall be sent home and shall not be permitted to return until the school authorities are satisfied that any contagious or infectious disease does not exist.

Pregnant and Parenting Students

DMCS recognizes that pregnant and parenting pupils are entitled to accommodations that provide them with the opportunity to succeed academically while protecting their health and the health of their children. A pregnant or parenting pupil is entitled to eight (8) weeks of parental leave, or more if deemed medically necessary by the pupil's physician, which the pupil may take before the birth of the pupil's infant if there is a medical necessity and after childbirth during the school year in which the birth takes place, inclusive of any mandatory summer instruction, in order to protect the health of the pupil who gives or expects to give birth and the infant, and to allow the pregnant or parenting pupil to care for and bond with the infant. DMCS will ensure that absences from the pupil's regular school program are excused until the pupil is able to return to the regular school program.

Upon return to school after taking parental leave, a pregnant or parenting pupil will be able to make up work missed during his or her leave, including, but not limited to, makeup work plans and reenrollment in courses. Notwithstanding any other law, a pregnant or parenting student may remain enrolled for a fifth year of instruction in the Charter School if it is necessary in order for the student to be able to complete any graduation requirements, unless the Charter School determines that the student is reasonably able to complete the graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the student's fourth year of high school.

Complaints of noncompliance with laws relating to pregnant or parenting pupils may be filed under the Uniform Complaint Procedures ("UCP") of DMCS. The complaint may be filed in writing with the compliance officer:

Mr. Ben Ernest
Executive Director
Dixon Montessori Charter School
355 North Almond Street
Dixon, CA 95620
Telephone: (707) 678-8953

A copy of the UCP is available upon request at the main office or on the School's website. For further information on any part of the complaint procedures, including filing a complaint or requesting a copy of the complaint procedures, please contact the Executive Director.

School Safety Plan

DMCS has established a Comprehensive School Safety Plan. The Plan is available upon request at the main office.

School Bus and Passenger Safety

All students who are transported in a school bus or school student activity bus shall receive instruction in school bus emergency procedures and passenger safety. A copy of the complete Policy is available upon request at the main office.

Home-to-school bus transportation for the general student body is not offered. The City of Dixon does provide a for-profit bus service in town, known as Readi-Ride. Please contact them at 707-678-7000 for more information. DMCS shall provide transportation as needed to student with disabilities whose IEPs reflect the need for transportation services.

Lost or Damaged School Property

If a student willfully damages the Charter School's property or the personal property of a Charter School employee, or fails to return a textbook, library book, computer/tablet or other Charter School property that has been loaned to the student, the student's parents/guardians are liable for all damages caused by the student's misconduct not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), adjusted annually for inflation. After notifying the student's parent or guardian in writing of the student's alleged misconduct and affording the student due process, Charter School may withhold the student's grades, transcripts, until the damages have been paid. If the student and the student's parent/guardian are unable to pay for the damages or to return the property, Charter School will provide a program of voluntary work for the minor in lieu of the payment of monetary damages. Upon completion of the voluntary work, the student's grades will be released.

Lost and found: Found items with no identification will be placed in the lost and found bin in the cafeteria. DMCS is not responsible for lost or damaged personal belongings brought on to school grounds. It is recommended that all items are labeled before being brought to school.

Toys and other non-school items: Please keep toys at home unless your child's teacher makes an exception for a special event. Guns, toy guns, pocketknives, and other weapons are never allowed at school. In addition, handheld video games should not be brought to school.

Cell Phones: Students are not allowed to use personal cell phones during school hours. They must remain completely turned off (not on silent mode), and secured in their backpacks, until the release bell. Cell phones may not be out during class time or on the playground. Cell phones MAY NOT be in students' pockets at any time during the school day. Please read, sign and return the attached electronic device policy.

Cell phones, smartphones, pagers, and electronic signaling devices may be used:

- In the case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger.
- When a teacher or administrator of the Charter School grants permission to a student to possess or use a private device, subject to any reasonable limitation imposed by that teacher or administrator.
- When a licensed physician and surgeon determines that the possession or use of a private device is necessary for the health or well-being of the student.
- When the possession or use of a private device is required in a student's individualized education program ("IEP").

Birthday celebrations

Please check with your child's teacher for information about celebrating your child's birthday.

Please **do not** distribute invitations at school for off-campus private birthday celebrations.

Please **do not** deliver balloons, flowers or other distracting items to your child at school for birthdays or other special occasions.

School Lunch

Each child should come to school each day with his or her own lunch or with money to purchase the lunches available through Sodexo. A menu will be posted on our website every month.

Lunch Prices:

\$3.25 – full price

.40 – reduced price (if applicable)

.50 – a la carte milk

If your child brings their lunch, please pack a healthy lunch with fruits, whole grains and a small treat if desired. Please do not include soda or candy in your child's lunch.

DMCS students will typically eat in the cafeteria or outdoors. Our teachers and staff will rotate the responsibility of supervising lunches and would GREATLY appreciate parent volunteers assisting in this activity.

School Breakfast: A daily breakfast will be served from 7:45 am to 8 am. Each child wishing to purchase a breakfast should come to school with his or her own money to purchase the breakfast available through Sodexo. Free/Reduced lunch students automatically qualify for Free/Reduced Breakfast. A menu will be posted on our website every month.

Breakfast Prices:

\$1.25 – full price

.30 – reduced price (if applicable)

.50 – a la carte milk

Free and Reduced Price Meals: DMCS participates in the National School Lunch Program. Applications for free or reduced price meals are available in the office and will be sent home at the beginning of the school year. All families are encouraged to complete the application form in order to include as many eligible students as possible. Completed application forms can be returned to the main office. DMCS will provide each student who meets federal eligibility criteria for free and reduced-price meals with at least one free or reduced-price, nutritionally adequate meal per school day.

Having this data will also allow our school to determine if we qualify for additional state and grant funding!

DMCS also maintains a School Wellness Policy pursuant to state and federal requirements. A copy of the complete Policy is available on our website or upon request at the main office.

Payments for student lunch accounts: There are a few options for making payments to your child's lunch account. Cash or Check can be given in person in the front office, to the classroom teacher (Please put in a clearly marked and sealed envelope with your child's name and classroom number) or in the cafeteria during lunch service. You can also sign up using our online service to make payments to lunch accounts at www.mymealtime.com.

Negative Balances: Advance payment is preferred to minimize the possibility that your child may be without meal money on any given day. Balance slips will go home with students once their account balance is low or negative. The office will also contact parents first by phone, then by email or USPS, but it is the parent or guardian's responsibility to ensure that funds are on the child's account. Parents should contact the school immediately with changes of address or phone numbers to ensure communication is always available. Students with negative lunch balances shall not be shamed, treated differently, or served a meal that differs from the meal of a paying student. The School is also prohibited from disciplining a pupil which would result in the denial or delay of a nutritionally adequate meal to that pupil. This specifically applies to charter schools that participate in the NSLP or SBP.

Forms and information regarding free or reduced lunch are available in the front office.

Snack: The snack procedure will vary from classroom to classroom. Please check with your child's teacher regarding each room's policy. Only healthy snacks are accepted.

School photos

Twice during the school year, students can have their photos taken. Lifetouch Photography will come to the campus and take both class and individual photos.

During fall photos, students are required to be in uniform, no additional sweaters, sweatshirts, scarves, hats or sunglasses will be permitted in these photos. Head coverings for religious purposes will be allowed. However, during spring photos students are encouraged to express themselves and the day is considered one of our "Free Dress" days, with parent discretion.

Visitors and volunteers

Each time an adult visits campus, they must check in with the Office Manager in the office and get an identification badge. This is a mandatory requirement even for those parents who frequently work in the classrooms. Signing in not only allows staff to verify volunteer hours worked but also protects the safety of our children. If every adult signs-in, staff can easily find out who was on campus at any given time, especially in an emergency. All classroom volunteers MUST have verification of a negative TB reading on file with the office. For a more complete list of volunteer policies and procedures please refer to our Dixon Montessori Volunteer Policy available on our website.

All visitors are asked to comply with current mandated and recommended health and safety protocols. Visitors (including volunteers) who demonstrate signs of a contagious disease (e.g. fever, coughing) may be denied registration. When recommended or requested by the Department of Public Health, visitors will be required to wear personal protective equipment, such as masks, and practice social distancing. DMCS reserves the right to implement additional measures for the protection of its school community, such as requiring forehead temperature checks before entry to the same extent being utilized for students and employees.

If the visitor is a government officer/official (including but not limited to local law enforcement officers, immigration enforcement officers, social workers, district attorneys, or U.S. attorneys) the officer/official will also be asked to produce any documentation that authorizes school access. DMCS shall make reasonable efforts to notify parents or guardians prior to permitting a student to be interviewed or searched, consistent with the law and/or any court order, warrant or instructions from the officer/official. A copy of the documentation provided by the officer and notes from the encounter may be maintained by DMCS, consistent with the law. The DMCS Board of Directors and Bureau of Children's Justice in the California Department of Justice, at BCJ@doj.ca.gov, will be timely informed regarding any attempt by a law-enforcement officer to access a school site or a student for immigration-enforcement purposes, as recommended by the Attorney General.

Classroom Volunteers: Volunteers will sign a compact stating they will respect student privacy as a prior condition of classroom service and that they have read and understand and agree to follow the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") Policy. It is the teacher's responsibility to inform classroom volunteers that discussing any aspect of a child's progress or development based upon knowledge gained while assisting in the classroom is against school policy. Volunteers who do not abide by this agreement will not serve in any capacity that allows them access to privileged student information. Volunteers may begin at the teacher's discretion. All classrooms must complete the normalization period before parent volunteers will be invited in to help.

A volunteer shall also have on file with DMCS a certificate showing that, upon initial volunteer assignment, the person submitted to a tuberculosis risk assessment and, if tuberculosis risk factors were identified, was examined and found to be free of infectious tuberculosis. If no risk factors are identified, an examination is not required. This paragraph shall not apply to a volunteer whose functions do not require frequent or prolonged contact with pupils.

The complete DMCS Volunteer Policy is available on DMCS' website and upon request at the main office.

Pupil Records, including Challenges and Directory Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 5 business days after the day the School receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the Executive Director or designee a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect.

A DMCS official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask DMCS to amend a record should write the Executive Director or designee, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it should be changed. If DMCS decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, DMCS will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing. If DMCS decides to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the Executive Director must order the correction or the removal and destruction of the information and inform the parent or eligible student of the amendment in writing.

3. The right to provide written consent before DMCS discloses personally identifiable information ("PII") from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by DMCS as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the School board. A school official also may include a volunteer, consultant, vendor, or contractor outside of DMCS who performs an institutional service of function for which the School would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist, or contracted provider of digital educational platforms and/or services; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, DMCS discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled, if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

Note that DMCS will not release information to third parties for immigration-enforcement purposes, except as required by law or court order.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by DMCS to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Student Privacy Policy Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202

5. The right to request that DMCS not release student names, addresses and telephone listings to military recruiters or institutions of higher education without prior written parental consent.

FERPA permits the disclosure of PII from student's education records, without consent of the parent or eligible student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in §99.31 of the FERPA regulations. Except for disclosures to school officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the parent or eligible student, §99.32 of the FERPA regulations requires DMCS to record the disclosure. Parents and eligible students have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures. A school may disclose PII from the education records of a student without obtaining prior written consent of the parents or the eligible student —

1. DMCS officials who have a legitimate educational interest as defined by 34 C.F.R. Part 99.
2. Other schools to which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled, if the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer, subject to the requirements of §99.34. (§99.31(a)(2)). When a student transfers schools, DMCS will mail the original or a copy of a student's cumulative file to the receiving district or private school within ten (10) school days following the date the request is received from the public school or private school where the pupil intends to enroll. DMCS will make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or eligible student of the request for records at his/her last known address, unless the disclosure is initiated by the parent or eligible student. Additionally, DMCS will give the parent or eligible student, upon request, a copy of the record that was disclosed and give the parent or eligible student, upon request, an opportunity for hearing.
3. Certain government officials listed in 20 U.S.C. § 1232g(b)(1) in order to carry out lawful functions.
4. In connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary to determine eligibility for the aid, determine the amount of the aid, determine the conditions of the aid, or enforce the terms and conditions of the aid. (§99.31(a)(4)).
5. Organizations conducting certain studies for DMCS in accordance with 20 U.S.C. § 1232g(b)(1)(F).
6. To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions. (§99.31(a)(7)).
7. To parents of an eligible student if the student is a dependent for IRS tax purposes. (§99.31(a)(8)).
8. Individuals or entities, in compliance with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. Subject to the exceptions found in 34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a)(9)(i), reasonable effort must be made to notify the parent or eligible student of the order or subpoena in advance of compliance, so that the parent or eligible student may seek a protective order.

9. To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency, subject to §99.36. (§99.31(a)(10).
10. State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.
11. A foster family agency with jurisdiction over a currently enrolled or former student, a short-term residential treatment program staff responsible for the education or case management of a student, and a caregiver (regardless of whether the caregiver has been appointed as the pupil's educational rights holder) who has direct responsibility for the care of the student, including a certified or licensed foster parent, an approved relative or nonrelated extended family member, or a resource family, may access the current or most recent records of grades, transcripts, attendance, discipline, and online communication on platforms established by DMCS for student and parents, and any individualized education program ("IEP") or Section 504 plan that may have been developed or maintained by DMCS.
12. A victim of an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or a non-forcible sex offense. The disclosure may only include final results of the disciplinary proceedings conducted by DMCS with respect to that alleged crime or offense. DMCS disclose the final results of the disciplinary proceeding, regardless of whether Charter School concluded a violation was committed.

