

Student and Family

Handbook

2025 - 2026



PaceAcademy.com

PACE Academy

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- All students and guests entering PACE Academy will undergo a security scan. The School's search policy aims to deter the entry of harmful items, such as weapons, drugs, and alcohol, ensuring school safety and a disruption-free educational environment. This

practice reassures parents and the community about the proactive measures taken for safety. Regular searches promote respect for school rules and laws, fostering a safer and more conducive atmosphere for learning and growth development.....	34
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Mission Statement:

PACE Academy's mission is to provide a safe environment where all students can acquire an alternative, focused, individualized educational program to enable them to earn and recover credit to graduate and become self-motivated and competent adults prepared for a career or college.

Vision Statement:

At PACE Academy High School, we emphasize that we employ today's and tomorrow's best practices and innovations to provide a progressive educational experience for every student. We envision the lifelong application of learning, coupled with intelligent risk-taking, to challenge and encourage student participation as productive members of the global society.

ADMINISTRATION'S WELCOME AND MESSAGE

Welcome to PACE Academy

We are delighted to welcome you to the PACE Academy community. This academic year promises to be an extraordinary adventure, commencing with our Student/Parent Handbook. The handbook is filled with essential information about our School, and we encourage you to thoroughly review it to become acquainted with our culture and operations. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need clarification on any matters.

At PACE Academy, our mission is to nurture our students' growth into independent and responsible adults. Our dedicated faculty and administration are committed to implementing positive changes that will benefit our entire community. We aim to equip our students with the necessary skills and experiences for success in all aspects of life.

Our team shares a unified vision of ensuring that every student realizes their educational aspirations. We are prepared to dedicate our time, efforts, and resources towards achieving this goal. However, we need your support to make this possible. Together, let's collaborate to make this school year the most successful yet for our students.

We look forward to an incredible year together and are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for each of you. Let's make this year truly remarkable!

Regards,



Bill Sakelarios
Director

PACE Academy Programs

PACE Academy is a program that provides alternative education and social skills training to high school students. Our School is designed for students who wish to excel at an individual pace, have found themselves unsuccessful in a traditional education setting, have dropped out, and wish to return to School or want a good education in an alternative environment. We also welcome pregnant/parenting teens and juvenile probationers required by the court to complete high School.

PACE Academy is designed to provide all students with the most significant opportunity for academic success. We offer basic skills education through small-group instruction and individualized learning, emphasizing independent study. Small class enrollment allows students close tutorial assistance from the academic faculty. Computer-based web instruction allows for individualized coursework, and the curriculum is designed to provide students with relevant and practical life applications. Experiential learning opportunities are available to students through elective courses.

Support services offer the personal assistance students often need to navigate their day. Emphasis is placed on integrating counseling into the general curriculum to provide services to students and their families, both on the school campus and by linking students and families with community services.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

PACE Academy is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and non-discrimination in all aspects, including race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, and disability. This policy encompasses all matters concerning staff, students, the public, instructional programs, and services.

PACE Academy will comply with **all** applicable Federal, State, and local educational programs and personnel management laws.

Statement of Exceptional Student Services (ESS)

PACE Academy is a public school for grades 9-12. Students at PACE Academy will be evaluated for appropriate academic placement, and, if required, special education-related services will be provided following the student's IEP (Individual Educational Program).

PACE Academy GOALS

1. Students will improve their written communication skills.
2. Students will make responsible decisions to develop educational and career goals.
3. Students will demonstrate improved personal and social responsibility.
4. The community will be well-informed and actively involved in the School.

School Organization

PACE Academy's school year comprises two 18-week semesters and 145 school days. Progress reports will be sent out as needed. Please remember that you can access your student's grades electronically anytime. Feel free to call the School at any time (928-775-9675).

The Class Schedule includes six consecutive hours per day. PACE class days are Monday through Thursday. The school day begins at 8:00 a.m. promptly. Make-up work, extracurricular classes, detention, and tutoring may be scheduled outside of regular school hours. Please check the attached school calendar and the website for special events, holidays, etc.

Parent Teacher Conferences

The administration recognizes that the best results can be achieved when home and schoolwork are coordinated to support the student's educational growth. Teacher-parent conferences are encouraged when it is felt that such meetings will help attain these goals. These conferences will be held at a time that does not interfere with instructional periods.

Parent Night

Parents are strongly encouraged to attend parent nights held throughout the year. During each parent night, the faculty will briefly describe the class objectives, instructional materials, major activities, explain the grading procedures, discuss progress and expectations, and answer your questions.

Enrollment of New Students

PACE Academy welcomes all new student inquiries. However, enrollment is limited. New students are accepted as space allows. Students may request to be put on a waiting list if classes are filled at the time of enrollment.

Enrollment Procedures

The enrollment packet **must** be returned with the following forms completed:

- Enrollment Form
- Prior School Withdrawal Form
- Immunization Record
- Proof of Custody Documents
- Student Drivers: Proof of driver's license, registration & insurance
- ECAP File
- Proof of Residence
- A certified copy of the student's Birth Certificate or any document approved under A.R.S. 15-828: (Example: Baptismal Certificate, Passport, Arizona Driver's License or State ID, application for a social security number, original school registration records, and an affidavit explaining the inability to provide a copy of the birth certificate, letter from the authorized representative of an agency having custody of the pupil)
- Immunizations record (A.R.S. §15-872)
- Copies will be made, and the originals will be returned to the parent or guardian.

