

Lincoln Lutheran Middle School



Christ-Centered Learning For Life

Parent/Student Handbook 2021-22

“Lincoln Lutheran exists to equip young people to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ by providing an excellent, Christ-Centered Education.”

--Mission Statement

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General Information

2021-2022 School Theme

“Act, Walk, Love”

“And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

Micah 6:8

Mission Statement

“Lincoln Lutheran exists to equip young people to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ by providing an excellent, Christ-centered education.”

--(Adopted April, 2008)

Philosophy of Education

It is the philosophy of Lincoln Lutheran Middle/High School that the education provided its students will be, above all else, Christ-centered and Christian-based. Christian education is an outgrowth of the “Great Commission”, which Christ has given to His church (Matthew 28:19). Each child is a gift from God, and should be educated in a loving but disciplined Christian environment.

The Christian school serves as a partner with parents, assisting them in the Christian education of their children, a task recognized as the parent’s primary responsibility. The standard of measurement in defining our school will be the Word of God and the doctrines, teachings and practices of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod as drawn from that Word.

Our goal is to prepare students for both eternal life and life in this world. Recognizing that 98% of our students matriculate at either two-year or four-year colleges, Lincoln Lutheran will provide an excellent, Christ-centered college preparatory education, ensuring our students are ready for their post-high school vocation.

The Purpose of Belief Statements

Lincoln Lutheran Middle/High School is a Christian school. It was established by Lincoln-area Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod churches in an effort to provide a loving environment where the Gospel will be taught and lived in all curricular and extracurricular situations, enabling students to live the Christian life now and through eternity.

Our standards are not those of this world. They are in harmony with Scripture, and designed as a reflection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. These guidelines were designed through the direction of the Holy Spirit knowing that human reasoning and intellect will only mislead us.

Middle School Philosophy

Lincoln Lutheran Middle School subscribes to a philosophy that the unique needs of students in grades six through eight can best be met in a middle school setting that provides a Christ-centered and Biblically integrated curriculum, and recognizes that the students of this age are experiencing more significant physical, mental, and emotional changes than at any other period in their lives. The overall

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purpose of the middle school is to provide spiritual, educational, developmental, and social frameworks from a Biblical perspective that are so vitally needed during the transitional period from elementary school to high school. We understand that wellness includes balance in the academic, physical, emotional, spiritual, and relational realms. Middle school is a time when students can take ownership of these areas of their lives and Lincoln Lutheran Middle School strives to provide instruction that will benefit students in each of these areas.

The Faculty and Staff of Lincoln Lutheran

Every person who works at Lincoln Lutheran is a Christian who is dedicated to his or her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The faculty and staff have a sincere desire to assist in the academic, social, emotional, and spiritual growth of each and every young person led by God to be a part of the Lincoln Lutheran ministry. Each teacher is certified by the State of Nebraska and is competent in his/her area.

Accreditation

Lincoln Lutheran Middle/High School is accredited by the State of Nebraska through the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). Credits earned at Lincoln Lutheran are transferable to any other school. Lincoln Lutheran is also accredited nationally through National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA).

Funding the Lincoln Lutheran Ministry

The majority of financial support for Lincoln Lutheran Middle/High School comes from tuition charged to students. The Lincoln Lutheran School Association, an Association of eight local LCMS churches, is the governing body for the school and supplements the remaining ministry costs through annual assessments based on church membership. Association churches also provide a tuition subsidy for their member families with students at Lincoln Lutheran. Lincoln Lutheran makes every attempt to be a good steward of the resources entrusted to us and to function in a financially responsible manner. It is imperative that our families also regard this stewardship as a high priority and remain in good financial standing.

Racially Nondiscriminatory Policy

Lincoln Lutheran Middle/High School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. Lincoln Lutheran does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs. Lincoln Lutheran may give preference in admissions to members of LCMS Lutheran congregations.

Extra-Curricular Activities and Eligibility for Students

All activities are designed to enhance the mission of Lincoln Lutheran. Participation in extracurricular activities by students is encouraged, as research has shown that students who participate in extracurricular activities are more likely to demonstrate success in school and post-secondary education. Lincoln Lutheran is a part of the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) for middle school activities.

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Eligibility for Middle School Activities

Students must meet all requirements of the NSAA to participate in extracurricular activities. At all times the academic program of the student is to be given priority. Academic checks will be made every week beginning the 4th week of each quarter. Any student failing more than one class will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities until the next academic check is completed. Continued involvement with activities will be based upon a student's ability to improve his or her grade in such classes to a passing level. Students missing summative assessments may be required to complete the assessment before he/she attends practice for or participates in an extracurricular activity.

The Middle School Program

Lincoln Lutheran has implemented several special programs at the middle school level.

Breaks

Students can expect to have a daily break. Snacks can be allowed during break at the discretion of the Lincoln Lutheran faculty. Snacks, when allowed, should be nutritious and follow the guidelines of the Lincoln Lutheran School Nutrition Policy.

Students are expected to adhere to all Lincoln Lutheran behavior guidelines during break time. Specific behavior guidelines related to break time include:

- Students are expected to be in a supervised area and use the assigned restrooms.
- Students are expected to have permission before leaving a supervised area.
- Inappropriate behavior and misuse of equipment will not be tolerated.

Failure to follow these guidelines will result in the loss of break privileges.

Access

All middle school students have a class called Access every non-chapel school day, normally Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Access is a Life Skills course to help students adapt to changes that commonly occur in middle school, and gives them a spiritual framework within which to manage these changes. Topics such as goal setting, communication skills, problem solving, digital citizenship, and leadership are included in Access.

Exploratory Classes

Students will have the opportunity to supplement their core curriculum with shorter-term exploratory classes. Exploratory classes may include Computer Use and Applications, Family and Consumer Science, Art, Business and Careers, Physical Education, and Health. Exploratory classes are six weeks long and meet each semester.

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Academic Information

Curriculum

The sixth grade core curriculum consists of Language Arts, Reading, Mathematics, Religion, Science and Social Studies. Sixth grade students also take one period of Exploratory classes and music. Sixth grade students may take band or a study hall.