"Directory Information" is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released. Directory information can be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish year books. DMCS has designated the following information as directory information:

1. Student's name
2. Student's address
3. Parent's/guardian's address
4. Telephone listing
5. Student's electronic mail address
6. Parent's/guardian's electronic mail address
7. Photograph/video
8. Date and place of birth
9. Dates of attendance
10. Grade level
11. Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
12. Weight and height of members of athletic teams
13. Degrees, honors, and awards received
14. The most recent educational agency or institution attended
15. Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems that cannot be used to access education records without a PIN, password, etc. (A student's social security number, in whole or in part, cannot be used for this purpose.)

If you do not want DMCS to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify DMCS in writing at the time of enrollment or re-enrollment. Please notify the Executive Director at:

Mr. Ben Ernest
 Executive Director
 Dixon Montessori Charter School
 355 North Almond Street
 Dixon, CA 95620
 Telephone: (707) 678-8953

A copy of the complete Policy is available upon request at the main office or on our website.

Uniform Complaint Procedure ("UCP")

Charter School is the local agency primarily responsible for compliance with federal and state laws and regulations governing educational programs. Charter School shall investigate and seek to resolve complaints using policies and procedures known as the Uniform Complaint Procedure ("UCP") adopted by our Governing Board for the following types of complaints:

1. Complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying against any protected group on the basis of the actual or perceived characteristics of age, ancestry, color, mental disability, physical disability, ethnic group identification, immigration status, citizenship, gender expression, gender identity, gender, genetic information, nationality, national origin, race or ethnicity, religion, medical condition, marital status, sex, or sexual orientation, or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics in any Charter School program or activity.
2. Complaints alleging a violation of state or federal law or regulation governing the following programs:
 - Accommodations for Pregnant, Parenting or Lactating Students;
 - Adult Education;
 - Career Technical and Technical Education;
 - Career Technical and Technical Training;

- Child Care and Development Programs;
- Consolidated Categorical Aid;
- Education of Students in Foster Care, Students who are Homeless, former Juvenile Court Students now enrolled in a public school, Migratory Children and Children of Military Families;
- Every Student Succeeds Act;
- Migrant Education Programs;
- Regional Occupational Centers and Programs; and/or
- School Safety Plans.

3. Complaints alleging noncompliance with laws relating to pupil fees. A student enrolled in a public school shall not be required to pay a pupil fee for participation in an educational activity. A pupil fee includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

- A fee charged to a pupil as a condition for registering for school or classes, or as a condition for participation in a class or an extracurricular activity, regardless of whether the class or activity is elective or compulsory or is for credit.
- A security deposit, or other payment, that a pupil is required to make to obtain a lock, locker, book, class apparatus, musical instrument, clothes, or other materials or equipment.
- A purchase that a pupil is required to make to obtain materials, supplies, equipment, or clothes associated with an educational activity.

Complaints of noncompliance with laws relating to pupil fees may be filed with the Executive Director of Charter School or the Compliance Officer identified below.

4. Complaints alleging noncompliance with the requirements governing the Local Control Funding Formula (“LCFF”) or Local Control and Accountability Plans (“LCAP”) under Education Code sections 47606.5 and 47607.3, as applicable. If Charter School adopts a School Plan for Student Achievement (“SPSA”) in addition to its LCAP, complaints of noncompliance with the requirements of the SPSA under Education Code sections 64000, 64001, 65000, and 65001 shall also fall under the UCP.

Complaints alleging noncompliance regarding child nutrition programs established pursuant to Education Code sections 49490-49590 are governed by Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (“C.F.R.”) sections 210.19(a)(4), 215.1(a), 220.13(c), 225.11(b), 226.6(n), and 250.15(d) and Title 5, California Code of Regulations (“C.C.R.”) sections 15580 - 15584.

Complaints alleging noncompliance regarding special education programs established pursuant to Education Code sections 56000-56865 and 59000-59300 are governed by the procedures set forth in 5 C.C.R. sections 3200-3205 and 34 C.F.R. sections 300.151-300.153.

Complaints other than complaints relating to pupil fees must be filed in writing with the following Compliance Officer:

Mr. Ben Ernest
 Executive Director
 Dixon Montessori Charter School
 355 North Almond Street
 Dixon, CA 95620
 Telephone: (707) 678-8953

Only complaints regarding pupil fees or LCAP compliance may be filed anonymously and only if the anonymous complainant provides evidence or information leading to evidence to support an allegation of noncompliance with laws relating to pupil fees or LCAP.

Complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, must be filed within six (6) months from the date the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, occurred or the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying. All other complaints under the UCP shall be filed not later than one (1) year from the date the alleged violation occurred. For complaints relating to the LCAP, the date of the alleged violation is the date on which Charter School’s Board of Directors approved the LCAP or the annual update was adopted by Charter School.

The Compliance Officer responsible for investigating the complaint shall conduct and complete the investigation in accordance with California regulations and in accordance with Charter School’s UCP Policy. The Compliance Officer shall provide the complainant with a final written investigation report (“Decision”) within sixty (60) calendar days from Charter School’s receipt of the complaint. This sixty (60) calendar day time period may be extended by written agreement of the complainant.

The complainant has a right to appeal Charter School’s Decision to the California Department of Education (“CDE”) by filing a written appeal within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of the Charter School’s written Decision, except if Charter School has used its UCP to address a complaint that is not subject to the UCP requirements. The appeal must include a copy of the complaint filed with Charter School, a copy of Charter School’s Decision, and the complainant must specify and explain the basis for the appeal of the Decision, including at least one of the following:

1. Charter School failed to follow its complaint procedures.
2. Relative to the allegations of the complaint, Charter School's Decision lacks material findings of fact necessary to reach a conclusion of law.
3. The material findings of fact in Charter School's Decision are not supported by substantial evidence.
4. The legal conclusion in Charter School's Decision is inconsistent with the law.
5. In a case in which Charter School's Decision found noncompliance, the corrective actions fail to provide a proper remedy.

A complainant who appeals Charter School's Decision on a UCP complaint to the CDE shall receive a written appeal decision within sixty (60) calendar days of the CDE's receipt of the appeal, unless extended by written agreement with the complainant or the CDE documents exceptional circumstances and informs the complainant.

Within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of the CDE's appeal Decision pursuant to 5 C.C.R. section 4633(f)(2) or (3), either party may request reconsideration by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction ("SSPI") or the SSPI's designee. The request for reconsideration shall specify and explain the reason(s) for contesting the findings of fact, conclusions of law, or corrective actions in the CDE's appeal Decision.

If a UCP complaint is filed directly with the CDE and the CDE determines that it merits direct intervention, the CDE shall complete an investigation and provide a written decision to the complainant within sixty (60) calendar days of receipt of the complaint, unless the parties have agreed to extend the timeline or the CDE documents exceptional circumstances and informs the complainant.

If Charter School finds merit in a UCP complaint, or the CDE finds merit in an appeal, Charter School shall take corrective actions consistent with the requirements of existing law that will provide a remedy to the affected student and/or parent/guardian as applicable.

A complainant may pursue available civil law remedies outside of Charter School's complaint procedures. Complainants may seek assistance from mediation centers or public/private interest attorneys. Civil law remedies that may be imposed by a court include, but are not limited to, injunctions and restraining orders. For unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying complaints arising under state law, however, a complainant must wait until sixty (60) calendar days have elapsed from the filing of an appeal with the CDE before pursuing civil law remedies. The moratorium does not apply to injunctive relief and is applicable only if the Charter School has appropriately, and in a timely manner, apprised the complainant of the complainant's right to file a complaint in accordance with 5 CCR § 4622.

A copy of the UCP shall be available upon request free of charge in the main office. For further information on any part of the complaint procedures, including filing a complaint or requesting a copy of the UCP, please contact the Executive Director.

Dress Code

The purpose of a dress code is to ensure that learning is the primary focus of time spent at DMCS. Students will be required to adhere to this dress code. The only exceptions to the dress code will be noted on the school calendar and may include spirit days, dress-themed days or a free dress day.

Shirts/blouses:

- Any solid color is acceptable. No patterns, stripes, logos or words allowed.
- Must be a collared shirt.
- Long or short sleeve is fine. Students may not wear sleeveless shirts even if they have a collar. Either a button down or polo shirt is acceptable.
- Unavoidable embroidered emblems such as an alligator or deer are acceptable as long as they are smaller than the size of a quarter.
- On Friday, students may wear a DMCS spirit shirt.

Pants:

- Any solid color long pants or shorts are acceptable. This includes solid-colored denim.
- No cut off or frayed-hem shorts are allowed.
- No patterns or stripes are allowed. Identifying logos such as "Wrangler, Levi or Gap" must be limited and unobtrusive and may not be printed on the pant legs or otherwise be seen as "writing or slogans."
- Pants should be in good condition, and not stylishly ripped, torn or frayed.
- Sweatpants, athletic shorts and yoga pants are not allowed.

Skirts/skorts/dresses/jumpers:

- Skirts and skorts must be mid-thigh length or worn over tights or leggings. Any solid color is acceptable.

- The material may not contain writing, slogans or embellishments.
- No prints or patterns are allowed.
- Jumpers, polo-shirt style dresses and regular dresses must be a solid color.
- Jumpers/dresses should contain no embellishments, writing, or slogans. Blouses, shirts or collars must be worn under these items and must fit the above description for shirt/blouses.

Leggings/tights/socks:

- Leggings and tights may not be worn alone. Leggings or tights may only be worn under a skirt, skort, dress, jumper or shorts and must be a solid color. No patterns are allowed.
- Socks must be a solid color.

Shoes:

- Students may not wear shoes that light up or make noise.
- All student shoes must have a back or back strap on them. Flip flops will not be permitted.

Hats:

- Students may wear hats on the playground only.
- No hats are permitted in the classroom. Head coverings worn for religious reasons are allowed.

Sweatshirts or sweaters worn in the classroom:

- Sweatshirts or sweaters worn in the classroom must be solid in color.
- Only DMCS school designs will be permitted, and these will be approved by the Board and staff at the beginning of the school year.

Jackets/backpacks:

- May be any style or color & are considered outerwear. They are worn outside and not in the classroom.

Exceptions:

- *As indicated by a student's IEP or Section 504 Plan; the School will modify the dress code as warranted per these documents.*
- On Friday, students are allowed to wear either clothing that is in accordance with the dress code or the official school spirit shirt with jeans, hemmed jeans shorts, a jean skirt or skort. Monday through Thursday, unless otherwise specified, students must wear clothing in accordance with the criteria outlined above.
- Please note that Friday is not a "free-dress" day and children may not come to school in attire other than that noted above. There will be several "free-dress" or themed dress days throughout the year, coinciding with holidays or other school events and parents will be notified of those days in advance.
- Frequent violators of the school dress code may result in discipline.
- In addition, School staff may call parents if a child comes to school dressed inappropriately and ask that the parent bring a different set of clothes for the student.

Free Dress Friday

- The office staff will issue your student "Free Dress" stickers that they must wear on Free dress Fridays to participate.
- Student dress shall be safe, neat, and clean in appearance.
- Pocket chains of any length, collars or bracelets with spikes, clothing with revealing holes and cutouts are all inappropriate for school wear.
- Clothing may not glorify or advertise drugs, alcohol, tobacco, tobacco products, or sexual behavior.
- Clothing must be free of violent, vulgar, or obscene words, pictures, or symbols.
- No item may be worn which would create or tend to create an insulting, demeaning, threatening, embarrassing or otherwise hostile environment for any other student due to other student's gender, race, national origin, cultural or national heritage or religion. The standard for applying this policy shall be whether such an item(s) would be objectionable to a person of average reason and sensitivity.
- Footwear must be worn at all times. Footwear must be safe, practical, and not limit student participation in school activities.
- Clothing, backpacks, make-up, and other adornment may not demonstrate or suggest gang-related symbols or colors. This item specifically prohibits the wearing of bandanas of any color in any fashion. The administration reserves the right to ban students from wearing a color that demonstrates a real or perceived gang affiliation.
- Undergarments/underwear must be covered. This includes bra straps and boxer shorts. Students may not wear white underwear-style (i.e. "wife-beater") tank tops as outerwear.
- Shirts and blouses must cover the back to the shoulder blade and all of the stomach and cleavage. Shirts and pants/skirts must be touching in both front and back. Inappropriate tops include but are not limited to the following: midriff tops, crop tops, strapless tops, tube tops, halter and over one shoulder tops, and all tops with straps less than two-finger widths wide.
- All of the buttocks must be covered. Shorts, pants, or skirts should be of an appropriate length. To determine appropriate length stand with arms at side making a fist. The clothing should come to at least the bottom of the fist.

- Students may not wear sun glasses while inside a classroom or other school building. Before entering, a student must remove his/her sunglasses and leave them off until they exit the classroom or building.
- Approved head-gear includes baseball caps, bucket caps, beanies/knitted caps, and head coverings worn for religious reasons. These may be worn when a student is outside of a classroom and/or during P.E. courses for shade or warmth. Students may not wear any of the approved hats or other head gear (hoods, etc.) inside a classroom or other school building, except head coverings worn for religious reasons will be permitted. Before entering, a student must remove his/her hat and it may not go back on until leaving the classroom or building. This policy remains in effect on spirit and “dress-up” days as well. Hairnets are also considered “head-gear” and are not approved for school wear.
- Finally, clothing may not disrupt the educational process.

Students who do not follow the dress code will be referred to the office by staff to change into appropriate school clothing or call home to get a set of school appropriate clothing. For repeat offenses and/or refusing to change, progressive consequences will be imposed.

Throughout the year, for various reasons, we have found that many children from all grade levels have needed a change of clothes. We recommend you supply an extra set that can be stored in the classroom should it be needed.

Complaints: Complaints or suggestions for alteration of the dress code should be sent via email to admin@dixonmontessori.org. Changes to dress code policy will be considered at the discretion of the administration, and in light of how they would impact the classroom learning environment, teacher efficiency, and student safety.