Proof of Residency

A person can prove their physical residence by completing an Affidavit of Arizona Residency (available as part of the enrollment packet) and submitting an original or legible copy of one of the following documents that indicate the person's name and residence address:

- Valid Arizona driver's license, Arizona identification card, or motor vehicle registration
- Real estate deed or mortgage documents
- Property tax bill
- Residential lease or rental agreement
- Water, electric, gas, cable, or phone bill
- Bank or credit card statement
- State income tax return or W-2 form
- Voided paycheck or payroll stub
- Documentation from a state or federal government agency (Social Security Administration, Veteran's Administration, Arizona Department of Economic Security)

The residency documentation received by the School will be maintained per Arizona Department of Education guidelines. Proof of residence must be provided every year at the time of enrollment.

Re-Enrollment

Continuing students at PACE Academy Preparatory Academy must re-enroll in the spring to secure a seat for the beginning of the next school year.

Guardianship

Students under the age of 18 who live with someone other than the parent(s) named on the student's certified birth certificate must provide notarized guardianship papers that state the name of the adult who assumes responsibility for the student, the student's medical needs, and the student's actions.

Change of Status

Parents or students must notify the Registrar immediately at 928-775-9675 ext. 7100 or Registrar@PaceAcademy.com if there are any address changes, telephone number, guardianship, or student marital status.

Withdrawal from PACE Academy

Eligible students who have withdrawn from PACE Academy and wish to return during the same

school year must promptly submit a new enrollment packet. If PACE has reached our program's capacity, students will be placed on a waiting list.

Withdrawal Procedure

If a student is to be withdrawn, parents should inform the School as soon as possible before the student's final day of School so that all records can be updated. *If the student is under 18, Parents must come to the School* in person to officially withdraw their student and sign an official State Withdrawal Form.

Student Records

PACE Academy is the custodian of all students' records. Official records may not be hand-carried to another educational institution. Per ARS §15-828. F. Records must be requested in writing by the student's new School and will be sent within ten days of receipt of that request.

Academic Expectations

Enrollment in PACE Academy is open to all students who desire to earn a high school diploma. This means achieving the minimum number of credits required for graduation by the Arizona Department of Education.

A passing grade of 65% or better must be earned in each course to receive credit.

Students may complete the required credits for a high school diploma at any time during the school year and may participate in the next scheduled graduation ceremony.

Ethics

Honesty underlies all academic endeavors and successes. Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will neither be tolerated nor ignored at PACE Academy. Dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism, or unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written and computerized work. Academic dishonesty can result in detention, suspension, and loss of points or credit. Each incident of Academic Dishonesty will be individually reviewed, and subsequent consequences will follow.

PACE Academy Curriculum

The classroom teacher at PACE Academy must verify subject area skills. A student's achievement is verified through coursework, competency testing, and demonstration of skills. PACE Academy is fully accredited through Cognia/AdvancED Accreditation.

PACE Academy's curriculum provides the foundational skills necessary for all students to earn a high school diploma, while also emphasizing higher goals for students to achieve beyond the basic skills. The curriculum is in alignment with the Arizona College and Career Readiness Standards.

Course Availability

The elective courses listed in the course description guide are those that the staff at PACE Academy is prepared to teach if sufficient student interest exists. All students, accompanied by their parent/guardian and mentor/teacher, are responsible for selecting courses that best meet their educational needs and enable them to fulfill the graduation requirements of the PACE Academy Charter School.

Dual Credit Courses

Courses taken at an institution other than PACE Academy are concurrent courses. Community college courses, county school courses, university courses, adult education, and correspondence courses from various institutions are all concurrent courses. Per A.R.S. §15-701.01.F, students will receive 1.0 high school credit for each three semester hours of credit received from an appropriate college or university.

A limited number of concurrent courses will be accepted toward a PACE Academy diploma.

Before enrolling in a concurrent course for high school credit, the proper PACE Academy form must be completed and signed by a school administrator for approval.

High School Graduation Requirements

The table below summarizes Arizona's **minimum** credit requirements for high school graduation for the graduating class of 2013 and beyond. Please note that school districts and charter schools may, at their discretion, establish additional graduation credit requirements for their students.

Class of 2013 and beyond	
English	4 Credits
Math (1) (2)	4 Credits
Science (3)	3 Credits
Social Studies (4)	3 Credits
CTE/Fine Arts	1 Credit
Electives	7 Credits
Total	22 Credits

- 1) Math courses shall consist of Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II (or its equivalent), and an additional course with significant math content, as determined by the district governing boards or charter schools. Students who have not earned formal credit in Algebra I and Geometry but who have covered the course content described in [State Board of Education administrative rule R7-2-302](#) are deemed to have met the requirement for graduation.
- 2) The Algebra II requirement may be modified using a [Personal Curriculum](#) as outlined in R7-2-302.03
- 3) Three credits of science in preparation for proficiency at the high school level on the AZ Merit test.
- 4) Social Studies shall consist of one credit of American History, one credit of World History/Geography, one-half credit of government, and one-half credit of economics.
- 5) PACE requires 120 hours of community service, equivalent to 0.5 credits.

Arizona Education and Career Action Plan (ECAP) for Students in Grades 9-12

A. Effective for the graduation class of 2013, schools shall complete for every student in grades 9-12 an Arizona Education and Career Action Plan ("ECAP") before graduation. Schools shall develop an Education and Career Action Plan in consultation with the student, the student's parent or guardian, and the appropriate school personnel designated by the school Administration or chief administrative officer. Staff shall monitor, review, and update each Education and Career Action Plan at least annually. Appropriate school personnel shall verify completion of the Education and Career Action Plan (ECAP).