The seventh and eighth grade core curriculum consists of English, Mathematics, Religion, Science and Social Studies, as well as two periods of Exploratory classes. Students may also take Band and/or Choir or a Study Hall.

Grading Guidelines

Lincoln Lutheran has adopted Grading Guidelines that will be applied uniformly by all teachers. Please see the Grading Guidelines document for more information.

Monitoring of Academic Progress

Lincoln Lutheran will work in partnership with parents in monitoring student academic progress and addressing academic concerns. Parents are encouraged to use PowerSchool and Canvas to regularly and frequently monitor their student's academic achievement, and to work with their student as soon as academic issues might surface. Lincoln Lutheran Administration will periodically monitor student progress and address issues with students as they surface. Students not working up to their potential may be required to spend time working with teachers after school.

Quarter Grading System

Lincoln Lutheran operates on a quarter grading system. If no semester exam is given in a class the semester grade is determined by averaging the two quarter grades, with each quarter grade counting one-half (50%) of the semester grade. If a semester exam is given the semester grade is determined by averaging the two quarter grades with the semester exam grade, with the two quarter grades counting equally toward the semester grade. The semester exam will not count more than 20% of the semester grade.

Semester Grade Reports

Lincoln Lutheran does not mail Quarter Report Cards unless requested by parents. Parents are encouraged to check PowerSchool on a regular, frequent basis to monitor their student's progress and identify any areas that need improvement. Parents will receive a grade report via email at the end of each semester. Semester grades are permanent on a student's record. If a student repeats a class the higher of the two grades will count toward the student's grade point average.

Honor Roll

Honor Rolls are determined at the end of each semester. Students whose semester grade point average is between 3.50 and 3.74 qualify for the Honor Roll. Students whose semester grade point average is equal to or above 3.75 qualify for High Honor Roll.

Incomplete Grades

Incomplete grades will only be given when extraordinary circumstances exist that make it impossible for a student to complete his or her work by the end of a grading period. If a student receives an

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incomplete (“I”), the grade will change to an “F” if the incomplete is not made up by the end of the second week after the end of the grading period in which the “I” was received. Making up the work is the student’s responsibility, but teachers will assist the students in any way possible.

Grading Scale

93-100%	A	4.00	
90-92%	A-	3.67	
87-89%	B+	3.33	
83-86%	B	3.00	
80-82%	B-	2.67	
77-79%	C+	2.33	
73-76%	C	2.00	
70-72%	C-	1.67	
67-69%	D+	1.33	
63-66%	D	1.00	
60-62%	D-	0.67	
Under 60%	F	0.00	
Satisfactory Progress	S	1.00	Average below 60% but achieving to ability
Unsatisfactory Progress	X	0.00	Achieving at least two grade levels below ability

Performance Expectations and Academic Probation

Any student in Middle School who has failed two or more classes in any one semester will be notified in writing they are being placed on Academic Probation. The academic progress of students placed on Academic Probation will be closely monitored during the next semester.

If a student on Academic Probation fails more than one class in the following semester, parents may be notified that the child is refused enrollment at Lincoln Lutheran for the next term.

Students who are verified as learning disabled, have an IEP, and are receiving resource assistance will be granted a “special review” if they are in danger of being placed on refused enrollment status.

Students who are placed on “refused enrollment” status for the next term may re-apply for enrollment at a later date and be subject to all new-student enrollment procedures, including successful academic progress at another educational institution.

Full-Time Student Classification

A student must intend to be a full-time student to enroll. A full-time student is one who is enrolled in at least seven credit-earning classes. The seven credit-earning class total can be reached by combining Lincoln Lutheran classes and coursework from other educational resources.

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Attendance Policies

Absences

Lincoln Lutheran places an emphasis on regular and consistent attendance. Research has shown that regular attendance at school promotes educational success and encourages habits which are conducive to postsecondary and career success.

Parents (or legal guardians) are asked to notify the school by phone or by email (frontdesk@lincolnlutheran.org) between 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. each day their student is absent. If notification by phone or email is impossible, a note explaining the student's absence must be sent upon the student's return to school. The call or note should include the following information: the student's name, the date(s) of the absence, the reason for the absence, and the identity of the parent notifying the school. In the case of a note, a daytime phone number for the parent should also be included so the office can verify the note, if needed.

At parent request, homework assignments will be made available at the end of the school day (3:15) for students who are absent for two or more consecutive days. Students and parents are encouraged to check class Canvas sites for class schedules and assignments when absent from school.

Excused Absences

Excused absences will be issued for reasons such as personal illness, family and other types of emergencies, medical appointments, death in the family, and prearranged absences. Students are eligible to receive credit for work missed due to an excused absence. Excused absences do count towards a student's overall absence total. The Lincoln Lutheran Administration reserves the right to make the final determination whether an absence is excused or unexcused.

Remote Learning

Lincoln Lutheran has the technology to allow students who cannot attend school because of illness, a trip out of town, or other excused absences to attend classes remotely. Students who are not feeling well are especially encouraged to use remote learning rather than trying to attend school and risk infecting others. Parents of students learning remotely should contact the Front Desk (frontdesk@lincolnlutheran.org). Students learning remotely will be considered present for attendance purposes.

It should be recognized that student learning is best done in person, and remote learning does create additional work for teachers. All remote learning requests are subject to approval by the Lincoln Lutheran administration. Students participating in remote learning may or may not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities, depending on the reason for remote learning. As a general rule, if a student can be in school they should be in school.

Prearranged Absences

Prearranged absences are excused absences that are scheduled prior to the day the student is not at school. Examples of prearranged absences include, but are not limited to: medical appointments, vacations, being absent for school activities, and mission trips.

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Procedures to be followed for prearranged absences include:

1. Notification from parents as early as possible prior to the absence.
2. The student will receive a Prearranged Absence From (blue sheet) from the office to take to teachers whose class the student will be missing.
3. Teachers will sign the blue sheet and inform students of the work they will miss during the periods they will be absent.