Student Behavior

DMCS will follow its suspension and expulsion policies and procedures consistent with its charter petition. A copy of the School’s complete discipline policy is available at www.dixonmontessori.org and within the Appendix of this Handbook. For matters not arising under suspension and expulsion, DMCS follows the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports program (“PBIS”).

***PBIS is:**

"A collaborative, educative, proactive, and functional process to developing effective intervention for problem behavior. It is a framework for establishing the social culture and behavioral supports needed for a school to achieve behavioral and academic outcomes for all students." (El Dorado County of Education)

***Our goal:**

To facilitate positive behavior change in our students and staff. To reduce the number of inappropriate behaviors occurring across campus by educating students and staff and **reinforcing appropriate behaviors.**

The following is our behavior matrix of school wide expectations. These are the expected behaviors for all students. Please review the matrix with your child.

Common Areas	Be Safe	Be Respectful	Be Responsible
All common Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk facing forward • Keep hands, feet, and objects to self • Use equipment and materials appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use kind words and actions • Wait for your turn • Clean up after yourself • Follow adult directions • Respect school and personal property • Follow the dress code 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow school rules • Be honest
Cafeteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking feet only • Keep all food to self • Sit with feet on floor, bottom on bench, and facing table • Keep tables and benches still 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow anyone to sit next to you • Use quiet voices • Clean your area • Use manners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wait to be excused • Get all utensils, milk, etc. when first going through the line
Playground/ Recess	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk to and from playground • Stay within boundaries • Be aware of activities/ games around you • Climb on playground equipment only • No play fighting • No gun play • What is on the ground stays on the ground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play fairly • Use kind words • Follow the rules of the game • Use good sportsmanship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use bathroom appropriately • Use the restroom and get drinks at recess

Passing Areas Halls/breezeways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay outside the yellow line • Keep hands and feet to yourself • Walking only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold door open for others • Use quiet voices • Smile and nod only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay on sidewalks
Bathrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep feet on floor • Keep water in the sink • Wash hands • Put towels in garbage can 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give people privacy • Use quiet voices • No playing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flush toilet • Return to room promptly • Use at appropriate time
Arrival and Dismissal Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use sidewalks and crosswalks • Wait in designated areas • Stay within boundaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow adult directions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrive on time • Leave on time • Walk bikes and scooters • Get teacher permission to use any phone on campus
Assemblies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wait for arrival and dismissal signal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep hands and feet to self • Sit on bottom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See common areas
Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk only • Use materials appropriately • Sit properly • Ask permission to leave • Follow safety procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use quiet voices • Use kind words • Share • Listen and follow directions • Follow class routines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep belongings organized • Clean your space • Stay on task • Actively listen • Be prepared • Be honest

Employee Interactions with Students

Please visit the DMCS website at www.dixonmontesoricharterschool.org under policies, to view the most up to date version of this policy.

Suicide Prevention

Please visit the DMCS website at www.dixonmontesoricharterschool.org under policies, to view the most up to date version of this policy.

APPENDIX: COMPLETE POLICIES AND FORMS

Title IX, Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination and Bullying Policy

Board Policy #: BP 1312.5
Adopted/Ratified: June 15th, 2021

**DIXON MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL
TITLE IX, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, DISCRIMINATION,
AND BULLYING POLICY**

Discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying are all disruptive behaviors, which interfere with students’ ability to learn, negatively affect student engagement, diminish school safety, and contribute to a hostile school environment. As such, Dixon Montessori Charter School (“DMCS” or the “Charter School”) prohibits any acts of discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying altogether. This policy is inclusive of instances that occur on any area of the school campus, at school-sponsored events and activities, regardless of location, through school-owned technology, and through other electronic means. Furthermore, Dixon Montessori Charter School shall comply with Board adopted Administrative Regulations AR 1312.5.

Administrative Regulations #: AR 1312.5
Adopted/Ratified: June 15th, 2021

**DIXON MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL
TITLE IX, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, DISCRIMINATION,
AND BULLYING ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS**

As established in Board adopted BP 1312.5 , discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying are described as the intentional conduct, including verbal, physical, written communication or cyber-bullying, including cyber sexual bullying, based on the

actual or perceived characteristics of mental or physical disability, sex (including pregnancy and related conditions, and parental status), sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, immigration status, nationality (including national origin, country of origin, and citizenship), race or ethnicity (including ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, ethnic background, and traits historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twist), religion (including agnosticism and atheism), religious affiliation, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, age or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics or based on any other characteristic protected under applicable state or federal law or local ordinance. Hereafter, such actions are referred to as “misconduct prohibited by these administrative regulations.”

To the extent possible, the Charter School will make reasonable efforts to prevent students from being discriminated against, harassed, intimidated, and/or bullied, and will take action to investigate, respond, address and report on such behaviors in a timely manner. DMCS school staff who witness acts of misconduct prohibited by these administrative regulations will take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so.

Moreover, the Charter School will not condone or tolerate misconduct prohibited by BP 1312.5 and these Administrative Regulations 1312.5 by any employee, independent contractor or other person with whom DMCS does business, or any other individual, student, or volunteer. These Administrative Regulations apply to all employees, students, or volunteer actions and relationships, regardless of position or gender. DMCS will promptly and thoroughly investigate and respond to any complaint of misconduct prohibited by these Administrative Regulations in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent and will take appropriate corrective action, if warranted. DMCS complies with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations and local ordinances in its investigation of and response to reports of misconduct prohibited by these Administrative Regulations.

Title IX, Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination and Bullying Coordinator (“Coordinator”):

Mr. Ben Ernest
Executive Director
355 North Almond Street
Dixon, CA 95620
Telephone: (707) 678-8953

Definitions

Prohibited Unlawful Harassment

- Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory jokes or comments or slurs.
- Physical conduct including assault, unwanted touching, intentionally blocking normal movement or interfering with work or school because of sex, race or any other protected basis.
- Retaliation for reporting or threatening to report harassment.
- Deferential or preferential treatment based on any of the protected characteristics listed above.

Prohibited Unlawful Harassment under Title IX

Title IX (20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.; 34 C.F.R. § 106.1 et seq.) and California state law prohibit discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex. In accordance with these existing laws, discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex in education institutions, including in the education institution’s admissions and employment practices, is prohibited. All persons, regardless of sex, are afforded equal rights and opportunities and freedom from unlawful discrimination and harassment in education programs or activities conducted by DMCS.

DMCS is committed to providing a work and educational environment free of sexual harassment and considers such harassment to be a major offense, which may result in disciplinary action. Inquiries about the application of Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106 may be referred to the Coordinator, the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, or both.

Sexual harassment consists of conduct on the basis of sex, including but not limited to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct on the basis of sex, regardless of whether or not the conduct is motivated by sexual desire, when: (a) Submission to the conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or a condition of an individual’s employment, education, academic status, or progress; (b) submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis of employment, educational or academic decisions affecting the individual; (c) the conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual’s work or academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or educational environment; and/or (d) submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through the educational institution.

It is also unlawful to retaliate in any way against an individual who has articulated a good faith concern about sexual harassment against themselves or against another individual.

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

- Physical assaults of a sexual nature, such as:
 - Rape, sexual battery, molestation or attempts to commit these assaults.

- Intentional physical conduct that is sexual in nature, such as touching, pinching, patting, grabbing, brushing against another's body, or poking another's body.
- Unwanted sexual advances, propositions or other sexual comments, such as:
 - Sexually oriented gestures, notices, remarks, jokes, or comments about a person's sexuality or sexual experience.
 - Preferential treatment or promises of preferential treatment to an individual for submitting to sexual conduct, including soliciting or attempting to solicit any individual to engage in sexual activity for compensation or reward or deferential treatment for rejecting sexual conduct.
 - Subjecting or threats of subjecting a student or employee to unwelcome sexual attention or conduct or intentionally making the student's or employee's performance more difficult because of the student's or the employee's sex.
- Sexual or discriminatory displays or publications anywhere in the work or educational environment, such as:
 - Displaying pictures, cartoons, posters, calendars, graffiti, objections, promotional materials, reading materials, or other materials that are sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic or bringing or possessing any such material to read, display or view in the work or educational environment.
 - Reading publicly or otherwise publicizing in the work or educational environment materials that are in any way sexually revealing, sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic.
 - Displaying signs or other materials purporting to segregate an individual by sex in an area of the work or educational environment (other than restrooms or similar rooms).

The illustrations of harassment and sexual harassment above are not to be construed as an all-inclusive list of prohibited acts under these Administrative Regulations.

Prohibited Bullying

Bullying is defined as any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act. Bullying includes one or more acts committed by a student or group of students that may constitute sexual harassment, hate violence, or creates an intimidating and/or hostile educational environment, directed toward one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing a reasonable student or students in fear of harm to that student's or those students' person or property.
2. Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health.
3. Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantial interference with the student's academic performance.
4. Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantial interference with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by DMCS.

Cyberbullying is an electronic act that includes the transmission of harassing communication, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images on the Internet, social media, or other technologies using a telephone, computer, or any wireless communication device. **Cyberbullying** also includes breaking into another person's electronic account and assuming that person's identity in order to damage that person's reputation.

Electronic act means the creation or transmission originated on or off the school site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

1. A message, text, sound, video, or image.
2. A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:
 - a. Posting to or creating a burn page. A "burn page" means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in the definition of "bullying," above.
 - b. Creating a credible impersonation of another actual student for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in the definition of "bullying," above. "Credible impersonation" means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a student for the purpose of bullying the student and such that another student would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the student was or is the student who was impersonated.
 - c. Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in the definition of "bullying," above. "False profile" means a profile of a fictitious student or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual student other than the student who created the false profile.
3. An act of "Cyber sexual bullying" including, but not limited to:
 - a. The dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording by a student to another student or to school personnel by means of an electronic act that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the effects described in definition of "bullying," above. A photograph or other visual recording, as described above, shall include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or other visual recording of a minor where the minor is identifiable from the photograph, visual recording, or other electronic act.
 - b. "Cyber sexual bullying" does not include a depiction, portrayal, or image that has any serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value or that involves athletic events or school-sanctioned activities.
4. Notwithstanding the definitions of "bullying" and "electronic act" above, an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.

Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment means a written document filed and signed by a complainant who is participating in or attempting to participate in DMCS’s education program or activity or signed by the Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a respondent and requesting that DMCS investigate the allegation of sexual harassment.

Respondent means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

Bullying and Cyberbullying Prevention Procedures

DMCS has adopted the following procedures for preventing acts of bullying, including cyberbullying.

1. Cyberbullying Prevention Procedures

DMCS advises students:

- a. To never share passwords, personal data, or private photos online.
- b. To think about what they are doing carefully before posting and by emphasizing that comments cannot be retracted once they are posted.
- c. That personal information revealed on social media can be shared with anyone including parents, teachers, administrators, and potential employers. Students should never reveal information that would make them uncomfortable if the world had access to it.
- d. To consider how it would feel receiving such comments before making comments about others online.

DMCS informs Charter School employees, students, and parents/guardians of DMCS’s policies regarding the use of technology in and out of the classroom. DMCS encourages parents/guardians to discuss these policies with their children to ensure their children understand and comply with such policies.

2. Education

DMCS employees cannot always be present when bullying incidents occur, so educating students about bullying is a key prevention technique to limit bullying from happening. DMCS advises students that hateful and/or demeaning behavior is inappropriate and unacceptable in our society and at DMCS and encourages students to practice compassion and respect each other.

Charter School educates students to accept all student peers regardless of protected characteristics (including but not limited to actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identification, physical or cognitive disabilities, race, ethnicity, religion, and immigration status) and about the negative impact of bullying other students based on protected characteristics.

DMCS’s bullying prevention education also discusses the differences between appropriate and inappropriate behaviors and includes sample situations to help students learn and practice appropriate behavior and to develop techniques and strategies to respond in a non-aggressive way to bullying-type behaviors. Students will also develop confidence and learn how to advocate for themselves and others, and when to go to an adult for help.

DMCS informs DMCS employees, students, and parents/guardians of these Administrative Regulations and encourages parents/guardians to discuss them with their children to ensure their children understand and comply with these Administrative Regulations.

3. Professional Development

DMCS annually makes available the online training module developed by the California Department of Education Pursuant Education Code section 32283.5(a) to its certificated employees and all other DMCS employees who have regular interaction with students.

DMCS informs certificated employees about the common signs that a student is a target of bullying including:

- Physical cuts or injuries
- Lost or broken personal items
- Fear of going to school/practice/games
- Loss of interest in school, activities, or friends
- Trouble sleeping or eating
- Anxious/sick/nervous behavior or distracted appearance
- Self-destructiveness or displays of odd behavior
- Decreased self-esteem

Charter School also informs certificated employees about the groups of students determined by DMCS, and available research, to be at elevated risk for bullying. These groups include but are not limited to:

- Students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth (“LGBTQ”) and those youths perceived as LGBTQ; and

- Students with physical or learning disabilities.

DMCS encourages its employees to demonstrate effective problem-solving, anger management, and self-confidence skills for DMCS's students.

Grievance Procedures

1. Scope of Grievance Procedures

DMCS will comply with its Uniform Complaint Procedures ("UCP") policy when investigating and responding to complaints alleging unlawful harassment, discrimination, intimidation or bullying against a protected group or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of the protected characteristics set forth in the UCP that:

- a. Are written and signed;
- b. Filed by an individual who alleges that that individual has personally suffered unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying, or by one who believes any specific class of individuals has been subjected to discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying prohibited by this part, or by a duly authorized representative who alleges that an individual student has been subjected to discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying; and
- c. Submitted to the DMCS UCP Compliance Officer not later than six (6) months from the date the alleged unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying occurred, or the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying.