B. An Arizona Education and Career Action Plan, at a minimum, shall allow students and parents to enter, track, and update the following information:

1. Academic Goals include identifying and planning the coursework necessary to achieve the high school graduation requirements and pursue postsecondary education and career options; analyzing assessment results to determine progress and identify needs for intervention and advisement; and documenting academic achievement.
2. Career Goals include identifying career plans, options, interests, and skills; exploring entry-level opportunities; and evaluating educational requirements.

3. Postsecondary Education Goals include identifying progress toward meeting admission requirements, completing application forms, and creating financial assistance plans.
4. Extracurricular Activity Goals include documenting participation in clubs, organizations, athletics, fine arts, community service, recreational, volunteer, work-related, leadership opportunities, and other activities.

Student Grades

The course teacher shall determine the grade given to each student. The teacher's determination of the student's grade in the absence of a clerical or mechanical mistake, proven fraud, bad faith, or incompetence shall be final. Questions about grades should be directed to the teacher. Parents wishing to discuss grades with the teacher may call the high School.

It is sometimes helpful for the parent or teacher to request a conference involving the parent, teacher, and student to review the student's work for appropriate progress and express expectations regarding the next progress report period. A counselor or administrator may be invited to participate in this conference. Open House Night is an excellent source of information for parents and students.

The following guidelines for grading are followed at PACE Academy:

1. The grade the student receives reflects an evaluation of their performance and determines the extent to which they are progressing from a given point in proportion to their abilities.
2. The teacher will use every means possible to arrive at a fair and impartial judgment of each student and their work.
3. The grading system must allow consistent interpretation by the student, parent, teacher, and Administration.

PACE Academy Grading Scale:

"A" = 90 - 100% - EXCELLENT

"B" = 80 - 89% - ABOVE AVERAGE

"C" = 70 - 79% - AVERAGE

"D" = 60 - 69% - BELOW AVERAGE

"F" = 59 - 0% - FAIL – No Credit

Transfer of Credits

PACE Academy's philosophy is that all students will be offered a complete educational plan as soon as possible. With that in mind, the following guidelines have been established for the acceptance of transfer credits from other institutions:

1. Credits from entities will be accepted for transfer students.
2. The Governing Board will accept credits from non-accredited entities on a case-by-case basis.
3. Students on track for graduation at their previous high School may need an adjustment in graduation requirements to graduate from PACE Academy. This will be done on an individual basis. Credits earned through homeschooling will be evaluated on an individual basis.
4. The School may accept credit earned by a student through correspondence or extension study toward satisfying the graduation requirements, provided that an administrator has approved the course in advance of the student's enrollment.
5. PACE Academy may accept summer school credits earned in other entities, provided the credits are earned under the instruction of certified teachers and the supervision of administrators who meet Arizona standards. Exceptions may be

granted only upon approval by the administration.

Guidance, Counseling, and Support Services at PACE Academy

Guidance Services are provided to each student by PACE Staff members.

Services include communication with students, individually and in groups, and providing them with information for making decisions in areas such as:

- Meeting diploma/graduation requirements
- Interpreting test scores
- Exploring after-graduation opportunities
- Choosing a career
- Applying for financial aid and scholarships
- Using school/community specialists and resources

Counseling services include:

- Listening to (and being concerned about) the student
- Helping students to communicate with friends, school staff, and family
- Assisting students to discuss alternatives, make choices, and accept the consequences of their actions
- Confidentiality
- Assisting students in resolving problems

Support services programs:

- Substance Abuse Counseling (Referral by team)
- Speech Therapy
- School Psychologist services - evaluation, group, and individual counseling
- Homebound instruction for prolonged illnesses
- Special Education Services

Parents who wish to refer students to these programs and services or to obtain more information about them should contact the administration at 928-775-9675.

Special Education

PACE Academy offers a resource program for students with special needs. Students are referred by teachers for testing by the school psychologist, or if they have been enrolled in an existing program at another school, their records are reviewed.

Students follow a curriculum similar to the regular curriculum, but are taught in a more individualized manner.

State law requires students to be tested and meet eligibility requirements before receiving Special Education services.

Section 504

- Section 504 is an act that prohibits discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving Federal financial assistance.
- The Act defines a person with a disability as anyone with a mental or physical impairment that limits one or more major life activities such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working.
- To fulfill its obligations under Section 504, PACE Academy recognizes a responsibility to avoid discrimination in its policies and practices regarding its students.
- No discrimination against students with disabilities will be knowingly permitted in the school system's programs and practices.
- The School has specific responsibilities under the Act, which include identifying

and evaluating the student and, if determined, being eligible under Section 504, providing access to appropriate educational services.

- Suppose a parent or guardian disagrees with the determination made by the professional staff of the charter school. In that case, they have a right to a hearing with an impartial hearing officer.

Homebound Instruction

Definition: "Homebound instruction is a supplementary instructional program to serve students unable to attend school due to mental or physical illness or injury causing prolonged absence from school" (A.R.S. §15.901.B.12).

Completion of the proper forms and written verification by a physician are required before homebound instruction is provided to students who qualify. Parents with questions regarding the supplemental programs should contact the school administration.

Attendance Policy

- Students *must* accept responsibility for regular school attendance by attending and participating in each class on time and regularly. *All students are expected to be in School on time each day, with at least 5 class hours per day.* School begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday.
- Parents *must* accept responsibility for their student's regular attendance by stressing the significance of being in School and on time each day during the school year.