Class activities and assignments should be made up before the absence, or other arrangements to make up missed work should be made with the teacher prior to the absence. Failure to do so on the part of the student will result in a loss of credit for the missed class activities, assignments, and assessments.

Absences from school for school-related activities are considered pre-arranged absences. Activity sponsors or coaches will have responsibility for notifying the school office of students who will be absent. Students are still responsible for making up any missed work prior to the absence, or making arrangements with the teacher prior to the absence to make up missed work.

Prearranged absences are counted in the “twelve general absences policy” (see Course Credit) with the exception of absences for school-related activities, which do not count toward the twelve general absences. The Lincoln Lutheran Administration reserves the right to make the final determination whether a prearranged absence is excused or unexcused.

Completion of Work Missed Due to Excused Absence

It is solely the responsibility of the student to make up any work missed during an excused absence. The student should schedule a time with his/her teacher to complete any work missed because of an excused absence, usually the day immediately following the absence or, in the case of prearranged absences, according to the arrangements specified on the blue sheet. The best time for a student to discuss arrangements for making up work with a teacher is before or after school, not during class. Students are encouraged to use class schedules and work checklists on his/her teacher’s Canvas site to check on class activities during days missed.

School Closure

Circumstances, such as inclement weather, may dictate that school will be closed for a day or a period of days. School closures are coordinated with Association elementary schools and are communicated with families as soon as possible. School closures of one day due to inclement weather will simply be a day of no school. For school closures of multiple days, the second and succeeding days will be Remote Learning Days for all students using the Remote Learning Schedule. School closures that are scheduled in advance, such as for scheduled facility repairs, will be Remote Learning Days.

Unexcused Absences

Absences for reasons such as, but not limited to, oversleeping, missing a ride, conducting business that could be taken care of outside of school hours, staying home to study, working at a job, sleeping in because of a late school activity, and failure to provide a note/phone call are considered unexcused absences.

Lincoln Lutheran recognizes parents can request and/or give permission for their students to miss school for a variety of special reasons. Because absences affect both the individual student’s education

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and the classroom environment, the Lincoln Lutheran Administration reserves the right to make the final decision when classifying an absence as excused or unexcused.

A student may not receive credit for work missed due to an unexcused absence and may forfeit the opportunity to make up formative or summative assessments. Students may also face consequences according to the behavior guidelines for unexcused absences. Repeated unexcused absences can lead to suspension, and if continued, to expulsion.

Students arriving to any class more than 15 minutes late will be considered as being absent-unexcused. School time missed due to unexcused absences will be made up outside of regular school hours.

Suspension

Absences due to in-school and out-of-school suspension may be considered excused or unexcused, depending on the nature of the specific case. The Lincoln Lutheran Administration reserves the right to determine whether an absence due to suspension is excused or unexcused.

Attendance Requirement for Participation in Practices or Activities

Students who are unable to arrive at school by the beginning of 3rd Block (A Day) or 7th Block (B Day) due to illness may not participate or practice in a school activity that day. Students who leave school because of illness may not participate or practice in a school activity that day. Students who arrive at school after the beginning of 3rd or 7th blocks, or leave school and miss the equivalent of two blocks of classes may be allowed to participate in a school activity depending on the reason for the absence, as determined by the Lincoln Lutheran administration.

Closed Campus

The Lincoln Lutheran campus is closed (students may not leave without permission) throughout the school day. Anyone who desires to eat lunch off-campus for special occasions must provide parent notification to the office at the beginning of the school day and must be accompanied by a parent to lunch.

Course Credit

Regular attendance is expected of all Lincoln Lutheran students. Any student who misses more than 12 periods of a class in one semester may forfeit credit in that class. Absences because of school-related activities do not count toward the 12-period absence total. All other absences, excused or unexcused, will count toward the 12-period absence total. A conference will be held with the student and parent(s) when a student approaches the 12-period absence total. A student who experiences a loss of class credit due to excessive absences may petition the Lincoln Lutheran Administration to have credit restored.

Tardies

The tardy policy at Lincoln Lutheran is designed to promote better student achievement by encouraging students to be on time to class and reducing the amount of instructional time lost to interruptions caused by students who arrive late to class. This policy reinforces the propositions that regular attendance and punctuality to class are important factors that will improve student achievement. We believe that being on time to class is an act of courtesy toward your teachers and fellow students.

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A student is considered tardy to class if he/she is not in the classroom with required materials, ready to begin working when the class starts. Tardies may be excused or unexcused. Unexcused tardies are a disciplinary matter and will incur the following disciplinary consequences. Unexcused tardies will be accumulated on a semester basis.

1. Parental notification after the 4th cumulative tardy or the 2nd tardy in any one class.
2. Detention for the 5th to the 7th cumulative tardy or the 3rd tardy in any one class.
3. Double detention for the 8th or 9th cumulative tardy or the 4th tardy to any one class.
4. Saturday detention for the 10th cumulative tardy or the 5th tardy to any one class and any succeeding tardy.

The Lincoln Lutheran Administration reserves the right to decide whether a first or fifth block tardy is excused or unexcused. Students tardy for first or fifth block must sign in at the office before going to class. A student more than 15 minutes late to class is considered absent (unexcused) for that period. (See Unexcused Absence)

Passing Periods

Students are given five minutes for passing periods after each academic period. Students will collect all materials needed for their next class during the passing period. Backpacks will be stored in cubbies (sixth grade) or lockers (seventh and eighth grade) for the day and will not be allowed in classrooms. Backpacks have led to student disorganization, damaged books, safety hazards, and may cause students to suffer from repetitive strain injuries. Teachers will work with students in organization of required class binders during the first week of school. After the first week of school, if students must return to lockers to store backpacks or get class materials they will be marked tardy.

Student Behavior Expectations

At Lincoln Lutheran, misbehavior is viewed as sin. Our students are expected to behave in a way that is both Christ-centered and Christ-pleasing. The Administration and staff at Lincoln Lutheran do not enjoy disciplining student misbehavior. However, in a school environment such disciplining is often necessary. Our prayer is that our students will be self-disciplined young Christians and that these guidelines will seldom be referred to.