The following grievance procedures shall be utilized for reports of misconduct prohibited by these Administrative Regulations that do not comply with the writing, timeline, or other formal filing requirements of a uniform complaint. For formal complaints of sexual harassment, DMCS will utilize the following grievance procedures in addition to its UCP when applicable.

2. Reporting

All staff are expected to provide appropriate supervision to enforce standards of conduct and, if they observe or become aware of misconduct prohibited by these Administrative Regulations, to intervene when safe to do so, call for assistance, and report such incidents. The Board requires staff to follow the procedures in these Administrative Regulations for reporting alleged acts of misconduct prohibited by BP 1312.5 and these Administrative Regulations.

Any student who believes they have been subject to misconduct prohibited by these Administrative Regulations or has witnessed such prohibited misconduct is encouraged to immediately report such misconduct to the Coordinator:

Mr. Ben Ernest
Executive Director
355 North Almond Street
Dixon, CA 95620
Telephone: (707) 678-8953

Complaints regarding such misconduct may also be made to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights. Civil law remedies, including, but not limited to, injunctions, restraining orders, or other remedies or orders may also be available to complainants.

While submission of a written report is not required, the reporting party is encouraged to submit a written report to the Coordinator. DMCS will investigate and respond to all oral and written reports of misconduct prohibited by these Administrative Regulations in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action cannot be based solely on an anonymous report.

Students are expected to report all incidents of misconduct prohibited by these Administrative Regulations or other verbal, or physical abuses. Any student who feels they are a target of such behavior should immediately contact a teacher, counselor, the Executive Director, Coordinator, a staff person or a family member so that the student can get assistance in resolving the issue in a manner that is consistent with these Administrative Regulations.

DMCS acknowledges and respects every individual's right to privacy. All reports shall be investigated in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the parties and the integrity of the process to the greatest extent possible. This includes keeping the identity of the reporter confidential, as appropriate, except to the extent necessary to comply with the law, carry out the investigation and/or to resolve the issue, as determined by the Coordinator or administrative designee on a case-by-case basis.

DMCS prohibits any form of retaliation against any individual who files a report or complaint, testifies, assists, participates, or refuses to participate in any investigation or proceeding related to misconduct prohibited by these Administrative Regulations. Such participation or lack of participation shall not in any way affect the status, grades, or work assignments of the individual. Individuals alleging retaliation in violation of these Administrative Regulations may file a grievance using the procedures set forth in these Administrative Regulations. Knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action.

All supervisors of staff will receive sexual harassment training within six (6) months of their assumption of a supervisory position and will receive further training once every two (2) years thereafter. All staff, and any individual designated as a coordinator, investigator or decision-maker will receive sexual harassment training and/or instruction concerning sexual harassment as required by law.

3. Supportive Measures

Upon the receipt of an informal or formal complaint of sexual harassment, the Coordinator will promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures. The Coordinator will consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint of sexual harassment, and explain the process for filing a formal complaint of sexual harassment.

Supportive measures are non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the complainant or the respondent before or after the filing of a formal complaint of sexual harassment or where no formal complaint of sexual harassment has been filed. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to DMCS's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or DMCS's educational environment, or deter sexual harassment. Supportive measures available to complainants and respondents may include but are not limited to counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, campus escort services, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, changes in work locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus, and other similar measures. DMCS will maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of DMCS to provide the supportive measures.

4. Investigation and Response

Upon receipt of a report of misconduct prohibited by these Administrative Regulations from a student, staff member, parent, volunteer, visitor or affiliate of DMCS, the Coordinator (or administrative designee) will promptly initiate an investigation. In most cases, a thorough investigation will take no more than twenty-five (25) school days. If the Coordinator (or administrative designee) determines that an investigation will take longer than twenty-five (25) school days and needs to be delayed or extended due to good cause, the Coordinator (or administrative designee) will inform the complainant of the reasons for the delay or extension and provide an approximate date when the investigation will be complete.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Coordinator (or administrative designee) will meet with the complainant and, to the extent possible with respect to confidentiality laws, provide the complainant with information about the investigation, including any actions necessary to resolve the incident/situation. However, the Coordinator (or administrative designee) will not reveal confidential information related to other students or employees.

For investigations of and responses to formal complaints of sexual harassment, the following grievance procedures will apply:

- **Notice of the Allegations**
 - Upon receipt of a formal complaint of sexual harassment, the Coordinator will give all known parties written notice of its grievance process, including any voluntary informal resolution process. The notice will include:
 - A description of the allegations of sexual harassment at issue and to the extent known, the identities of the parties involved in the incident, the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment, and the date and location of the alleged incident;
 - A statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct until a final decision is reached;
 - A statement that the parties may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, and may inspect and review evidence; and
 - A statement that DMCS prohibits an individual from knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.
- **Emergency Removal**
 - DMCS may place a non-student employee respondent on administrative leave during the pendency of a formal complaint of sexual harassment grievance process in accordance with DMCS's policies.
 - DMCS may remove a respondent from DMCS's education program or activity on an emergency basis, in accordance with DMCS's policies, provided that DMCS undertakes an individualized safety and risk analysis, determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sexual harassment justifies removal, and provides the respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal.
 - This provision may not be construed to modify any rights under the IDEA, Section 504, or the ADA.
- **Informal Resolution**
 - If a formal complaint of sexual harassment is filed, DMCS may offer a voluntary informal resolution process, such as mediation, to the parties at any time prior to reaching a determination regarding responsibility. If DMCS offers such a process, it will do the following:
 - Provide the parties with advance written notice of:
 - The allegations;

6. Right of Appeal

Should the reporting individual find DMCS's resolution unsatisfactory, the reporting individual may, within five (5) business days of notice of DMCS's decision or resolution, submit a written appeal to the President of the DMCS Board, who will review the investigation and render a final decision.

The following appeal rights and procedures will also apply to formal complaints of sexual harassment:

- The complainant and the respondent shall have the same appeal rights and DMCS will implement appeal procedures equally for both parties.
- DMCS will notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed.
- The decision-maker for the appeal will give both parties a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome; issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result; and provide the written decision simultaneously to both parties.

7. Recordkeeping

All records related to any investigation of complaints under these Administrative Regulations are maintained in a secure location.

DMCS will maintain the following records for at least seven (7) years:

- Records of each sexual harassment investigation, including any determination of responsibility; any audio or audiovisual recording or transcript; any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent; and any remedies provided to the complainant.
- Records of any appeal of a formal sexual harassment complaint and the results of that appeal.
- Records of any informal resolution of a sexual harassment complaint and the results of that informal resolution.
- All materials used to train Title IX coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process.
- Records of any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment.

TITLE IX, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, DISCRIMINATION & BULLYING COMPLAINT FORM

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Date of Alleged Incident(s): _____

Name of Person(s) you have a complaint against: _____

List any witnesses that were present: _____

Where did the incident(s) occur? _____

Please describe the events or conduct that are the basis of your complaint by providing as much factual detail as possible (i.e., specific statements; what, if any, physical contact was involved; any verbal statements; what did you do to avoid the situation, etc.) (Attach additional pages, if needed):

I hereby authorize DMCS to disclose the information I have provided as it finds necessary in pursuing its investigation. I hereby certify that the information I have provided in this complaint is true and correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further understand that providing false information in this regard could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Signature of Complainant

Date: _____

Print Name

To be completed by the Charter School:

Received by: _____

Date: _____

Follow up Meeting with Complainant held on: _____

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION Policy and PROCEDURES

Governing Law: *The procedures by which pupils can be suspended or expelled from the charter school for disciplinary reasons or otherwise involuntarily removed from the charter school for any reason. These procedures, at a minimum, shall include an explanation of how the charter school will comply with federal and state constitutional procedural and substantive due process requirements that is consistent with all of the following:*

(i) *For suspensions of fewer than 10 days, provide oral or written notice of the charges against the pupil and, if the pupil denies the charges, an explanation of the evidence that supports the charges and an opportunity for the pupil to present his or her side of the story.*

(ii) *For suspensions of 10 days or more and all other expulsions for disciplinary reasons, both of the following:*

(I) *Provide timely, written notice of the charges against the pupil and an explanation of the pupil's basic rights.*

(II) *Provide a hearing adjudicated by a neutral officer within a reasonable number of days at which the pupil has a fair opportunity to present testimony, evidence, and witnesses and confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, and at which the pupil has the right to bring legal counsel or an advocate.*

(iii) *Contain a clear statement that no pupil shall be involuntarily removed by the charter school for any reason unless the parent or guardian of the pupil has been provided written notice of intent to remove the pupil no less than five school days before the effective date of the action. The written notice shall be in the native language of the pupil or the pupil's parent or guardian or, if the pupil is a foster child or youth or a homeless child or youth, the pupil's educational rights holder, and shall inform him or her of the right to initiate the procedures specified in clause (ii) before the effective date of the action. If the pupil's parent, guardian, or educational rights holder initiates the procedures specified in clause (ii), the pupil shall remain enrolled and shall not be removed until the charter school issues a final decision. For purposes of this clause, "involuntarily removed" includes disenrolled, dismissed, transferred, or terminated, but does not include suspensions specified in clauses (i) and (ii). —Education Code Section 47605 (b)(5)(J)*

This Pupil Suspension and Expulsion Policy has been established in order to promote learning and protect the safety and well-being of all students at DMCS. In creating this policy, DMCS has reviewed Education Code Section 48900 *et seq.* which describes the non-charter schools' list of offenses and procedures to establish its list of offenses and procedures for suspensions, expulsions, and involuntary removals. The language that follows closely mirrors the language of Education Code Section 48900 *et seq.* DMCS is committed to annual review of policies and procedures surrounding suspensions and expulsions and, as necessary, modification of the lists of offenses for which students are subject to suspension, expulsion, or involuntary removal.

When the policy is violated, it may be necessary to suspend or expel a student from regular classroom instruction. This policy shall serve as DMCS's policy and procedures for student suspension, expulsion, and involuntary removal, and it may be amended from time to time without the need to amend the charter so long as the amendments comport with legal requirements.

Staff shall enforce disciplinary rules and procedures fairly and consistently among all students. This Policy and its Procedures clearly describes discipline expectations, and it is printed and distributed as part of the Student Handbook which is sent to each student at the beginning of the school year. The DMCS administration shall ensure that students and their parents/guardians are notified in writing upon enrollment of all discipline policies and procedures.

Discipline includes but is not limited to advising and counseling students, conferring with parents/guardians, detention during and after school hours, use of alternative educational environments, suspension and expulsion.

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any student. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of or willfully causing the infliction of physical pain on a student. For purposes of the Policy, corporal punishment does not include an employee's use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect the employee, students, staff or other persons or to prevent damage to school property.

Suspended or expelled students shall be excluded from all school and school-related activities unless otherwise agreed during the period of suspension or expulsion.

A student identified as an individual with disabilities or for whom DMCS has a basis of knowledge of a suspected disability pursuant to the IDEA or who is qualified for services under Section 504 is subject to the same grounds for suspension and expulsion and is accorded the same due process procedures applicable to regular education students except when federal and state law mandates additional or different procedures. DMCS will follow all applicable federal and state laws when imposing any form of discipline on a student identified as an individual with disabilities or for whom DMCS has a basis of knowledge of a suspected disability or who is otherwise qualified for such services or protections in according due process to such students and shall notify the District of the same.

No student shall be involuntarily removed by the Charter School for any reason unless the parent/guardian of the student has been provided written notice of intent to remove the student no less than five (5) school days before the effective date of the action. The written notice shall be in the native language of the student or the student's parent/guardian or, if the student is a foster child or youth or a homeless child or youth, the student's educational rights holder, and shall inform the student, the student's parent/guardian, or educational rights holder of the basis for which the student is being involuntarily removed and the student's parent, guardian, or educational rights holder's right to request a hearing to challenge the involuntary removal. If a student's parent, guardian, or educational rights holder requests a hearing, the Charter School shall utilize the same hearing procedures specified below for expulsions, before the effective date of the action to involuntarily remove the student. If the student's parent, guardian, or educational rights holder requests a hearing, the student shall remain enrolled and shall not be removed until the Charter School issues a final decision. As used herein, "involuntarily removed" includes disenrolled, dismissed, transferred, or terminated, but does not include removals for misconduct which may be grounds for suspension or expulsion as enumerated below. Students may be involuntarily removed for reasons including, but not limited to, failure to comply with the terms of the student's independent study Master Agreement pursuant to Education Code Section 51747(c)(4).

A. GROUNDS FOR SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION OF STUDENTS

A student may be suspended or expelled for prohibited misconduct if the act is 1) related to school activity, 2) school attendance occurring at DMCS or at any other school, or 3) a DMCS sponsored event. A student may be suspended or expelled for acts that are enumerated below and related to school activity or attendance that occur at any time, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

1. while on school grounds;
2. while going to or coming from school;
3. during the lunch period, whether on or off the school campus; or
4. during, going to, or coming from a school-sponsored activity.

B. ENUMERATED OFFENSES

- I. Discretionary Suspension Offenses. Students may be suspended for any of the following acts when it is determined the pupil:
 - a) Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.
 - b) Willfully used force or violence upon the person of another, except self-defense.
 - c) Unlawfully possessed, used, or otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance, as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.
 - d) Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid substance or material and represented same as controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant.
 - e) Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
 - f) Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property, which includes but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.
 - g) Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property, which includes but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.
 - h) Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including but not limited to cigars, cigarettes, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets and betel. This section does not prohibit the use of his or her own prescription products by a pupil.
 - i) Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
 - j) Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 11014.5.
 - k) Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, other school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties. This section shall only apply to students in any of grades 9-12, inclusive.