Parents must notify the School by phone, e-mail, or note each day a student is absent.

- The School must be notified by phone and by a note from the parent/guardian before the absence or the day the student returns to School, containing the following information:
 - student's name
 - date returning to School
 - dates and days missed
 - reasons for absence.
- The School will make reasonable attempts to inform parents or guardians of student absenteeism through phone calls, e-mail, or mail.
- Regular attendance is essential for students to successfully attain knowledge from their high school programs.
- PACE Academy maintains records of all student absences.
- Class attendance is reported every class period to assure parents that the School is concerned about the welfare and location of their children and to comply with the Arizona State regulations regarding attendance reporting.
- Arizona State law requires that students attend School until 16 years of age or pass the GED Test.

Absences

- PACE Academy's calendar begins in August and ends in late May.
- You must adhere to these dates, as you have chosen to attend our School.
- Regular attendance is required under Arizona's compulsory attendance laws.
- Each student is expected to attend School every day except for personal illness.
- Each student's education is the joint responsibility of the home and the School.
- Only through cooperation can students be assured of all the advantages of available education.
- Loss of Credit Per Arizona Revised Statute A.R.S. §15.802, 15.803, a student who is absent from any given class 10% or more times, excused or unexcused, per year may not receive academic credit.
- Therefore, all students must attend School for 90% of the school year, meaning they

may only miss 14 days in the entire school year.

Excused Absences

- All absences from the appropriate professional organization must be accompanied by a note from the doctor's office, hospital, court, or other relevant authority.
 - Medical visit of a student
 - Observance of major religious holidays of the family's faith.
 - Death of an immediate family member (parent, sibling, grandparents, guardian).
 - Lengthy illness verified by a medical professional in the form of a written statement addressed to PACE Academy.
 - Court subpoena or other verifiable legal responsibilities.

Unexcused Absences

- An unexcused absence is any absence from School, including any scheduled class or activity during the school day. Students must contact the district office to arrange for making up all absences.
- All absences (excused or unexcused) must be made up immediately within the same week as the absence or by the first two days of the following week.

Tardy

- Tardiness to class is unacceptable and must be made up during the next available class session.
- Three (3) Tardies constitute an absence and must be made up within the same week.
- You are considered tardy if you are not in your seat working by 5 minutes past the hour.

Truancy Policy

- The truancy policy **applies to** students 16 years of age or younger. Per A.R.S. §15-803.2, a student is a truant with one or more unexcused absences.
- A student with at least five unexcused absences in a school year is a habitual truant.
- Students who are habitually truant will be placed on a probationary attendance contract.
- Failure to fulfill the requirements of the attendance contract may result in suspension and/or a court citation, as per A.R.S. § 15-803 & 15-805.

Emancipated Students

- Students who have become legally emancipated, are 18 years old, or have left their guardians' residence must report their situation to the administration immediately upon enrollment or a change in their status.
- Students will meet with the administration to receive instructions on their attendance procedures.
- A letter advising the parent/guardian of the student's attendance will be sent on the 3rd absence.
- On the 8th absence, a contact will be made with the student, parent, and/or administrator to inform them of the possibility of the student being dropped from our roster and/or losing earned credit.
- A student may wish to appeal a decision to deny credit; however, the student must continue to attend class during the appeal process, or the appeal will be automatically rejected.
- The student's grades, attitude, behavior in School, and attendance patterns will be reviewed and considered when determining whether to grant the appeal.
- Improvement in attendance can lead to the reestablishment of credit at the discretion of the administration and a faculty review committee.
- The appeal process must be completed within five (5) school days after notification of

loss of credit. It must set forth detailed written reasons why the student and parent/guardian believe the appeal should be granted and the loss of credit reversed. The appeal must be signed by the student and their parent/guardian.

Closed Campus

- PACE Academy has a closed campus policy whereby students must remain on campus throughout the school day unless they have written parental permission to leave and return during school hours.

Sign-In and Sign-Out Procedures

A student may sign out to leave campus during the school day ONLY if:

1. The parent or guardian listed on an emergency form must come in person to sign the student out.
2. The student is ill, and the teacher obtains permission from the parent/guardian or an authorized person on the enrollment form.
3. The parent/guardian must make a prior request by phone or provide written permission.
4. Notes must include a phone number for verification.
5. Phone calls will also be verified.
6. A verifiable appointment card for medical treatment, dental treatment, or a court summons is presented.
 - a. A parent's sign-out does not necessarily mean that the absence will be excused.
 - b. Students excused from class must not remain on campus unless they have the teacher's permission.
7. Students who miss class for acceptable reasons but fail to follow the proper procedures will be considered unexcused and may be subject to disciplinary action.

ALL VISITORS MUST SIGN IN ON THE VISITORS LOG UPON ENTRY TO THE SCHOOL FACILITIES WITH A DATE, TIME, AND REASON.

Inclement Weather Days

- Suppose it becomes necessary to cancel School or start late due to weather-related issues. In that case, all students, parents, or guardians will be notified via our automated phone and email notification system, "School Messenger," the PACE website, and Facebook/META.
- PACE Academy utilizes a parent notification service called "School Messenger."
- Students need to log in and work from home on inclement days.
- Parents, guardians, students, and probation officials will be notified by phone and e-mail that the student did not log in to complete lessons.
- Please notify the School of any changes to your phone numbers and email addresses so we can keep our data accurate.