Explanation of the Discipline System

Discipline at Lincoln Lutheran is based on a Biblical model of repentance, forgiveness, and reinstatement. Discipline is used to create faithful disciples of young Christian men and women who are learning how to live their faith in the world and to maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning. Individual teachers will have procedures and rules specific to his/her classroom and teaching methods that can be found in the teacher's Course Expectations and on the class Canvas site. Students are expected to follow these procedures and rules to facilitate learning in the classroom and as a way of representing Christ to the world.

If a student, by his/her actions, shows he/she is not able to function within specified procedures and rules he/she will be reminded of proper behavior. If the student is not able or is unwilling to correct their behavior, showing an unwillingness to repent, they will be removed from the classroom. The

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student will later have the opportunity to repent for their behavior, and will then be reinstated in the classroom, with the understanding that the student will not engage in further inappropriate behavior. Certain behaviors, and repeated misbehaviors, may result in consequences assigned by school Administration based on the information available and the judgment of the school Administration.

Consequences could include, but are not limited to:

1. Warning and advising of student
2. Parental Notification
3. Detention or assignment of school-related tasks
4. Counselor Referral
5. Parent Conference
6. Behavioral Contract - Probation
7. Suspension
8. Expulsion

Disciplinary Actions

Detentions

The Principal may assign detentions to students for violations of school rules. Detentions are 30 minutes and are served when assigned. Detention, as much as possible, will be spent doing some type of service for the school. If a student must ask for a change of date for an assigned school detention, the request must be made no later than before school begins on the day of the assigned detention to the designated detention coordinator. Work schedules, extracurricular activities, and athletic practices are not valid reasons for requesting a change of date for detentions.

Students will be notified in advance of school-assigned detentions. Students who fail to serve an assigned detention will be given a double detention. A double detention is two separate 30-minute detentions. Failure to serve an assigned double detention or subsequent detention will result in a Saturday Detention (9 a.m. – 12 p.m.) being assigned (Fee--\$30 to pay for monitor, due upon arrival). Students will be notified when a detention is missed and given the dates of the double detention and/or Saturday Detention.

Excessive detentions during the school year may result in further school disciplinary actions including suspension or expulsion.

Behavior Contract - Probation

Students reported for consistent unacceptable behavior will have a behavioral contract created. The behavioral contract will be in effect for a specified period of time which is, in effect, a probationary period. The contract and probationary period are designed to bring about positive changes in student behavior. Periodic teacher assessment of student behavior will be requested. If a student fails to meet the expectations set forth in their behavioral contract they may face additional disciplinary action.

Suspension

Only the Principal may suspend a student. The student will be given notice of the suspension and the reasons why, and will have the opportunity to discuss the reasons for the suspension or otherwise explain the actions. Parents will be notified of the suspension verbally and in writing. Written

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notification will be either electronic or by letter. Students suspended from school will not be allowed to attend or participate in school-related activities or athletics while they are on suspension, whether it be in-school or out-of-school suspension.

In-School Suspension

Students assigned to In-School suspension may or may not be allowed to make up work missed, depending on the nature of the act resulting in the suspension. If the student is allowed to make up work missed and completes the work by the deadline given, the student will NOT receive a zero for the day. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain classroom assignments from each teacher prior to the date(s) of the in-school suspension.

Students suspended in-school are required to remain in the school suspension area. Students under in-school suspension are not allowed to attend or participate in school-related extracurricular activities on the day(s) of the in-school suspension.

Out-of-School Suspension

When a student is suspended at home, he/she is to remain at home and off the streets during school hours (8:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.) and is NOT to attend or participate in any activities related to school or be anywhere on or around the school grounds during the entire time of suspension. Students under out-of-school suspension may or may not be allowed to make up work missed, depending on the nature of the act resulting in the suspension.

Expulsion

Expulsion may occur at any time. Only the Principal may expel a student. The student will have the opportunity to discuss the reasons for the expulsion or otherwise explain their actions. The Principal

will send the parents written notice of the intended expulsion. This notice will also include reasons for the intended expulsion.

A student who has been expelled may be considered for re-enrollment after being away from Lincoln Lutheran for the remainder of the semester of expulsion.

Before a student will be considered for re-enrollment, a satisfactory resolution to the problems which resulted in expulsion must be reached with all school personnel involved. Additional considerations for re-enrollment will include satisfactory academic work while away from Lincoln Lutheran (generally, a 2.0+ GPA), no involvement in major disciplinary situations, a good attendance record at the school attended, and completion of any required medical or chemical evaluations. An administrative team will review any request for re-enrollment and will make a recommendation based on the above criteria.

Right of Appeal

Students or parents have the right to appeal any disciplinary action. (See Due Process)

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Listing of Misbehaviors

Examples of misbehaviors that may result in disciplinary action include, but are not limited to:

1. Classroom misbehavior
2. General misbehavior in other areas of the building, school grounds or at school-sponsored events
3. Consuming food or beverage anywhere in the building other than the Commons, between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 3:15 p.m., unless specifically approved by the Principal for special circumstances or occasions. At the discretion of individual teachers, water may be consumed in the classroom if the water is contained in a non-breakable and sealable, clear container.
4. Students may not chew gum in the buildings or on school grounds
5. Inappropriate display of affection
6. Misuse of student's/school's property
7. Violation of dress/appearance expectations
8. Lying or cheating
9. Use of vulgar language (written, spoken, or gestured) or possession/use of inappropriate materials
10. Disrespectful or insubordinate language or action, including not following a directive given by any faculty or staff member.
11. Use of intimidating, abusive or threatening language. Making a death threat toward student(s), faculty and/or staff. This includes threats that are made verbally, in writing and/or electronically.
12. Physical abuse, the use of physical force, physical intimidation or fighting
13. Stealing or damage/destruction of property
14. Truancy
15. Use or possession of firearms, knives, or other objects that could be construed as a weapon or dangerous substance
16. Possession, use, and/or being under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, look-alike drugs, or tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes
17. Misuse of prescription drugs
18. Possession of drug paraphernalia

Because student actions outside of school can affect the school environment, such actions may be subject to school disciplinary response.