- l) Knowingly received stolen school property or private property, which includes but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.
- m) Possessed an imitation firearm, i.e.: a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.
- n) Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness.
- o) Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.
- p) Engaged in or attempted to engage in hazing. For the purposes of this subdivision, "hazing" means a method of initiation or preinitiation into a pupil organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective pupil. For purposes of this section, "hazing" does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events.
- q) Made terroristic threats against school officials and/or school property which includes but is not limited to, electronic files and databases. For purposes of this section, "terroristic threat" shall include any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death, great bodily injury to another person, or property damage in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for his or her own safety or for his or her immediate family's safety, or for the protection of school property which includes but is not limited to, electronic files and databases, or the personal property of the person threatened or his or her immediate family.
- r) Committed sexual harassment, as defined in Education Code Section 212.5. For the purposes of this section, the conduct described in Section 212.5 must be considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the individual's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. This section shall apply to pupils in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
- s) Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause or participated in an act of hate violence, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 233 of the Education Code. This section shall apply to pupils in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
- t) Intentionally harassed, threatened or intimidated school personnel or volunteers and/or a student or group of students to the extent of having the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting class work, creating substantial disorder and invading the rights of either school personnel or volunteers and/or student(s) by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. This section shall apply to pupils in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
- u) Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act.
 - 1) "Bullying" means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including one or more acts committed by a student or group of students which would be deemed hate violence or harassment, threats, or intimidation, which are directed toward one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:
 - i. Placing a reasonable student (defined as a student, including, but is not limited to, a student with exceptional needs, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his or her age, or for a person of his or her age with exceptional needs) or students in fear of harm to that student's or those students' person or property.
 - ii. Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.
 - iii. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance.
 - iv. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the Charter School.
 - 2) "Electronic Act" means the creation or transmission originated on or off the school site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

- i. A message, text, sound, video, or image.
 - ii. A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:
 - (a) Posting to or creating a burn page. A “burn page” means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in subparagraph (1) above.
 - (b) Creating a credible impersonation of another actual pupil for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph 1 above. “Credible impersonation” means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a pupil for the purpose of bullying the pupil and such that another pupil would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the pupil was or is the pupil who was impersonated.
 - (c) Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. “False profile” means a profile of a fictitious pupil or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual pupil other than the pupil who created the false profile.
 - iii. An act of cyber sexual bullying.
 - (a) For purposes of this clause, “cyber sexual bullying” means the dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording by a pupil to another pupil or to school personnel by means of an electronic act that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the effects described in subparagraphs (i) to (iv), inclusive, of paragraph (1). A photograph or other visual recording, as described above, shall include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or other visual recording of a minor where the minor is identifiable from the photograph, visual recording, or other electronic act.
 - (b) For purposes of this clause, “cyber sexual bullying” does not include a depiction, portrayal, or image that has any serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value or that involves athletic events or school-sanctioned activities.
- 3) Notwithstanding subparagraphs (1) and (2) above, an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.
- v) A pupil who aids or abets, as defined in Section 31 of the Penal Code, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person may be subject to suspension, but not expulsion, except that a pupil who has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider and abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great bodily injury or serious bodily injury shall be subject to discipline pursuant to subdivision (1)(a)-(b).
 - w) Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any knife unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Executive Director or designee’s concurrence.
2. Non-Discretionary Suspension Offenses: Students must be suspended and recommended for expulsion for any of the following acts when it is determined the pupil:
- a) Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, explosive, or other destructive device unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the students had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Executive Director or designee’s concurrence.
 - b) Brandished a knife at another person.
 - a. Unlawfully sold a controlled substance listed in Health and Safety Code Section 11053, et seq.
 - b. Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code Sections 261, 266c, 286, 287, 288, or 289 of former Section 288a of the Penal Code or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code Section 243.4
3. Discretionary Expellable Offenses: Students may be recommended for expulsion for any of the following acts when it is determined the pupil:
- a) Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.
 - b) Willfully used force or violence upon the person of another, except self-defense.
 - c) Unlawfully possessed, used, or otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance, as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.
 - d) Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid substance or material and represented same as controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant.

- e) Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
- f) Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property, which includes but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.
- g) Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property, which includes but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.
- h) Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including but not limited to cigars, cigarettes, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets and betel. This section does not prohibit the use of his or her own prescription products by a pupil.
- i) Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- j) Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 11014.5.
- k) Knowingly received stolen school property or private property, which includes but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.
- l) Possessed an imitation firearm, i.e.: a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.
- m) Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness.
- n) Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.
- o) Engaged in or attempted to engage in hazing. For the purposes of this subdivision, "hazing" means a method of initiation or pre-initiation into a pupil organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective pupil. For purposes of this section, "hazing" does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events.
- p) Made terroristic threats against school officials and/or school property, which includes but is not limited to, electronic files and databases. For purposes of this section, "terroristic threat" shall include any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death, great bodily injury to another person, or property damage in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for his or her own safety or for his or her immediate family's safety, or for the protection of school property, which includes but is not limited to, electronic files and databases., or the personal property of the person threatened or his or her immediate family.
- q) Committed sexual harassment, as defined in Education Code Section 212.5. For the purposes of this section, the conduct described in Section 212.5 must be considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the individual's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. This section shall apply to pupils in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
- r) Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause or participated in an act of hate violence, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 233 of the Education Code. This section shall apply to pupils in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
- s) Intentionally harassed, threatened or intimidated school personnel or volunteers and/or a student or group of students to the extent of having the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting class work, creating substantial disorder and invading the rights of either school personnel or volunteers and/ or student(s) by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. This section shall apply to pupils in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
- t) Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act.
 - l) "Bullying" means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including one or more acts committed by a student or group of students which would be deemed hate violence or harassment, threats, or intimidation, which are directed toward one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

- i. Placing a reasonable student (defined as a student, including, but is not limited to, a student with exceptional needs, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his or her age, or for a person of his or her age with exceptional needs) or students in fear of harm to that student's or those students' person or property.
 - ii. Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.
 - iii. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance.
 - iv. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the Charter School.
- 2) "Electronic Act" means the creation or transmission originated on or off the school site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:
- i. A message, text, sound, video, or image.
 - ii. A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:
 - (a) Posting to or creating a burn page. A "burn page" means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in subparagraph (1) above.
 - (b) Creating a credible impersonation of another actual pupil for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "Credible impersonation" means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a pupil for the purpose of bullying the pupil and such that another pupil would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the pupil was or is the pupil who was impersonated.
 - (c) Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "False profile" means a profile of a fictitious pupil or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual pupil other than the pupil who created the false profile.
 - iii. An act of cyber sexual bullying.
 - (a) For purposes of this clause, "cyber sexual bullying" means the dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording by a pupil to another pupil or to school personnel by means of an electronic act that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the effects described in subparagraphs (i) to (iv), inclusive, of paragraph (1). A photograph or other visual recording, as described above, shall include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or other visual recording of a minor where the minor is identifiable from the photograph, visual recording, or other electronic act.
 - (b) For purposes of this clause, "cyber sexual bullying" does not include a depiction, portrayal, or image that has any serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value or that involves athletic events or school-sanctioned activities.
- 3) Notwithstanding subparagraphs (1) and (2) above, an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.
- u) A pupil who aids or abets, as defined in Section 31 of the Penal Code, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person may be subject to suspension, but not expulsion, except that a pupil who has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider and abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great bodily injury or serious bodily injury shall be subject to discipline pursuant to subdivisions (3)(a)-(b).
- v) Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any knife unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Executive Director or designee's concurrence.
4. Non-Discretionary Expellable Offenses: Students must be recommended for expulsion for any of the following acts when it is determined pursuant to the procedures below that the pupil:

- a) Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, explosive, or other destructive device unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the students had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Executive Director or designee's concurrence.
- b) Brandished a knife at another person.
- c) Unlawfully sold a controlled substance listed in Health and Safety Code Section 11053, et seq.
- d) Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code Sections 261, 266c, 286, 287, 288, or 289 of former Section 288a of the Penal Code or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code Section 243.4.

If it is determined by the Administrative Panel and/or Board of Directors that a student has brought a fire arm or destructive device, as defined in Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, on to campus or to have possessed a firearm or destructive device on campus, the student shall be expelled for one year, pursuant to the Federal Gun Free Schools Act of 1994. In such instances, the pupil shall be provided due process rights of notice and a hearing as required in this policy.

The Charter School will use the following definitions:

The term "knife" means (A) any dirk, dagger, or other weapon with a fixed, sharpened blade fitted primarily for stabbing; (B) a weapon with a blade fitted primarily for stabbing; (C) a weapon with a blade longer than 3½ inches; (D) a folding knife with a blade that locks into place; or (E) a razor with an unguarded blade.

The term "firearm" means (A) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive;

(B) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (C) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or

(D) any destructive device. Such term does not include an antique firearm.

The term "destructive device" means (A) any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, including but not limited to: (i) bomb, (ii) grenade, (iii) rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, (iv) missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, (v) mine, or (vi) device similar to any of the devices described in the preceding clauses.

C. SUSPENSION PROCEDURE

Suspensions shall be initiated according to the following procedures:

1. Conference

Suspension shall be preceded, if possible, by a conference conducted by the Executive Director or the Executive Director's designee with the student and his or her parent and, whenever practical, the teacher, supervisor or school employee who referred the student to the Executive Director. The conference may be omitted if the Executive Director or designee determines that an emergency situation exists. An "emergency situation" involves a clear and present danger to the lives, safety or health of students or school personnel. If a student is suspended without this conference, both the parent/guardian and student shall be notified of the student's right to return to school for the purpose of a conference.

At the conference, the pupil shall be informed of the reason for the disciplinary action and the evidence against him or her and shall be given the opportunity to present his or her version and evidence in his or her defense, in accordance with Education Code Section 47605(b)(5)(J)(i). This conference shall be held within two (2) school days, unless the pupil waives this right or is physically unable to attend for any reason including, but not limited to, incarceration or hospitalization.

No penalties may be imposed on a pupil for failure of the pupil's parent or guardian to attend a conference with school officials. Reinstatement of the suspended pupil shall not be contingent upon attendance by the pupil's parent or guardian at the conference.

2. Notice to Parents/Guardians

At the time of suspension, the Executive Director or designee shall make a reasonable effort to contact the parent/guardian by telephone or in person. Whenever a student is suspended, the parent/guardian shall be notified in writing of the suspension and the date of return following suspension. This notice shall state the specific offense committed by the student. In addition, the notice may also state the date and time when the student may return to school. If school officials wish to ask the parent/guardian to confer regarding matters pertinent to the suspension, the notice may request that the parent/guardian respond to such requests without delay.

3. Suspension Time Limits/Recommendation for Placement/Expulsion

Suspensions, when not including a recommendation for expulsion, shall not exceed five

(5) consecutive school days per suspension.

Upon a recommendation of expulsion by the Executive Director or Executive Director's designee, the pupil and the pupil's parent/guardian or representative will be invited to a conference to determine if the suspension for the pupil should be extended pending an expulsion hearing. In such instances when the Charter School has determined a suspension period shall be extended, such extension shall be made only after a conference is held with the pupil or the pupil's parents, unless the pupil and the pupil's parents fail to attend the conference.

This determination will be made by the Executive Director or designee upon either of the following determinations: 1) the pupil's presence will be disruptive to the education process; or 2) the pupil poses a threat or danger to others. Upon either determination, the pupil's suspension will be extended pending the results of an expulsion hearing.

4. Homework Assignments During Suspension

In accordance with Education Code Section 47606.2(a), upon the request of a parent, a legal guardian or other person holding the right to make education decisions for the student, or the affected student, a teacher shall provide to a student in any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, who has been suspended from school for two (2) or more school days, the homework that the student would otherwise have been assigned.

In accordance with Education Code Section 47606.2(b), if a homework assignment that is requested pursuant to Section 47606.2(a) and turned into the teacher by the student either upon the student's return to school from suspension or within the timeframe originally prescribed by the teacher, whichever is later, is not graded before the end of the academic term, that assignment shall not be included in the calculation of the student's overall grade in the class.

D. AUTHORITY TO EXPEL

As required by Education Code Section 47605(b)(5)(J)(ii), students recommended for expulsion are entitled to a hearing adjudicated by a neutral officer to determine whether the student should be expelled. The procedures herein provide for such a hearing and the notice of said hearing, as required by law.

A student may be expelled either by the neutral and impartial DMCS Board of Directors following a hearing before it or by the DMCS Board of Directors upon the recommendation of a neutral and impartial Administrative Panel to be assigned by the Board as needed. The Administrative Panel shall consist of at least three members who are certificated and neither a teacher of the pupil or a Board member of the DMCS Board of Directors. Each entity shall be presided over by a designated neutral hearing chairperson. The Administrative Panel may recommend expulsion of any student found to have committed an expellable offense, and the Board of Directors shall make the final determination.

E. EXPULSION PROCEDURES

Students recommended for expulsion are entitled to a hearing to determine whether the student should be expelled. Unless postponed for good cause, the hearing shall be held within thirty

(30) school days after the Executive Director or designee determines that the pupil has committed an expellable offense.

In the event an Administrative Panel hears the case, it will make a recommendation to the Charter School Board of Directors for a final decision whether to expel. The hearing shall be held in closed session (complying with all pupil confidentiality rules under FERPA) unless the pupil makes a written request for a public hearing in open session three (3) days prior to the date of the scheduled hearing.

Written notice of the hearing shall be forwarded to the student and the student's parent/guardian at least ten (10) calendar days before the date of the hearing. Upon mailing the notice, it shall be deemed served upon the pupil. The notice shall include:

1. The date and place of the expulsion hearing;
2. A statement of specific facts, charges and offenses upon which the proposed expulsion is based;
3. A copy of Charter School's disciplinary rules which relate to the alleged violation;
4. Notification of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to provide information about the student's status at the school to any other school district or school to which the student seeks enrollment;
5. The opportunity for the student and/or the student's parent/guardian to appear in person or to employ and be represented by counsel or a non-attorney advisor;
6. The right to inspect and obtain copies of all documents to be used at the hearing;
7. The opportunity to confront and question all witnesses who testify at the hearing;
8. The opportunity to question all evidence presented and to present oral and documentary evidence on the student's behalf including witnesses.

F. SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR EXPULSION HEARINGS INVOLVING SEXUAL ASSAULT OR BATTERY OFFENCES

DMCS may, upon finding a good cause, determine that the disclosure of either the identity of the witness or the testimony of that witness at the hearing, or both, would subject the witness to an unreasonable risk of psychological or physical harm. Upon this determination, the testimony of the witness may be presented at the hearing in the form of sworn declarations which shall be examined only by the DMCS Board of Directors, or the hearing officer. Copies of these sworn declarations, edited to delete the name and identity of the witness, shall be made available to the pupil.

1. The complaining witness in any sexual assault or battery case must be provided with a copy of the applicable disciplinary rules and advised of his/her right to (a) receive five days' notice of his/her scheduled testimony, (b) have up to two (2) adult support persons of his/her choosing present in the hearing at the time he/she testifies, which may include a parent, guardian, or legal counsel, and (c) elect to have the hearing closed while testifying.
2. Charter School must also provide the victim a room separate from the hearing room for the complaining witness' use prior to and during breaks in testimony.
3. At the discretion of the entity conducting the hearing, the complaining witness shall be allowed periods of relief from examination and cross-examination during which he or she may leave the hearing room.
4. The entity conducting the expulsion hearing may also arrange the seating within the hearing room to facilitate a less intimidating environment for the complaining witness.
5. The entity conducting the expulsion hearing may also limit time for taking the testimony of the complaining witness to the hours he/she is normally in school, if there is no good cause to take the testimony during other hours.
6. Prior to a complaining witness testifying, the support persons must be admonished that the hearing is confidential. Nothing in the law precludes the entity presiding over the hearing from removing a support person whom the presiding person finds is disrupting the hearing. The entity conducting the hearing may permit any one of the support persons for the complaining witness to accompany him or her to the witness stand.
7. If one or both of the support persons is also a witness, the Charter School must present evidence that the witness' presence is both desired by the witness and will be helpful to the Charter School. The person presiding over the hearing shall permit the witness to stay unless it is established that there is a substantial risk that the testimony of the complaining witness would be influenced by the support person, in which case the presiding official shall admonish the support person or persons not to prompt, sway, or influence the witness in any way. Nothing shall preclude the presiding officer from exercising his or her discretion to remove a person from the hearing whom he or she believes is prompting, swaying, or influencing the witness.
8. The testimony of the support person shall be presented before the testimony of the complaining witness and the complaining witness shall be excluded from the courtroom during that testimony.
9. Especially for charges involving sexual assault or battery, if the hearing is to be conducted in the public at the request of the pupil being expelled, the complaining witness shall have the right to have his/her testimony heard in a closed session when testifying at a public meeting would threaten serious psychological harm to the complaining witness and there are not alternative procedures to avoid the threatened harm. The alternative procedures may include videotaped depositions or contemporaneous examination in another place communicated to the hearing by means of closed-circuit television.
10. Evidence of specific instances of a complaining witness' prior sexual conduct is presumed inadmissible and shall not be heard absent a determination by the entity conducting the hearing that extraordinary circumstances exist requiring the evidence be heard. Before such a determination regarding extraordinary circumstances can be made, the witness shall be provided notice and an opportunity to present opposition to the introduction of the evidence. In the hearing on the admissibility of the evidence, the complaining witness shall be entitled to be represented by a parent, legal counsel, or other support person. Reputation or opinion evidence regarding the sexual behavior of the complaining witness is not admissible for any purpose.

G. RECORD OF HEARING

A record of the hearing shall be made and may be maintained by any means, including electronic recording, as long as a reasonably accurate and complete written transcription of the proceedings can be made.

H. PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE

While technical rules of evidence do not apply to expulsion hearings, evidence may be admitted and used as proof only if it is the kind of evidence on which reasonable persons can rely in the conduct of serious affairs. A recommendation by the Administrative Panel to expel must be supported by substantial evidence that the student committed an expellable offense.

Findings of fact shall be based solely on the evidence at the hearing. While hearsay evidence is admissible, no decision to expel shall be based solely on hearsay. Sworn declarations may be admitted as testimony from witnesses of whom the DMCS Board of Directors or Administrative Panel determines that disclosure of their identity or testimony at the hearing may subject them to an unreasonable risk of physical or psychological harm. If, due to a written request by the accused pupil, the hearing is held at a public meeting, and the charge is committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing a sexual battery as defined in Education Code Section 48900, a complaining witness shall have the right to have his or her testimony heard in a session closed to the public.

The decision of the Administrative Panel shall be in the form of written findings of fact and a written recommendation to the DMCS Board of Directors who will make a final determination regarding the expulsion. The final decision by the DMCS Board of Directors shall be made within ten (10) school days following the conclusion of the hearing. The decision of the DMCS Board of Directors is final.

If the Administrative Panel decides not to recommend expulsion, the pupil shall immediately be returned to his/her educational program.

The Board of Directors may also determine to suspend the enforcement of the expulsion order for a period of not more than one (1) calendar year from the date of the expulsion hearing and return the student to the student's previous educational program under a probationary status and rehabilitation plan to be determined by the Board. During the period of the suspension of the expulsion order, the student is deemed to be on probationary status. The Board of Directors may revoke the suspension of an expulsion order under this section if the student commits any of the enumerated offenses listed above or violates any of the Charter School's rules and regulations governing student conduct. If the Board revokes the suspension of an expulsion order, the student may be expelled under the terms of the original expulsion order. The Board of Directors shall apply the criteria for suspending the enforcement of the expulsion order equally to all students, including individuals with exceptional needs as defined in Education Code Section 56026. The Board of Directors shall further comply with the provisions set forth under Education Code Section 48917, except as otherwise expressly set forth herein.

I. WRITTEN NOTICE TO EXPEL

The Executive Director or designee following a decision of the DMCS Board of Directors to expel shall send written notice of the decision to expel, including the DMCS Board of Directors' adopted findings of fact, to the student or parent/guardian. This notice shall also include the following:

1. Notice of the specific offense committed by the student
2. Notice of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to inform any new district in which the student seeks to enroll of the student's status with DMCS.

The Executive Director or designee shall send a copy of the written notice of the decision to expel to the District. This notice shall include the following:

1. The student's name
2. The specific expellable offense committed by the student

J. DISCIPLINARY RECORDS

DMCS shall maintain records of all student suspensions and expulsions at DMCS. Such records shall be made available to the District upon request.

K. NO RIGHT TO APPEAL

The pupil shall have no right of appeal from expulsion from DMCS as the DMCS Board of Directors' decision to expel shall be final.

L. EXPELLED PUPILS/ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Parents/guardians of pupils who are expelled shall be responsible for seeking alternative education programs including, but not limited to, programs within the County or their school district of residence. DMCS shall work cooperatively with parents/guardians as requested by parents/guardians or by the school district of residence to assist with locating alternative placements during expulsion.

M. REHABILITATION PLANS

Students who are expelled from DMCS shall be given a rehabilitation plan upon expulsion as developed by the DMCS Board of Directors at the time of the expulsion order, which may include, but is not limited to, periodic review as well as assessment at the time of review for readmission. The rehabilitation plan should include a date not later than one (1) year from the date of expulsion when the pupil may reapply to DMCS for readmission.

N. READMISSION OR ADMISSION OF PREVIOUSLY EXPELLED STUDENT

The decision to readmit a pupil or to admit a previously expelled pupil from another school, school district or charter school shall be in the sole discretion of the DMCS Board of Directors following a meeting with the Executive Director and the pupil and parent/guardian or representative to determine whether the pupil has successfully completed the rehabilitation plan and to determine whether the pupil poses a threat to others or will be disruptive to the school environment. The Executive Director shall make a recommendation to the DMCS Board of Directors following the meeting regarding his or her determination. The Board shall then make a final decision regarding readmission during the closed session of a public meeting, reporting out any action taken during closed session consistent with the requirements of the Brown Act. The pupil's readmission is also contingent upon the DMCS's capacity at the time the student seeks readmission.

O. Notice to Teachers

The Charter School shall notify teachers of each student who has engaged in or is reasonably suspected to have engaged in any of the acts listed in Education Code Section 49079 and the corresponding enumerated offenses set forth above.

P. Involuntary Removal for Truancy

As charter schools are schools of choice and as a charter school student who fails to attend school is potentially depriving another student of their opportunity to enroll, a student may be involuntarily removed as described within the Charter School's Board adopted Attendance Policy for truancy and only after the Charter School follows the requirements of the Attendance Policy and only in accordance with the policy described above which requires notice and an opportunity for a parent, guardian, educational rights holder to request a hearing prior to any involuntary removal. Students who are involuntarily removed for truancy will be given a rehabilitation plan and will be subject to the readmission procedures set forth herein.

O. SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

1. Notification of SELPA

DMCS shall immediately notify the SELPA and coordinate the procedures in this policy with the SELPA the discipline of any student with a disability or student who DMCS or the SELPA would be deemed to have knowledge that the student had a disability who is suspended for more than ten (10) school days during a school year.

2. Services During Suspension

Students suspended for more than ten (10) school days in a school year shall continue to receive services so as to enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting (which could constitute a change of placement and the student's IEP would reflect this change), and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the child's IEP/504 Plan; and receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention services and modifications, that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur. These services may be provided in an interim alternative educational setting.

3. Procedural Safeguards/Manifestation Determination

Within ten (10) school days of a recommendation for expulsion or any decision to change the placement of a child with a disability because of a violation of a code of student conduct, DMCS, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team shall review all relevant information in the student's file, including the child's IEP/504 Plan, any teacher observations, and any relevant information provided by the parents to determine:

- a. If the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the child's disability; or
- b. If the conduct in question was the direct result of the local educational agency's failure to implement the IEP/504 Plan.

If the DMCS, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team determine that either of the above is applicable for the child, the conduct shall be determined to be a manifestation of the child's disability.

If DMCS, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team make the determination that the conduct was a manifestation of the child's disability, the IEP/504 Team shall:

- a. Conduct a functional behavioral assessment and implement a behavioral intervention plan for such child, provided that DMCS had not conducted such assessment prior to such determination before the behavior that resulted in a change in placement;
- b. If a behavioral intervention plan has been developed, review the behavioral intervention plan if the child already has such a behavioral intervention plan, and modify it, as necessary, to address the behavior; and
- c. Return the child to the placement from which the child was removed, unless the parent and DMCS agree to a change of placement as part of the modification of the behavioral intervention plan.

If DMCS, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team determine that the behavior was not a manifestation of the student's disability and that the conduct in question was not a direct result of the failure to implement the IEP/504 Plan, then DMCS may apply the relevant disciplinary procedures to children with disabilities in the same manner and for the same duration as the procedures would be applied to students without disabilities.

4. Due Process Appeals

The parent of a child with a disability who disagrees with any decision regarding placement, or the manifestation determination, or DMCS believes that maintaining the current placement of the child is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or to others, may request an expedited administrative hearing through the Special Education Unit of the Office of Administrative Hearings or by utilizing the dispute provisions of the 504 Policy and Procedures.

When an appeal relating to the placement of the student or the manifestation determination has been requested by either the parent or DMCS, the student shall remain in the interim alternative educational setting pending the decision of the hearing officer in accordance with state and federal law, including 20 U.S.C. Section 1415(k), or until the expiration of the forty-five (45) day time period provided for in an interim alternative educational setting unless the parent and DMCS agree otherwise.

In accordance with 20 U.S.C. Section 1415(k)(3), if a parent/guardian disagrees with any decision regarding placement, or the manifestation determination, or if the Charter School believes that maintaining the current placement of the child is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or to others, the parent/guardian or Charter School may request a hearing.

In such an appeal, a hearing officer may: (1) return a child with a disability to the placement from which the child was removed; or (2) order a change in placement of a child with a disability to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for not more than 45 school days if the hearing officer determines that maintaining the current placement of such child is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or to others.

5. Special Circumstances

DMCS personnel may consider any unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis when determining whether to order a change in placement for a child with a disability who violates a code of student conduct. The Executive Director or designee may remove a student to an interim alternative educational setting for not more than forty-five (45) school days without regard to whether the behavior is determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability in cases where a student:

- a. Carries or possesses a weapon, as defined in 18 U.S.C. Section 930, to or at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function;
- b. Knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs, or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance, while at school, on school premises, or at a school function; or
- c. Has inflicted serious bodily injury, as defined by 20 U.S.C. Section 1415(k)(7)(D), upon a person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function.

6. Interim Alternative Educational Setting

The student's interim alternative educational setting shall be determined by the student's IEP/504 Team.

7. Procedures for Students Not Yet Eligible for Special Education Services

A student who has not been identified as an individual with disabilities pursuant to IDEA and who has violated DMCS's disciplinary procedures may assert the procedural safeguards granted under this administrative regulation only if DMCS had knowledge that the student was disabled before the behavior occurred.

DMCS shall be deemed to have knowledge that the student had a disability if one of the following conditions exists:

- a. The parent/guardian has expressed concern in writing, or orally if the parent/guardian does not know how to write or has a disability that prevents a written statement, to DMCS supervisory or administrative personnel, or to one of the child's teachers, that the student is in need of special education or related services.
- b. The parent has requested an evaluation of the child.
- c. The child's teacher, or other DMCS personnel, has expressed specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the child, directly to the director or a director designee.

If DMCS knew or should have known the student had a disability under any of the three

(3) circumstances described above, the student may assert any of the protections available to IDEA-eligible children with disabilities, including the right to stay-put.

If DMCS had no basis for knowledge of the student's disability, it shall proceed with the proposed discipline. DMCS shall conduct an expedited evaluation if requested by the parents; however, the student shall remain in the education placement determined by DMCS pending the results of the evaluation.