Reports to Parents

- PACE Academy's policy is to inform parents if a student's classwork is unsatisfactory.
- Parents will be alerted and consulted as soon as possible when a student's performance or attitude becomes unsatisfactory or shows marked or sudden deterioration.
- Parents are encouraged to log on to their students' online curriculum and check their progress in "real-time."
PLEASE Call the School for details on how to access their progress online or access details through our website at paceacademy.com and go to the Parent Portal for more information.
- Students and parents are encouraged to request conferences with the teacher when they

- see indications rather than waiting for a notice of failure or a progress report to arrive.
- Parents are encouraged to discuss any problems they or their children are experiencing with the appropriate School officials.
- Parents are urged to follow up with their student or teacher regarding progress reports or deficiency notices by doing the following:
 - Discuss the deficiency with your student.
 - Call the teacher to discuss any questions or concerns.
 - Make a follow-up contact with the teacher in several weeks to determine if the student has shown improvement.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

- PACE Academy will ensure that students with limited English proficiency receive instruction to become proficient in English, enabling them to succeed in classes taught in English.
- This will occur by identifying students with limited English proficiency using diagnostic assessments and providing a curriculum and instructional program to meet their needs.
- Instruction is provided by instructors and instructional assistants, using various materials to develop English proficiency.
- Students with limited English proficiency may be required to enroll in ESL language arts coursework before English 1 through IV. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-754.
- The ESL program will consist of:
 - Daily instruction in English language development encompasses listening and speaking, reading, writing, as well as cognitive and academic skills.
 - A plan to develop an understanding of the history and culture of Arizona and the United States.
 - A plan to understand the customs and values of the cultures associated with the student's primary home language.

Missing Students

- Arizona Revised Statute A.R.S. § 15-829 requires that when a parent notifies the Police Department that their student is missing, the police are to inform the School.
- The School must "flag" the student's record and notify local law enforcement agencies if an in-state or out-of-state agency has requested the documents.
- Should a law enforcement agency notify any PACE Academy personnel that a student is missing, the principal's office should be notified immediately.
- The director or the Administration designee will ensure that all records of the missing student are flagged and monitored.

Professional Qualifications of Teachers

- As a parent of a student in the PACE Preparatory School, in compliance with the "Every Student Succeeds Act" (ESSA) requirement, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the teachers who instruct your child. Staff resumes are kept at the front office for viewing during school hours.
- The ESSA gives you the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:
 - a. The State of Arizona has credentialed, licensed, or highly qualified teachers for the grades and subjects they teach.
 - b. The teacher is teaching under an emergency certification or other provisional statutes that have waived State licensing criteria.
 - c. The teacher's college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees, and if so, the subject of the degrees.
 - d. Whether any instructional aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child, and if they do, their qualifications.

Equal Education Opportunities - Non-Discrimination Affirmation

- PACE Academy is committed to the principle of equal opportunity in education.
- No person based on race, color, creed, religion, gender, handicap, or national origin will be subjected to discrimination or denied the benefits of or be excluded from any educational program activity.

Health Services - Illness or Injury

- PACE Academy will try to contact parents if a child becomes ill or injured while at School. If a parent cannot be contacted, the School will try to contact those listed as emergency contacts. If no communication can be reached, reasonable measures will be taken to give treatment in the best interest of the student.
- A student may not leave the campus without the permission of a parent or guardian.
- The School reserves the right to seek emergency help (911) whenever school personnel feel this action is necessary. It is warranted when the parents are unavailable or if the situation is deemed necessary.
- The parents or guardians will be responsible for any costs involved with the treatment and transport of their child.
- The alternate emergency contact on the enrollment form must be someone who can be easily reached and who can provide instructions or follow up if parents cannot be contacted.
- Notifying the **Registrar at 928 775- 9675** of an emergency contact change is equally important.

Prescription Medication

Any prescribed medication must be in an original container with an unaltered, original label showing the student's name and dosage (A.R.S. § 15-344). Parents must notify the School of any prescription drugs and/or changes in prescriptions that a student may have during the school day. PACE Academy's policy is that we will dispense prescribed medication during the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. per the doctor's prescription.

Other Services

- Assisting students who require eye exams and corrective lenses.
- Assisting families when students need hearing evaluations.
- Assisting families in obtaining medical assistance when needed.
- Counseling and referring pregnant teens to needed services.
- Assessing students for possible substance abuse.
- Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator referral.
- Assessing students for all types of abuse and referrals.
- HIV/AIDS Coordinator referral.

Emergency Response Plan (ERP)

- A fire safety and evacuation plan is posted at all exit doors in the classroom and the School. Periodic fire drills will take place throughout the school year.
- The Emergency Response Plan is in place and available on each campus.
- The Administration of PACE Academy is responsible for supervising the safety program.

AZ SAFE – Arizona Safety Accountability for Education

- AZ SAFE is a standardized Federal system designed to provide educators with the information they need to maintain and improve the safety of their schools.
- AZ SAFE is used for accurately tracking, managing, and reporting school safety and disciplinary incident data.

- Certain infractions MUST be reported to the State.

FERPA - Confidentiality of Student Education Records

- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (**FERPA**) is a federal law protecting the privacy of student education records.
- FERPA grants parents specific rights regarding their children's educational records.
- These rights are transferred to the student when they reach the age of 18 or attend a school beyond the high school level.
- Students to whom the rights have been transferred are "eligible students."

Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the School within 45 days of a request made to the school administrator.

Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless parents or eligible students are unable to review the documents without them. Schools may charge a fee for copies.

Parents or eligible students have the right to request in writing that a school correct the record they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the School decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the School still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record stating their view about the contested information.

Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions:

- School officials have legitimate educational interests.
- A school official is a person employed or contracted by the School to serve as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, or support staff member; a person serving on the school board; or a parent or student serving on an official committee or assisting another school official in performing their tasks.
- A legitimate educational interest means the review of records is necessary to fulfill a professional responsibility for the School.
- Other schools to which a student is seeking to enroll.
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes.
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student.
- Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the School.
- Accrediting organizations.
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena.
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies and
- State and local authorities within a juvenile justice system operate under specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, sports participation (including height and weight of athletes), and dates of attendance unless notified by the parents or eligible student that the School is not to disclose the information without consent.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

- IDEA is a federal law that protects the rights of students with disabilities. In addition to standard school records, for children with disabilities, education records could include evaluation and testing materials, medical and health information,
- Individualized Education Programs and related notices and consents, progress

reports, materials related to disciplinary actions, and mediation agreements. Such information is gathered from many sources, including the student's parents and the School attendance staff.

- In addition, with parental permission, information may be gathered from other relevant sources, such as doctors and healthcare providers.
- This information is collected to ensure that the child is identified, evaluated, and provided with a Free and Appropriate Public Education, as mandated by state and federal special education laws.
- Each agency participating under Part B of the IDEA must ensure that it complies with federal confidentiality laws at all stages of gathering, storing, retaining, and disclosing education records to third parties.
- In addition, the destruction of any education records of a child with a disability must be per IDEA regulatory requirements.

For additional information or to file a complaint, you may call the Federal Government at (202) 260-3887 (voice) OR the Arizona Department of Education (ADE/ESS) at (602) 542-4013.	Arizona Department of Education Exceptional Student Services 1535 W. Jefferson, BIN 24 Phoenix, AZ 85007
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EPA – AHERA (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act)

- The rules implementing AHERA are published in the Code of Federal Regulations, [Chapter 40, Part 763, Subpart E](#).
- The AHERA rules require local education agencies to take action to perform an original inspection and re-inspection every three years of asbestos-containing material.
 - Develop, maintain, and update an asbestos management plan, and keep a copy on file at the School.
 - Provide yearly notification to parents, teachers, and employee organizations regarding the availability of the School's asbestos management plan and any asbestos abatement actions taken or planned in the School.
 - Designate a contact person to ensure the responsibilities of the local education agency are properly implemented.
 - Perform periodic surveillance of known or suspected asbestos-containing building materials.
 - Ensure that adequately accredited professionals perform inspections and response actions, prepare management plans, and provide custodial staff with asbestos-awareness training.

Student Cell Phone and Internet Use Policy

In Compliance with A.R.S. §15-120.05 (H.B. 2484)

Purpose

PACE Preparatory Academy is dedicated to fostering a focused learning environment that supports student achievement and overall well-being. In compliance with Arizona House Bill 2484, this policy governs student use of wireless communication devices and internet access during the school day, Monday through Thursday, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It includes restrictions on social media use and procedures for parental communication.

I. Wireless Communication Devices (Cell Phones and Similar Devices)

Definition

A "wireless communication device" is any device that can connect to the internet or a cellular network and transmit or receive data. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Mobile telephones that offer advanced computing and internet accessibility (also known as a smartphone);
2. Cellular telephones;
3. Digital media players;
4. Portable game consoles;
5. Tablets, notebooks, or laptop computers (other than those issued by the School);
6. Digital cameras;
7. Digital video or audio recorders;
8. Bluetooth EarPods or earbuds, headsets, and
9. Smart watches

Usage Policy

Students are prohibited from using or accessing wireless communication devices during the entire school day. This means students must either refrain from bringing wireless communication devices to School altogether, or must store them in a school-provided pouch (Yondr) for the entirety of the school day, unless one or more of the following exceptions apply:

Educational exception: A teacher or staff member has authorized the limited use of a wireless communication device for educational purposes. Students may use the wireless communication device only as explicitly permitted by the teacher or staff member. The use of any wireless communication device beyond the limits set by the teacher or staff member will be considered a violation of this policy. It may result in disciplinary action against the student.

Medical or IEP exception: A student needs access to the wireless communication device for their medical condition or as specified in their IEP. If required by a medical condition, the student's parent/guardian must submit documentation from a healthcare provider specifying the medical condition and the frequency of access to the wireless communication device during the school day. Any student found to be using their wireless communication device for any purpose other than academic use will be subject to disciplinary action.

Emergency Exception: While the School has adopted procedures to communicate with parents, law enforcement, and other necessary parties in the event of an emergency or perceived threat of danger, the School recognizes that student access to wireless communication devices may be required and beneficial in such situations. Accordingly, students are permitted to access and potentially use their wireless communication devices in any of the following emergencies: (1) an active shooter; (2) an active fire; (3) a schoolwide lockdown, (4) a schoolwide evacuation; (5) a medical emergency concerning any member of the school community; (6) any natural disaster; or (7) any other emergency as declared by School staff.

Students and parents may contact each other during the school day through the School's front office. Messages should be urgent, critical, or vital to student safety, not related to routine matters.

Parents Contacting Students:

Parents must contact the front office at **928-775-9675** to reach their child during the school day, Monday through Thursday, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The office will relay the message or call the student out of class if necessary. They may also e-mail the front desk at **Registrar@PaceAcademy.com**.

Students Contacting Parents:

Students may request to use a school phone if they need to contact their parents during the school day, Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The School reserves the right to limit or prohibit a parent/guardian from using the School's messaging capabilities if they abuse the privilege, as determined in the School's sole discretion.