NOTE: In cases of violations of numbers 11 through 18, the police may be summoned. Possession includes being found on the student's person, in a student's school locker, gym locker, car, gym bag, or bookbag. Possession of weapons, drugs, alcohol, or drug paraphernalia will be referred to the police and may result in suspension &/or expulsion.

Cheating / Plagiarism

Cheating

Cheating demonstrates a lack of integrity and character that is inconsistent with Christian values and the goals of our school. Cheating robs students of the opportunity to become competent learners and, in the end, is self-destructive.

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Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

1. Copying, faxing, emailing or in any way duplicating assignments or assessments wholly or in part, that are turned in as original work.
2. Exchanging assignments or assessments with other students, either handwritten or computer generated, whether you believe they will or will not be copied.
3. Using a computer or other means to translate an assignment or assessment from one language to another and submitting it as an original translation.
4. Unauthorized giving or receiving answers on an assignment or assessment. It is the student's responsibility to secure their work to minimize the opportunity for others to copy work.
5. Taking credit for group work when you have not contributed an equal or appropriate share toward the final result.
6. Accessing an assignment or assessment or answers to the same in advance of its administration.
7. Text messaging or otherwise electronically sharing information, or having an electronic device out during an assignment or assessment without teacher approval.

Students referred to administration for cheating will receive a zero on the work in question and the incident will be documented. Students may be given an alternate assignment to earn some or all of the credit for the plagiarized assignment or assessment at the discretion of the teacher. Students who violate this policy a second time may be withdrawn from the class for the balance of the semester and may lose credit for the class.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is committing literary theft. It is a form of cheating that clearly violates the student code of conduct and Biblical admonition not to steal.

If any part of an assignment is determined to have been plagiarized the student will receive a zero on the assignment and the incident will be documented. Students may be given an alternate assignment to earn some or all of the credit for the plagiarized assignment at the discretion of the teacher. Students who violate this policy a second time may be withdrawn from the class for the balance of the semester and may lose credit from that class. This policy applies to assignments and assessments given by all departments.

Teachers will instruct and guide students in the parameters of cheating and plagiarism and how to avoid engaging in them.

Harassment

Lincoln Lutheran seeks to maintain a Christ-Centered educational environment characterized by respect, compassion and love. Every student has the expectation of a positive educational experience and Lincoln Lutheran is committed to offering a culture free of discrimination and harassment. Harassment of any kind by administrators, teachers, school employees or students will not be tolerated. In addition, Lincoln Lutheran will protect students, to the extent possible, from reported harassment by non-employees and non-students occurring on school property or arising out of school functions and activities.

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Examples of Harassment

- Harassment because of a person's race, color, age, gender, national origin, religion, marital status, ancestry or disability can be a form of unlawful discrimination. At Lincoln Lutheran, slurs, jokes and other verbal or physical conduct relating to a person's race, color, age, gender, national origin, religion, marital status, ancestry or disability constitute harassment when they interfere with the student's educational performance or create an intimidating environment.
- Unlawful harassment may also exist when non-employees such as non-students, patrons, vendors or visitors engage in such conduct and when the conduct interferes with a student's performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.
- Sexual harassment may consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature by a person of the same or opposite sex.
- "Bullying" is a form of harassment. Lincoln Lutheran's definition of bullying is any inappropriate and repeated behavior, used intentionally as power or control over an individual. Exclusion, control, dominance, intimidation, or threats may be forms of bullying. Bullying behaviors may be expressed verbally, physically, or electronically.
- Electronic harassment may include, but is not limited to, posting any content on the internet, including sites such as Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, and other social media sites, or communication via text messaging or email, that is un-Christian, reflects negatively on a student or employee of Lincoln Lutheran, reflects negatively on the school, or constitutes any type of harassment as defined in this section.

If you believe you are being harassed by any Lincoln Lutheran administrator, teacher, school employee, student, patron, contractor, visitor, or any other person in connection with your attendance at Lincoln Lutheran and you are unable to amend the situation in a Christian manner, you should bring the incident to the attention of the Principal. If that would prove to be uncomfortable or you are not satisfied with the Principal's handling of the complaint, bring the matter to the attention of the Executive Director. If you still are not satisfied or would feel more comfortable reporting your complaint to someone else, you should contact the President of the Board of Directors of the Lincoln Lutheran School Association.

Lincoln Lutheran will promptly investigate all allegations of harassment in as confidential a manner as possible and take appropriate corrective and disciplinary action if warranted. Under no circumstance will any Lincoln Lutheran employee or student be allowed to threaten or retaliate against another employee or student who in good faith alleges unlawful discrimination or harassment.

Sexual Conduct Policy

Lincoln Lutheran supports a biblical standard of sexual conduct as stated in the Sixth Commandment and LC-MS Doctrines and teachings. Students are expected to use restrooms, locker rooms, changing areas, etc., that conform to his/her biological sex. Any sexual activity outside of the marriage relationship contradicts God's design. The school's involvement and response to sexual misconduct will reflect the school's overall approach to discipline (see "Explanation of the Discipline System"). Administration will balance care and concern for the student(s) involved with the need to maintain a positive educational environment and a suitable Christian climate. A determination about consequences and/or the student's continued enrollment at Lincoln Lutheran will be based on the circumstances of the situation and response of parents and student(s) involved. The full Sexual Conduct Policy is available on request.

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Student Appearance - Dress Guidelines

In keeping with the stated philosophy, we ask our parents and students to remember that our students represent Lincoln Lutheran and the Church. Dress and appearance can be a powerful witness. Cleanliness, neatness, safety, and Christian modesty and decency will always be taken into account. A dress code lends a degree of formality to the setting of formal education and supports the activity of schooling.