DMCS shall not be deemed to have knowledge of that the student had a disability if the parent has not allowed an evaluation, refused services, or if the student has been evaluated and determined to not be eligible.

Suicide Prevention Policy

Board Policy BP 5141.52

The Board of Directors of Dixon Montessori Charter School ("DMCS" or the "Charter School") recognizes that suicide is a major cause of death among youth and should be taken seriously. To attempt to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact on students and families, the Board of Directors has developed prevention strategies and intervention procedures.

In compliance with Education Code section 215, this policy has been developed in consultation with DMCS and community stakeholders, DMCS school-employed mental health professionals (e.g., school counselors, psychologists, social workers, nurses), administrators, other school staff members, parents/guardians/caregivers, students, local health agencies and professionals, the county mental health plan, law enforcement, and community organizations in planning, implementing, and evaluating DMCS's strategies for suicide prevention and intervention. DMCS must work in conjunction with local government agencies, community-based organizations, and other community supports to identify additional resources.

To ensure the policies regarding suicide prevention are properly adopted, implemented, and updated, DMCS shall appoint an individual (or team) to serve as the suicide prevention point of contact for DMCS. The suicide prevention point of contact for DMCS and the Executive Director shall ensure proper coordination and consultation with the county mental health plan if a referral is made for mental health or related services on behalf of a student who is a Medi-Cal beneficiary. This policy shall be reviewed and revised as indicated, at least annually in conjunction with the previously mentioned community stakeholders.

Staff Development

DMCS, along with its partners, has carefully reviewed available staff training to ensure it promotes the mental health model of suicide prevention and does not encourage the use of the stress model to explain suicide.

Training shall be provided for all school staff members. It may also be provided, when appropriate, for other adults on campus (such as substitutes and intermittent staff, volunteers, interns, tutors, coaches, and afterschool staff). Training shall include the following:

1. All suicide prevention trainings shall be offered under the direction of mental health professionals (e.g., school counselors, school psychologists, other public entity professionals, such as psychologists or social workers) who have received advanced training specific to suicide. Staff training may be adjusted year-to-year based on previous professional development activities and emerging best practices.
2. At least annually, all staff shall receive training on the risk factors and warning signs of suicide, suicide prevention, intervention, referral, and postvention.
3. At a minimum, all staff shall participate in training on the core components of suicide prevention (identification of suicide risk factors and warning signs, prevention, intervention, referral, and postvention) at the beginning of their employment or annually. Core components of the general suicide prevention training shall include:
 - a. Suicide risk factors, warning signs, and protective factors.
 - b. How to talk with a student about thoughts of suicide.
 - c. How to respond appropriately to the youth who has suicidal thoughts. Such responses shall include constant supervision of any student judged to be at risk for suicide and an immediate referral for a suicide risk assessment.
 - d. Emphasis on immediately referring (same day) any student who is identified to be at risk of suicide for assessment while staying under constant monitoring by staff member.
 - e. Emphasis on reducing stigma associated with mental illness and that early prevention and intervention can drastically reduce the risk of suicide.
 - f. Reviewing the data annually to look for any patterns or trends of the prevalence or occurrence of suicide ideation, attempts, or death. Data from the California School Climate, Health, and Learning Survey (Cal-SCHLS) should also be analyzed to identify school climate deficits and drive program development. See the Cal-SCHLS Web site at <http://cal-schls.wested.org/>.
 - g. Information regarding groups of students judged by the school, and available research, to be at elevated risk for suicide. These groups include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - i. Youth affected by suicide.
 - ii. Youth with a history of suicide ideation or attempts.
 - iii. Youth with disabilities, mental illness, or substance abuse disorders.
 - iv. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth.
 - v. Youth experiencing homelessness or in out-of-home settings, such as foster care.
 - vi. Youth who have suffered traumatic experiences.
4. In addition to initial orientations to the core components of suicide prevention, ongoing annual staff professional development for all staff may include the following components:
 - a. The impact of traumatic stress on emotional and mental health.
 - b. Common misconceptions about suicide.
 - c. Charter School and community suicide prevention resources.
 - d. Appropriate messaging about suicide (correct terminology, safe messaging guidelines).
 - e. The factors associated with suicide (risk factors, warning signs, protective factors).
 - f. How to identify youth who may be at risk of suicide.

- g. Appropriate ways to interact with a youth who is demonstrating emotional distress or is suicidal. Specifically, how to talk with a student about their thoughts of suicide and (based on DMCS guidelines) how to respond to such thinking; how to talk with a student about thoughts of suicide and appropriately respond and provide support based on DMCS guidelines.
- h. Charter School-approved procedures for responding to suicide risk (including multi-tiered systems of support and referrals). Such procedures should emphasize that the suicidal student should be constantly supervised until a suicide risk assessment is completed.
- i. Charter School-approved procedures for responding to the aftermath of suicidal behavior (suicidal behavior postvention).
- j. Responding after a suicide occurs (suicide postvention).
- k. Resources regarding youth suicide prevention.
- l. Emphasis on stigma reduction and the fact that early prevention and intervention can drastically reduce the risk of suicide.
- m. Emphasis that any student who is identified to be at risk of suicide is to be immediately referred (same day) for assessment while being constantly monitored by a staff member.

Employee Qualifications and Scope of Services

Employees of DMCS must act only within the authorization and scope of their credential or license. While it is expected that school professionals are able to identify suicide risk factors and warning signs, and to prevent the immediate risk of a suicidal behavior, treatment of suicidal ideation is typically beyond the scope of services offered in the school setting. In addition, treatment of the mental health challenges often associated with suicidal thinking typically requires mental health resources beyond what schools are able to provide.

Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers Participation and Education

1. Parents/guardians/caregivers may be included in suicide prevention efforts. At a minimum, the Charter School shall share this Policy with parents/guardians/caregivers by notifying them where a complete copy of the policy is available.
2. This Suicide Prevention Policy shall be easily accessible and prominently displayed on the DMCS Web page and included in the parent handbook.
3. Parents/guardians/caregivers should be invited to provide input on the development and implementation of this policy.
4. All parents/guardians/caregivers may have access to suicide prevention training that addresses the following:
 - a. Suicide risk factors, warning signs, and protective factors.
 - b. How to talk with a student about thoughts of suicide.
 - c. How to respond appropriately to the student who has suicidal thoughts. Such responses shall include constant supervision of any student judged to be at risk for suicide and referral for an immediate suicide risk assessment.

Student Participation and Education

Messaging about suicide has an effect on suicidal thinking and behaviors. Consequently, DMCS along with its partners has carefully reviewed and will continue to review all materials and resources used in awareness efforts to ensure they align with best practices for safe messaging about suicide. Suicide prevention strategies may include, but not be limited to, efforts to promote a positive school climate that enhances students' feelings of connectedness with DMCS and is characterized by caring staff and harmonious interrelationships among students.

DMCS's instructional and student support program shall promote the healthy mental, emotional, and social development of students including, but not limited to, the development of problem-solving skills, coping skills, and resilience. The instruction shall not use the stress model to explain suicide.

DMCS's instructional curriculum may include information about suicide prevention, as appropriate or needed. If suicide prevention is included in the Charter School's instructional curriculum, it shall consider the grade level and age of the students and be delivered and discussed in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of young students. Under the supervision of an appropriately trained individual acting within the scope of her/his credential or license, students shall:

1. Receive developmentally appropriate, student-centered education about the warning signs of mental health challenges and emotional distress. The content of the education may include:
 - a. Coping strategies for dealing with stress and trauma.
 - b. How to recognize behaviors (warning signs) and life issues (risk factors) associated with suicide and mental health issues in oneself and others.
 - c. Help-seeking strategies for oneself and others, including how to engage school-based and community resources and refer peers for help.

- d. Emphasis on reducing the stigma associated with mental illness and the fact that early prevention and intervention can drastically reduce the risk of suicide.

2. Receive developmentally appropriate guidance regarding DMCS's suicide prevention, intervention, and referral procedures.

Student-focused suicide prevention education can be incorporated into classroom curricula (e.g., health classes, orientation classes, science, and physical education).

DMCS will support the creation and implementation of programs and/or activities on campus that raise awareness about mental wellness and suicide prevention (e.g., Mental Health Awareness Week, Peer Counseling, etc).

Intervention and Emergency Procedures

DMCS designates the following administrators to act as the primary and secondary suicide prevention liaisons:

1. School Psychologist
2. Executive Director

Whenever a staff member suspects or has knowledge of a student's suicidal intentions, they shall promptly notify the primary designated suicide prevention liaison. If this primary suicide prevention liaison is unavailable, the staff shall promptly notify the secondary suicide prevention liaison.

The suicide prevention liaison shall immediately notify the Executive Director or designee, who shall then notify the student's parent/guardian as soon as possible if appropriate and in the best interest of the student. Determination of notification to parents/guardians/caregivers should follow a formal initial assessment to ensure that the student is not endangered by parental notification.

The suicide prevention liaison shall also refer the student to mental health resources at DMCS or in the community.

When a student is in imminent danger (has access to a gun, is on a rooftop, or in other unsafe conditions), a call shall be made to 911.

When a suicide attempt or threat is reported on campus or at a school-related activity, the suicide prevention liaison shall, at a minimum:

1. Ensure the student's physical safety by one or more of the following, as appropriate:
 - a. Securing immediate medical treatment if a suicide attempt has occurred.
 - b. Securing law enforcement and/or other emergency assistance if a suicidal act is being actively threatened.
 - c. Keeping the student under continuous adult supervision until the parent/guardian and/or appropriate support agent or agency can be contacted and has the opportunity to intervene.
 - d. Remaining calm, keeping in mind the student is overwhelmed, confused, and emotionally distressed.
 - e. Moving all other students out of the immediate area.
 - f. Not sending the student away or leaving him/her alone, even to go to the restroom.
 - g. Providing comfort to the student, listening and allowing the student to talk and being comfortable with moments of silence.
 - h. Promising privacy and help, but not promising confidentiality.
2. Document the incident in writing as soon as feasible.
3. Follow up with the parent/guardian and student in a timely manner to provide referrals to appropriate services as needed and coordinate and consult with the county mental health plan if a referral is made for mental health or related services on behalf of a student who is a Medi-Cal beneficiary.
4. After a referral is made, DMCS shall verify with the parent/guardian that the follow up treatment has been accessed. Parents/guardians will be required to provide documentation of care for the student. If parents/guardians refuse or neglect to access treatment for a student who has been identified to be at risk for suicide or in emotional distress, the suicide prevention liaisons shall meet with the parent to identify barriers to treatment (e.g., cultural stigma, financial issues) and work to rectify the situation and build understanding of care. If follow up care is still not provided, DMCS may contact Child Protective Services.
5. Provide access to counselors or other appropriate personnel to listen to and support students and staff who are directly or indirectly involved with the incident at DMCS.
6. Provide an opportunity for all who respond to the incident to debrief, evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies used, and make recommendations for future actions.

In the event a suicide occurs or is attempted on the DMCS campus, the suicide prevention liaison shall follow the crisis intervention procedures contained in DMCS's safety plan. After consultation with the Executive Director or designee and the student's parent/guardian about facts that may be divulged in accordance with the laws governing confidentiality of student record information, the Executive Director or designee may provide students, parents/guardians, and staff with information, counseling, and/or referrals to community agencies as needed. DMCS staff may receive assistance from DMCS counselors or other mental health professionals in determining how best to discuss the suicide or attempted suicide with students.

In the event a suicide occurs or is attempted off the DMCS campus and unrelated to school activities, the Executive Director or designee shall take the following steps to support the student:

1. Contact the parent/guardian and offer support to the family.
2. Discuss with the family how they would like DMCS to respond to the attempt while minimizing widespread rumors among teachers, staff, and students.
3. Obtain permission from the parent/guardian to share information to ensure the facts regarding the crisis are correct.
4. The suicide prevention liaisons shall handle any media requests.
5. Provide care and determine appropriate support to affected students.
6. Offer to the student and parent/guardian steps for re-integration to school. Re-integration may include obtaining a written release from the parent/guardian to speak with any health care providers; conferring with the student and parent/guardian about any specific requests on how to handle the situation; informing the student's teachers about possible days of absences; allowing accommodations for make-up work (being understanding that missed assignments may add stress to the student); appropriate staff maintaining ongoing contact with the student to monitor the student's actions and mood; and working with the parent/guardian to involve the student in an aftercare plan.

Supporting Students during or after a Mental Health Crisis

Students shall be encouraged through the education program and in DMCS activities to notify a teacher, the Executive Director, another DMCS administrator, psychologist, DMCS counselor, suicide prevention liaisons, or other adult when they are experiencing thoughts of suicide or when they suspect or have knowledge of another student's suicidal intentions. DMCS staff should treat each report seriously, calmly, and with active listening and support. Staff should be non-judgmental to students and discuss with the student, and parent/guardian, about additional resources to support the student.

Responding After a Suicide Death (Postvention)

A death by suicide in the school community (whether by a student or staff member) can have devastating consequences on the school community, including students and staff. DMCS shall follow the below action plan for responding to a suicide death, which incorporates both immediate and long-term steps and objectives:

The suicide prevention liaison shall:

1. Coordinate with the Executive Director to:
 - a. Confirm death and cause.
 - b. Identify a staff member to contact deceased's family (within 24 hours).
 - c. Enact the Suicide Postvention Response.
 - d. Notify all staff members (ideally in-person or via phone, not via e-mail or mass notification).
2. Coordinate an all-staff meeting, to include:
 - a. Notification (if not already conducted) to staff about suicide death.
 - b. Emotional support and resources available to staff.
 - c. Notification to students about suicide death and the availability of support services (if this is the protocol that is decided by administration).
 - d. Share information that is relevant and that which you have permission to disclose.
3. Prepare staff to respond to needs of students regarding the following:
 - a. Review of protocols for referring students for support/assessment.
 - b. Talking points for staff to notify students.
 - c. Resources available to students (on and off campus).