II. Internet and Social Media Access

Internet Use

Student internet access on school-provided networks is filtered and monitored for security purposes. Access is restricted to educational sites and platforms. Every student and staff member is assigned an @PaceAcademy.com e-mail account, and our internet service filters and monitors all activity.

Social Media Definition

"Social media platform" refers to a **website, computer application, or other digital platform** used for **social networking and creating, sharing, or exchanging virtual content**.

— Arizona House Bill 2484, A.R.S. § 15-120.05(C)(2)

Access to social media platforms is **prohibited** during the school day unless specifically authorized by a teacher for educational purposes.

III. Notification and Annual Review

This policy will be provided to all students, parents/guardians, and staff at the beginning of each school year. This policy is in the Parent/Student Handbook and on the PaceAcademy.com website. Updates or changes will be communicated in writing and electronically. Annual review ensures alignment with state laws and school needs.

IV. Enforcement

Students will be required to put their cell phones into Yondr pouches as soon as they enter the building. Students will be responsible for keeping their phones and pouches with them during the school day. The pouches will be unlocked when the student leaves campus and returned to the Yondr box. All Yondr pouches will remain on campus. If there is any damage to a student's Yondr pouch, the student, parent, or guardian will be subject to a \$30 replacement fee.

Violations of this policy may result in progressive disciplinary actions, including but not limited to:

1. 1st Offense: The phone is turned over to the front office, and a phone call is made to the student's home. The phone is returned to the student at the end of the school day.
2. 2nd Offense: The Phone is turned into the front office, and a phone call home is made; the parent must pick up the phone.
3. 3rd (or subsequent) Offense: The Phone will be turned into the front office upon entry to the School, and the student's backpack will be checked for one week. The parent must pick up the phone. A student may be assigned one day of ISS or OSS, as determined by the school administration.
4. The school administration determines additional consequences.

V. Violations of Policy and Discipline

Teachers, staff members, and administration retain the discretion to provide verbal warnings when they witness improper or prohibited use by students, but warnings are not required. Teachers, staff members, and administrators may revoke access to the network or confiscate the wireless communication device immediately after the first instance of improper use, regardless of its severity. In addition, students who violate any portion of this policy may be subject to further discipline, including a temporary or permanent ban on bringing wireless communication devices to School, as well as other disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion.

Confiscated wireless communication devices will be stored for the remainder of the school day and must be collected by a parent/guardian at the end of the school day. The School is not liable for confiscated wireless communication devices that are lost, stolen, or damaged.

Internet Acceptable Use Policies and Procedures (CIPA)

- The enrollment packet includes a separate "Electronic Information Services User Agreement" that each student and parent (if the student is under 18) must sign.

PACE Academy adheres to all CIPA (Child Internet Protection Act) Guidelines.

Personal Responsibility - Internet

- Students will accept personal responsibility for reporting any network misuse to a teacher or administrator.
- Misuse can come in many forms, but it is commonly viewed as any messages sent or received that indicate or suggest pornography and obscenity, unethical or illegal solicitation or activities, racism, sexism, inappropriate language, cyberbullying, and other issues described below.
- A signed copy of the internet contract must be in the student's enrollment folder.

Acceptable Use Policy

- The district's network resources are for authorized users only.
- Using school internet accounts must support education and research that align with the educational goals and objectives of PACE Academy.
- Students are responsible for always holding this provision when using the electronic information service.
- The use of other organizations' networks or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate to the network.
- Transmission of any material in violation of any US law is prohibited.
- This includes but is not limited to copyright material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret.
- Commercial activities by for-profit institutions are not acceptable.
- Use of product advertisement or political lobbying is prohibited.
- Students are not permitted to download files from the internet onto school computers or install software on the systems.
- Individuals using the district's network resources are subject to having all their activities on this system monitored, recorded, or examined by any authorized person, including law enforcement, as system personnel deem appropriate.
- Users' activities may also be monitored and recorded during system maintenance.
- Any material so recorded may be disclosed as appropriate.
- By using this system, you consent to these terms.

Privileges

- Using the information system is a privilege, not a right; inappropriate use will result in the cancellation of those privileges.
- Each Internet user will discuss proper behavior and network use with the PACE Academy faculty.
- Lead teachers will determine the appropriate use, which will be final.

Internet Etiquette

Students are expected to abide by the accepted rules of network etiquette. These rules include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Be Polite! Never send or encourage others to send abusive or inappropriate messages.
2. Use appropriate language. Remember that you are a representative of our School in a non-private system. You may be alone with your computer, but what you say and do can be viewed by a global audience.

3. Never use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
4. Any illegal activities are strictly prohibited and will result in expulsion.
5. Privacy! Do not reveal your personal phone number, home address, or those of fellow students or colleagues.
6. Do not use the network in any way that would disrupt others' use of the network.
7. You may not use social media, including, but not limited to, texting, instant messaging, Facebook/META, Instagram, or personal e-mails.
8. No Games or Videos are to be installed or played on school computers.
9. No hacking or accessing inappropriate sites.
10. No adding or modifying desktop images or adding personal photos on school computers.
11. No Bullying, Harassment, or Slandering.
12. No Plagiarizing.

Any student caught bypassing or hacking a network or security block will immediately be referred to the administration and could face expulsion.

Security

- Security of the computer system is a high priority.
- If students identify a security issue, notify a staff member immediately.
- Never demonstrate the problem to other users.
- Any user identified as a security risk may be denied access to the computer.
- You may be withdrawn from the School if you are denied computer access.