We dress for the occasion, and the occasion here is organized study and learning. We will not imitate the evil of this world, nor will we accept dress or appearance simply because it is considered popular or fashionable. “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Romans 12:2

If there is any question about the appropriateness of student dress, we expect parents to guide the student according to this policy. Should there still be a question, discuss the issue with the Principal. The Principal will make the final decision regarding the suitability of any article of clothing or manner of dress. Students whose clothing and/or manner of dress fall outside acceptable limits will be handled according to the following procedure.

Students with questionable appearance/attire will be addressed first by an administrator. If the student can correct the violation, they should do so immediately and not repeat the violation for the remainder of the school year. If the student cannot easily correct a violation of the dress/appearance guidelines, appropriate action will be taken. This may include the possibility of parental contact for a different set of clothes or the sending of the student home for correction of appearance/dress violation. If a parent

cannot be contacted for correction arrangements, the student will remain in the office, and be recorded as absent (excused) from class until the violation is corrected, or until the end of the school day.

Specific Appearance Guidelines:

Cleanliness, Neatness, and Safety

- Clothing and accessories should be clean.
- Clothing and accessories should not be the source of offensive odors.
- Clothing and accessories should not be tattered, frayed or have holes, slits, or other “openings” that are not normal for that type of clothing.
- Clothing or accessories should not be worn either in design or manner that restricts free, natural movement, or could be caught or entwined in equipment, on stairways or other potentially dangerous apparatus or that could cause harm to other people or damage to property.

Examples of Improper Apparel

- Footwear that is unsafe or not in proper working order
- Bedroom slippers
- Shoes with cleats
- Wallet chains
- Heavy winter coats, trench coats, or blankets worn during class time
- “Excessive” jewelry (amount or style)

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- Clothing or accessories with sharp or pointed edges (or otherwise deemed dangerous)
- Shoes that mark the floor or other surfaces
- Pant legs of a length that causes the wearer to walk on the cuff

Christian Decency/Modesty

Clothes, school bags, shoes, or other personal belongings should not contain words, drawings, pictures, emblems, or insignias that:

- Are vulgar in nature
- Represent Satanic or occult meaning
- Advertise drug, alcohol, or tobacco products
- Give negative witness of our school, our Lord, or ourselves
- Either directly or indirectly represent or insinuate non-Christian or worldly sentiment

When deciding what style of clothing to wear to school, the student should be reminded to avoid items that might draw undue attention to them or may offend others.

- No hairstyles or hair color that brings undue attention to the student by nature of the style or the tint
- Caps, hats and coat or sweatshirt hoods are not to be worn in school buildings
- Shorts and skirts should be no higher than six inches above the top of the knee cap. This guideline applies if tights are worn under shorts or skirts
- Tights, leggings, jeggings, or similar types of clothing may be worn provided an appropriate garment (shorts or a skirt, for example) is worn that is no higher than six inches above the kneecap.
- No tank tops or spaghetti strap shirts, unless worn under or over an appropriate shirt. All shirt sleeves should extend past the end of the shoulder to at least the upper arm
- No skin shall be visible at the midriff (a student should be able to touch the top of their head with both hands without exposing skin)
- The neckline of shirts should be no lower than the distance measured down from the base of the neck by the width of the student's hand and the neckline should not extend to the shoulders
- Clothing should not be excessively tight or revealing. Jeans should have a button or other fastener at the waist, a zipper, and functional pockets.
- Clothing should be in conformance to a student's biological sex
- No sheer or see-through shirts unless worn over an otherwise appropriate shirt
- At no point should a student's undergarments, including sports bras, be visible
- No visible body piercings or gauges. This includes all areas of the body except the ears
- No visible tattoos.

Activities and Field Trips:

- The school dress code remains in effect any time a student or group of students is representing Lincoln Lutheran, whether or not school is in session. This includes, but is not limited to, field trips and school activities (on or off campus). A standard of dress above the minimum required by the dress code may be required for some activities or field trips.
- Shirts for Athletic Activities
 - Shirts with sleeves should be worn for all practices, after school or off-season conditioning, and off-season leagues and camps.
 - Basketball jerseys can be worn for basketball-related activities.

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- o Sleeveless shirts may be worn by football players under shoulder pads. Shirts with sleeves should be worn during non-pad practices.
- Shorts for Athletic Activities
 - o A minimum four-inch inseam is required for athletic shorts for practices, after school or off-season conditioning, and off-season leagues and camps.
 - o Volleyball shorts worn for volleyball practices and off-season leagues and camps should have a three-inch inseam.
- Clothing that is considered “normal” attire for an activity meets the requirements of the Lincoln Lutheran Dress Code for competitions.

NOTES:

- All slogans, messages, and symbols must be harmonious with the philosophy of Lincoln Lutheran.
- The Lincoln Lutheran Administration reserves the right to make discretionary judgments regarding the appropriateness of student dress and appearance not explicitly covered by the Dress Code guidelines.
- At times, such as dress-up days during Homecoming Week and National Lutheran Schools Week, student dress that does not conform to portions of the Dress Code guidelines may be allowed.

Consequences for Dress Code Violations

1 st Offense	Referral to office, correct inappropriate clothing
2 nd Offense	Referral to office, correct inappropriate clothing, detention assigned
3 rd Offense	Referral to office, correct inappropriate clothing, further disciplinary action

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices (cell phones, iPods and other mp3 players, iPads and other tablet computers, laptops, etc.) are an essential learning tool and part of the learning environment at Lincoln Lutheran. Students may use electronic devices during school hours (8:00 am – 3:15 pm) with teacher or staff approval for educational purposes. Under no circumstances should students use electronic devices during school hours for non-educational purposes. All electronic devices are brought to school at the risk of the student. The school is in no way liable for damage to or theft of electronic devices.

Students using electronic devices without teacher approval or for non-educational purposes will have the device confiscated and given to the principal. The electronic device will be returned to the student at the end of the school day. Repeated violations of the electronic device policy may result in further disciplinary action.