4. Identify students significantly affected by suicide death and other students at risk of imitative behavior.
5. Identify students affected by suicide death but not at risk of imitative behavior.
6. Communicate with the larger school community about the suicide death.
7. Consider funeral arrangements for family and school community.
8. Respond to memorial requests in respectful and non-harmful manner; responses should be handled in a thoughtful way and their impact on other students should be considered.
9. Identify media spokesperson if needed.
10. Include long-term suicide postvention responses:
 - a. Consider important dates (i.e., anniversary of death, deceased birthday, graduation, or other significant event) and how these will be addressed.
 - b. Support siblings, close friends, teachers, and/or students of deceased.
 - c. Consider long-term memorials and how they may impact students who are emotionally vulnerable and at risk of suicide.

Student Identification Cards

Charter School will include the telephone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255) and the National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-7233) on all student identification cards. DMCS will also include the number for the Crisis Text Line, which can be accessed by texting HOME to 741741 and a local suicide prevention hotline on all student identification cards.

Professional Boundaries: Staff/Student Interaction Policy

DMCS recognizes its responsibility to make and enforce all rules and regulations governing student and employee behavior to bring about the safest and most learning-conducive environment possible.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any student. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of, or willfully causing the infliction of, physical pain on a student.

For purposes of this policy, corporal punishment does not include an employee's use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect the employee, students, staff or other persons or to prevent damage to property.

For clarification purposes, the following examples are offered for direction and guidance of School personnel:

- A. Examples of PERMITTED actions (NOT corporal punishment)
 1. Stopping a student from fighting with another student;
 2. Preventing a pupil from committing an act of vandalism;
 3. Defending yourself from physical injury or assault by a student;
 4. Forcing a pupil to give up a weapon or dangerous object;
 5. Requiring an athletic team to participate in strenuous physical training activities designed to strengthen or condition team members or improve their coordination, agility, or physical skills;
 6. Engaging in group calisthenics, team drills, or other physical education or voluntary recreational activities.
- B. Examples of PROHIBITED actions (corporal punishment)
 1. Hitting, shoving, pushing, or physically restraining a student as a means of control;
 2. Making unruly students do push-ups, run laps, or perform other physical acts that cause pain or discomfort as a form of punishment;
 3. Paddling, swatting slapping, grabbing, pinching, kicking, or otherwise causing physical pain.

Acceptable and Unacceptable Staff/Student Behavior

This policy is intended to guide all School faculty and staff in conducting themselves in a way that reflects the high standards of behavior and professionalism required of school employees and to specify the boundaries between students and staff.

Although this policy gives specific, clear direction, it is each staff member's obligation to avoid situations that could prompt suspicion by parents, students, colleagues, or school leaders. One viable standard that can be quickly applied, when you are unsure if certain conduct is acceptable, is to ask yourself, "Would I be engaged in this conduct if my family or colleagues were standing next to me?"

For the purposes of this policy, the term "boundaries" is defined as acceptable professional behavior by staff members while interacting with a student. Trespassing the boundaries of a student/teacher relationship is deemed an abuse of power and a betrayal of public trust.

Some activities may seem innocent from a staff member's perspective, but can be perceived as flirtation or sexual insinuation from a student or parent point of view. The objective of the following lists of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors is not to restrain innocent, positive relationships between staff and students, but to prevent relationships that could lead to, or may be perceived as, sexual misconduct.

Staff must understand their own responsibility for ensuring that they do not cross the boundaries as written in this policy. Disagreeing with the wording or intent of the established boundaries will be considered irrelevant for disciplinary purposes. Thus, it is crucial that all employees learn this policy thoroughly and apply the lists of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors to their daily activities. Although sincere, competent interaction with students certainly fosters learning, student/staff interactions must have boundaries surrounding potential activities, locations and intentions.

Duty to Report Suspected Misconduct

When any employee reasonably suspects or believes that another staff member may have crossed the boundaries specified in this policy, he or she must immediately report the matter to a school administrator. All reports shall be as confidential as possible under the circumstances. It is the duty of the administrator to investigate and thoroughly report the situation. Employees must also report to the administration any awareness or concern of student behavior that crosses boundaries or where a student appears to be at risk for sexual abuse.

Examples of Specific Behaviors

The following examples are not an exhaustive list:

Unacceptable Staff/Student Behaviors (Violations of this Policy)

- (a) Giving gifts to an individual student that are of a personal and intimate nature.
- (b) Kissing of any kind.
- (c) Any type of unnecessary physical contact with a student in a private situation.
- (d) Intentionally being alone with a student away from the school.
- (e) Making or participating in sexually inappropriate comments.
- (f) Sexual jokes.
- (g) Seeking emotional involvement with a student for your benefit.
- (h) Listening to or telling stories that are sexually oriented.
- (i) Discussing inappropriate personal troubles or intimate issues with a student in an attempt to gain their support and understanding.
- (j) Becoming involved with a student so that a reasonable person may suspect inappropriate behavior.

Unacceptable Staff/Student Behaviors without Parent and Supervisor Permission

(These behaviors should only be exercised when a staff member has parent and supervisor permission.)

- (a) Giving students a ride to/from school or school activities.
- (b) Being alone in a room with a student at school with the door closed.
- (c) Allowing students in your home.

Cautionary Staff/Student Behaviors

(These behaviors should only be exercised when a reasonable and prudent person, acting as an educator, is prevented from using a better practice or behavior. Staff members should inform their supervisor of the circumstance and occurrence prior to or immediately after the occurrence)

- (a) Remarks about the physical attributes or development of anyone.
- (b) Excessive attention toward a particular student.
- (c) Sending emails, text messages or letters to students if the content is not about school activities.

Acceptable and Recommended Staff/Student Behaviors

- (a) Getting parents' written consent for any after-school activity.

- (b) Obtaining formal approval to take students off school property for activities such as field trips or competitions.
- (c) Emails, text, phone and instant messages to students must be very professional and pertaining to school activities or classes (Communication should be limited to school technology).
- (d) Keeping the door open when alone with a student.
- (e) Keeping reasonable space between you and your students.
- (f) Stopping and correcting students if they cross your own personal boundaries.
- (g) Keeping parents informed when a significant issue develops about a student.
- (h) Keeping after-class discussions with a student professional and brief.
- (i) Asking for advice from fellow staff or administrators if you find yourself in a difficult situation related to boundaries.
- (j) Involving your supervisor if conflict arises with the student.
- (k) Informing the Director about situations that have the potential to become more severe.
- (l) Making detailed notes about an incident that could evolve into a more serious situation later.
- (m) Recognizing the responsibility to stop unacceptable behavior of students or coworkers.
- (n) Asking another staff member to be present if you will be alone with any type of special needs student.
- (o) Asking another staff member to be present when you must be alone with a student after regular school hours.
- (p) Giving students praise and recognition without touching them.
- (q) Pats on the back, high fives and handshakes are acceptable.
- (r) Keeping your professional conduct a high priority.
- (s) Asking yourself if your actions are worth your job and career.

Student Technology and Internet: Acceptable Use Agreement

The Charter School believes that providing access to technology enhances the educational experience for students. However, student use of Charter School computers, networks, and Internet services is a privilege, not a right. To make that experience successful for everyone, students must abide by the following terms and conditions:

1. **Security.** Students shall not impair the security of Charter School technology resources. Students are expected to:
 - a. Safeguard all personal passwords. Students should not share passwords with others and should change passwords frequently. Students are expected to notify an administrator immediately if they believe their student account has been compromised.
 - b. Access technology only with their account or with a shared account as directed by their teacher and not to allow others to use their account or to use the accounts of others, with or without the account owner's authorization.
2. **Authorized Use.** Students may use Charter School technology resources when directed by a teacher, when technology has been designated for open student use (e.g., computers in the library), and for other educational purposes.
3. **Protection Measures.** While the Charter School is able exercise reasonable control over content created and purchased by the Charter School, it has limited control over content accessed via the internet and no filtering system is 100% effective. Neither the Charter School nor its staff, employees, officers, directors or volunteers shall be responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, or user mistakes, misuse or negligence. The student and parent/guardian agree not to hold the Charter School or any Charter School staff, employees, officers, directors or volunteers responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, or user mistakes, misuse or negligence. They also agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Charter School, Charter School staff, employees, officers, directors and volunteers for any damages or costs incurred. Parents/guardians are required to supervise and monitor their child's use of DMCS equipment including but not limited to their child's access to the internet and any online services through such equipment any and all times during which any DMCS equipment is being used by their child outside school facilities or school hours to ensure compliance with this policy.
4. **Inappropriate Use.** Charter School technology, hardware, software and bandwidth are shared and limited resources and all users have an obligation to use those resources responsibly. Students are provided access to the Charter School technology primarily for educational purposes. Students shall not use Charter School technology or equipment for personal activities or for activities that violate Charter School policy or local law. These include but are not limited to:
 - a. Playing games or online gaming.
 - b. Downloading software, music, movies or other content in violation of licensing requirements, copyright or other intellectual property rights.
 - c. Installing software on Charter School equipment without the permission of a teacher or other authorized Charter School staff person.
 - d. Downloading, viewing or sharing inappropriate content, including pornographic, defamatory or otherwise offensive material.
 - e. Conducting any activity that is in violation of Charter School policy, the student code of conduct or local, state or federal law.
 - f. Engaging in any activity that is harmful to other student(s), including the use of technology to harass, intimidate, bully or otherwise disrupt the educational process.
 - g. Conducting for-profit business.
 - h. Using hacking tools on the network or intentionally introducing malicious code or viruses into the Charter School's network.
 - i. Using any software or proxy service to obscure either the student's IP address or the sites that the student visits.
 - j. Disabling, bypassing, or attempting to disable or bypass any system monitoring, filtering or other security measures.
 - k. Accessing or attempting to access material or systems on the network that the student is not authorized to access.
5. **No Expectation of Privacy.** Student acknowledges that computer equipment, Internet access networks, email accounts, and any other technology resources are owned by Charter School and provided to students for educational purposes. The Charter School may require staff to monitor and supervise all access to computer equipment, Internet access networks, and email accounts. To facilitate monitoring of activities, computer screens may be positioned so that they are visible to the staff member supervising the students. The Charter School reserves the right to access stored computer records and communications, files, and other data stored on Charter School equipment or sent over Charter School networks. Such communications, files, and data are not private and may be accessed during routine system maintenance; during inspection of Charter School equipment at the end of the school year/term or agree to use period; and review of individual files or monitoring of individual activity when there is a reasonable suspicion that the student is engaging in an inappropriate use.
6. **Disruptive Activity.** Students should not intentionally interfere with the performance of the Charter School's network or intentionally damage any Charter School technology resources.
7. **Unauthorized Networks.** Students may not create unauthorized wireless networks to access the Charter School's network. This includes establishing wireless access points, wireless routers and open networks on personal devices.

- 8. **Consequences of Inappropriate Use.** Students who violate this Agreement will be subject to discipline, which may include loss of access to Charter School technology resources and/or other appropriate disciplinary or legal action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and applicable laws.
- 9. **Technology Systems/Equipment Care.** Students are not permitted to have food or drink near computers/other technology and must keep equipment and assigned areas free of vandalism.

After reading the Student Use of Technology Policy and the Acceptable Use Agreement, please complete this form to indicate that you agree with the terms and conditions provided. The signature of both the student and parent/guardian are mandatory before access may be granted to the technologies available. This document, which incorporates the Use Procedure, reflects the entire agreement and understanding of all parties. DMCS encourages parents/guardians to discuss this Policy with their children to ensure their children understand and comply with this Policy.

As a user of Charter School technologies, I have read Student Use of Technology Policy and hereby agree to comply with it and the Acceptable Use Agreement.

I understand that computer use is a privilege and not a right. I understand that students who violate this policy in any way will be subject to a referral and possible suspension or expulsion. I understand that if a student willfully damages DMCS' property, including but not limited to DMCS' technology, equipment and networks, or fails to return DMCS' property that has been loaned to the student, the student's parents/guardians are liable for all damages caused by the student's misconduct up to an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), adjusted annually for inflation. After notifying the student's parent or guardian in writing of the student's alleged misconduct and affording the student due process, DMCS may withhold the student's grades, transcripts, until the damages have been paid or the property has been returned. If the student and the student's parent/guardian are unable to pay for the damages or to return the property, DMCS will provide a program of voluntary work for the minor in lieu of the payment of monetary damages. Upon completion of the voluntary work, the student's grades, transcripts and diploma will be released. When the minor and parent are unable to pay for the damages, the Charter School will provide a program of voluntary work for the minor in lieu of the payment of monetary damages. A student over the age of majority shall be liable for the same. (Ed. Code § 48904).

- YES, I give my child permission for individual or group Internet access with teacher supervision and group instruction with teacher supervision.
- NO, I do not give my child permission for Internet access in any manner. In checking this choice, I realize my child may receive an alternative assignment in an alternative classroom setting. The assignment will provide quality instruction in the same subject matter. The student will not be denied an equal education as a result of this choice. The student's grade will not be adversely affected by this alternative assignment.

Student Name (please print): _____ Grade: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

For School Employees Only

I have read, understand and agree to abide by the Student Use of Technology Policy and the Acceptable Use Agreement. I understand that the Charter School's policies, procedures, rules, and regulations which apply to students also apply to me as an adult user of the Charter School's technology, in addition to any separate policies governing employee use of technology.

Employee Signature: _____

Employee Name (Please Print) _____

Dixon Montessori Student Handbook

Signature Page

Academic Year 2021-2022

I have received and will make myself familiar with the 2021-2022 Dixon Montessori Charter School Student/Parent Handbook.

Please sign and date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Name

2021-22 Teacher/Grade

Date