It is sometimes necessary for parents to leave messages for or to contact their student during the school day. Parents should be aware that students who check messages or take phone calls from parents without teacher permission are using their electronic device improperly and may have their device confiscated for the remainder of the day. Please help us educate your student on the proper use of electronic devices and urge them to only access messages or phone calls from parents during their lunch period or with teacher permission. Parents may leave messages for students with the school

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office. Please contact the school office with any emergency messages, which will be delivered to students immediately.

Seventh and Eighth Grade Students – Seventh and eighth grade students may use electronic devices during passing periods. Electronic devices may not be used during Middle School break.

Eighth Grade Students Only – Eighth grade students may use electronic devices in the commons during the student's lunch period without asking for teacher or staff approval.

Please refer to Cheating/Plagiarism for the use of text messaging, cell phones, or other electronic communication during summative assessments.

Acceptable Use of Electronic Devices

Acceptable use of electronic devices (cell phones, iPods and other mp3 players, iPads and other tablet computers, laptops, etc.) is defined as using those devices during school hours (8:00 am - 3:15 pm, excluding lunch periods and passing periods, see above) for educational purposes with the permission of school personnel.

Unacceptable use of electronic devices (cell phones, iPods and other mp3 players, iPads and other tablet computers, laptops, etc.) includes, but is not limited to:

- Any uses or actions that are contrary to the mission and purpose of Lincoln Lutheran Middle/High School.
- Any uses or actions that are contrary to the Christian nature of Lincoln Lutheran Middle/High School.
- Any uses or actions that are harassing or discriminatory in nature (see the Harassment section of this Handbook).
- Any actions or uses that are contrary to copyright laws.
- Any actions or uses that jeopardize the Lincoln Lutheran computer network or other computer networks.

Some items worthy of specific comment are:

Email

- Only the Lincoln Lutheran email address should be used for student email.
- Lincoln Lutheran email addresses are considered school property and any communications using those addresses is subject to monitoring. Any misuse of Lincoln Lutheran email addresses may be subject to disciplinary action.
- Use of email during school hours is prohibited unless for an educational purpose and authorized by school personnel.
- Do not forward email from another person without that person's permission.
- Students should not give out Lincoln Lutheran email address passwords to other people or access the email accounts of other students.
- Class email lists (Class of 2025, for example) have been established to aid in communication with students. Class email lists should be used for official school purposes only. Misuse of Class email lists could result in the loss of technology privileges and/or other disciplinary action.

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- School email addresses are not to be given to any websites, companies, or other third parties without the permission of school personnel.

Instant Messaging/Chat Rooms

- Instant messaging/chat rooms are prohibited except as a part of an assigned, in-class activity that is supervised by school personnel.

Pictures, Video or Audio Recording

- Students should never take pictures or make a video or audio recording of another person or group without the expressed consent of that person or group.
- Any picture or audio or video recording should only be used for school purposes, such as class projects, and not shared on social networking sites or the internet in any way, except as part of the requirements for a class project.

Audio and Video Content

- Audio on electronic devices should be turned off during school hours unless required for the class activity being conducted and with the approval of school personnel.
- Listening to music during class is permitted at the discretion of school personnel.
- The use of electronic devices to watch commercial movies or videos is not permitted during school hours.
- Headphones are required any time audio or video content is accessed, or other arrangements as made with the permission of school personnel.

Games

- The playing of games during school hours is not permitted except as part of an assigned, in-class activity.

Network Access

- Students may not attempt to access servers or network information that is not open to the public.

Internet Use

- Accessing any materials on the Internet that are contrary to the Christian nature of Lincoln Lutheran Middle/High School is prohibited.
- If a student accidentally accesses inappropriate material on the Internet they should notify school personnel as soon as possible.
- Students should not attempt to bypass school network security or Internet filters.
- Information obtained through the Internet should be properly cited and in compliance with copyright laws.

Searching and Confiscation of Electronic Devices

- Student electronic devices are subject to the Searching and Confiscation policies outlined in this Handbook.

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Failure to Follow Policy

The use of Lincoln Lutheran's computer network and Internet access is a privilege, not a right. Misuse of the computer network and Internet access by the failure to follow the guidelines of this policy could result in having access to the network and Internet revoked. Misuse of the computer network and Internet access could also result in other disciplinary action as outlined in the Disciplinary Actions section of this Handbook.

Related General Information in Regard to Behavior

Searching

Lincoln Lutheran reserves the right to conduct a search of lockers, book bags, gym bags, automobiles, electronic devices, or other personal belongings. School lockers remain the exclusive property of Lincoln Lutheran. Students are given the privilege of using these lockers within guidelines set by the school. The Principal and other staff members may conduct locker searches at any time. Any student wishing to use a lock on any school locker should use a school-issued lock.

All searches will be conducted with care and concern for the student involved. A student's personal belongings will not be searched in public.

Confiscation

Any staff member has the right to confiscate inappropriate material from a student. This includes material that could be disruptive or distracting or is dangerous or illegal. Any confiscated material will be given to the Lincoln Lutheran Administration. Staff members are to use discretion in deciding how to handle individual situations and may consult with the Principal if they are unsure about the danger or legality of the material. The proper authorities will be notified when unlawful items or materials are confiscated.

Restitution

In cases involving theft, vandalism, or property misconduct, students are expected to return money or property taken, and to pay for the repair or replacement of property damaged.

The Principal will determine the restitution and notify the student and parents as soon as possible. Restitution will be made within a specified amount of time or additional consequences may be imposed. Alternate forms of restitution may be imposed, if appropriate, and after consultation with and approval of the parents. Failure to meet the terms of restitution may constitute grounds for suspension and/or expulsion.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment involves the use or threat of physical force for punishment. Lincoln Lutheran does not allow or condone corporal punishment as a consequence of its behavior guidelines. EXCEPTION: A staff member may use reasonable force for self-defense or the protection of others.

Seclusion and Restraint

Physical restraint of students (the use of physical force to prevent, restrict, or subdue movement of a student's body or part of their body) should only be used when it is immediately required to protect the

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safety of the student or another person. Seclusion of students (the solitary confinement of a student in a room or area from which their exit is prevented by a barrier or another person) should only be used when such action is immediately required to protect the safety of the student or any other person. Physical restraint or seclusion should never be used as punishment or for consequences of actions by a student.

Due Process

Due process at Lincoln Lutheran is modeled on the process given by Jesus in Matthew 18 and consists of the following steps:

1. If a student or parent has a question or needs clarification about a classroom matter or any disciplinary procedures, or if they feel that due process is not being followed, contact should be made with the staff member involved.
2. If, after a conference with the staff member involved, the student or parent seeks further discussion, the matter should be addressed to the Principal.
3. If addressing the matter with the Principal does not bring resolution to the issue, the student or parent may request the matter be brought to the Executive Director.
4. If addressing the matter with the Executive Director does not bring resolution to the issue, the student or parent may request the matter be brought before the Board of Directors by indicating so to the Executive Director. The Executive Director and the President of the Board of Directors will make arrangements for such action.
5. The Board of Directors will render a decision in the matter that will be considered final.

Right to Privacy

Students and parents have a right to have all phases of disciplinary procedures handled as discreetly as possible. Staff members may discuss students and their behavior professionally in an effort to help the student. The Principal will use discretion in sharing pertinent information about students with school staff. A student's behavior file is considered confidential. Contents will be shared only with the student, his parents, and appropriate professionals and staff members.

Before and After School

Prior to 10 minutes before classes begin and beyond 30 minutes after school is dismissed for the day, students are asked to remain in the Commons and out of hallways and classrooms, unless they are working with a specific faculty or staff member. Families are encouraged to drop students off after 7:30 a.m. and pick students up by 3:45 p.m. Supervision beyond the school day is limited and parents are responsible for the behavior of their children. Students in grades 6-8 may be required to enroll and participate in a Lincoln Lutheran after school care program if they are not involved in an activity and cannot be picked up by 3:45 pm. There will be an additional cost to families for such a program.

Technology Use

Lincoln Lutheran Middle/High School has implemented a set of technology use guidelines intended to protect the hardware and software owned by Lincoln Lutheran and to direct faculty, staff, and student computer use in ways consistent with Christian stewardship. Each user shall act in an appropriate manner consistent with the goals and mission of our school. Each user is responsible for their use of computing resources.

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Lincoln Lutheran has established policy standards regarding the use and copying of data, application software, Internet use and access, and computer security. All students who will be using the computers at school must have a Technology Use Agreement signed by both a parent and the student on file in the office. Other interested parties are encouraged to contact the Technology Coordinator or the Principal for a copy of these policies.

Media Center

- Students will be allowed to use the Media Center when a staff member is present for supervision. The student will need a pass from the appropriate teacher or permission from the Media Specialist.
- Library or media materials shall remain in the Media Center unless properly checked out.
- When receiving a pass from a teacher to be used during study hall, the pass must first be shown to the study hall supervisor. The study hall supervisor may write a pass for a student to visit the Media Center. Only individuals who desire to use media resources are allowed in the Media Center.
- The copying machine in the Media Center may be used with permission from the Media Specialist.
- When checking out material(s), students are expected to follow posted guidelines.
- After using library or media materials, students are to place them in the designated areas.
- Students who violate Media Center guidelines may receive misbehavior consequences and/or lose Media Center privileges.

Study Hall

Study hall is offered at Lincoln Lutheran Middle/High School for students who desire an opportunity during the school day for quiet study time. It is a class like any other with guidelines students are expected to follow.

The following guidelines will be used:

- Study hall is only for quiet study or reading time. Students should come to study hall with materials to study or something to read. Students arriving in study hall with nothing to do will be provided work by the study hall supervisor.
- A sign-out sheet should be used as directed by the study hall supervisor. Students should sign back into study hall prior to the end of the class period.
- Students should be seated immediately in their assigned seat.
- Students must have a pass from a teacher to go to another classroom, the library or the office.
- Study Hall is not nap time. Please nap at home.
- Talking by permission from the study hall teacher only.
- Any additional guidelines developed specifically by the study hall supervisor will be shared with the students on the first day.

Music

All music played within the Lincoln Lutheran community, or used for performance purposes, will reflect our Christian principles.

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Medication Policy

Students requiring medication will be identified on school medication forms provided at registration. A copy of the medication form will be filed at school in the nurse's office. No prescription or non-prescription medication shall be allowed on the school premises unless in accordance with this procedure.

- Under no circumstances shall school personnel provide any medication, including aspirin or aspirin products to students unless the proper medication form has been received.
- The diagnosis, treatment of illness, or prescribing of drugs is never the responsibility of school personnel.
- School personnel shall never perform the administration of injections to students.

For information regarding specific medication procedures, please contact the school office.

School Wellness Policy

The Board of Education of Lincoln Lutheran School Association is committed to providing a learning environment that supports and promotes wellness, good nutrition, and an active lifestyle and recognizes the positive relationship between good nutrition, physical activity and the capacity of students to develop and learn. The entire school environment shall be aligned with healthy school goals to positively influence students' beliefs and habits and promote health and wellness, good nutrition and regular physical activity. In addition, school staff shall be encouraged to model healthy eating and physical activity as a valuable part of daily life.

The Board of Education has established student wellness goals that are designed to promote student wellness in a manner the Administration determines to be appropriate in the following areas: Nutrition Education, Physical Education and other School Activities. The full School Wellness Policy is on file in the School office and available for review upon request.

National School Lunch Program

Lincoln Lutheran is a participant in the National School Lunch Program. All meals meet both state and federal requirements. Contact the School Nutrition Director for questions regarding the program.

The National School Lunch Program policy does not restrict what a child can bring from home in his/her lunch or what a parent can deliver for his/her own child to eat at school. Delivery of food intended for student consumption by commercial food/beverage companies is not allowed.

Families participating in the lunch program are expected to maintain a positive lunch account balance for their student(s).

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Non-Discrimination Statement

The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or

funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities).

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at:

http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or by email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.