Vandalism

- Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy another user's computer, printer, software, network data, or other agencies or networks connected to the system.
- This includes, but is not limited to, uploading or creating computer viruses.
- No drawing on or scratching the Chromebooks, using stickers, or covering the camera in any way.
- Any vandalism will result in automatic expulsion, financial restitution, and referral to legal authorities.
- The cost of repairs or replacement will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian and the student.
- Removal or tampering with decals or identification tags.

Student Transportation

- The inability to locate transportation *does not* count as an excused absence, nor does car trouble.
- All student-driven vehicles will be required to meet the following regulations:

Student Parking and Vehicles

- Only students with the proper forms on file are permitted to drive to School. Parking permission may be obtained from the PACE Academy staff during registration or the first week of School.
- Student drivers must present a valid Arizona driver's license, proof of insurance and registration, and a signed statement of authorized parental permission to park on the PACE Academy Campus.
- Vehicles improperly parked in a restricted area (i.e., handicapped spaces, entrances, or designated staff parking) or drivers found speeding in the lots will be reported to the police.

- Any violation of the Arizona Vehicle Code while on campus may result in the termination of the student's right to bring a vehicle on campus.
- Parking is a privilege and may be revoked by the administration.
- The parking lot's speed limit is *no faster than a slow walk*.
- Students should not sit in or loiter around vehicles in the parking lot at any time, including before, during, or after School.
- Student vehicles are not to be used as substitutes for lockers. Students will not have access to cars after arriving on campus.
- Vehicles may be searched if there is "probable cause."
- PACE Academy will not be responsible for valuables left in vehicles.

Van/Bus Rules and Regulations

Each student who rides the van/bus is entitled to a safe and comfortable ride. Riding the van/bus is a privilege granted to the students under conditions set forth by PACE Academy, the State of Arizona, and the Department of Transportation. The van/bus is an extension of the School. Rules within the School regarding behavior and consequences apply equally to the van/bus. The following safety rules must be followed:

- Students on the van or bus are subject to ALL classroom rules. Please refer to the Student/Parent Handbook.
- Riding the van or bus is a privilege. Do not abuse it. Please note that the van or bus driver is in charge, and these privileges may be revoked at any time.
- Be attentive to your hygiene. Body odors and unclean, offensive clothing may result in the loss of van privileges.
- All students riding the van must have written permission in advance to do so.
- If you are not a 'regular' van/bus rider, you cannot "hop on" for a ride at random.
- Students getting off the van at a stop other than their regular stop must have a written permission slip signed and dated by a parent/guardian and approved by office staff.
- Vans are equipped with video recording equipment for the safety of all concerned.

Waiting at the Van/Bus Stop

- Please arrive at the van/bus stop 10 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time.
- Please allow the driver at least five extra minutes after the scheduled time to account for possible traffic delays.
- If you miss your ride, the van will NOT return to pick you up.
- Do not damage property or violate school rules while waiting for the van/bus.
- There is to be **NO TOBACCO USE: SMOKING or VAPING** at the van/bus stop.
- All school rules apply at pick-up locations. Your behavior reflects on the School's image. Please, have pride in your School.

On the Van/Bus

All school rules apply on the van and at the pick-up location.

Exiting the Van/Bus

- Wait for the van/bus to come to a COMPLETE STOP before removing your seatbelt or opening the door and exiting.
- Look continuously from left to right as you walk away from the van/bus.
- Be AWARE of your surroundings.
- Do NOT run while exiting the van/bus.

Student Identification Card (ID)

- Students must show their ID card to attend school events, dances, and other activities.
- ID card photos will be taken twice a year on pre-determined dates.

- The first ID card is given to the student free of charge.
- Replacement of lost or damaged cards will be the responsibility of the student.
- The replacement cost is \$5.00.

Dress Code

- PACE Academy maintains a student dress code that all students are expected to comply with.
- The student's parent/guardian determines the student's appearance.
- However, school authorities are obligated to the school district's patrons to ensure that standards of decency, health, safety, and a positive learning environment are maintained, which will not disrupt the educational process.
- Parents should support the concept that acceptable clothing for School may be different from clothing worn in other environments. Students will arrive at School appropriately dressed.
- When in doubt, parents and students should select more conservative clothing.
- Student dress and personal appearance shall not disrupt or distract from instructional procedures, school-sanctioned social functions, or the disciplinary control of the school staff.
- Parents and students are encouraged to adopt a style of dress and grooming that is appropriate to the child's age and size, without extremes that disrupt the classroom environment, as determined by the school Administration or its designee.

Procedures for dress code violations are as follows:

- The parent or guardian may be contacted and informed about the breach.
- The student will be allowed to change clothes if clothing is available.
- If a dress code violation is discovered, a staff member will explain the inappropriateness of the student's attire to them.
- The student will not be permitted to return to class until the wrongness is remedied.
- Repeated offenses: The student will be subject to suspension or expulsion.

Dress Code Guidelines

- Dress code guidelines include, but are not limited to, the following, and apply to all genders:
- Dress and grooming shall not present a risk to the health, safety, or general welfare of students or others in the School.
- Dress and grooming shall not interfere with, disrupt, or distract the educational environment or process.
- Dress and grooming shall not contradict curriculum goals and educational objectives. This includes advertising, promotion, or pictures of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, drugs, or illegal substances.
- Sexual or violent behavior, or any other illegal items.
- Clothing, jewelry, indecent exposure of body parts, or any personal items depicting or promoting lewd, vulgar, obscene, offensive language or symbols, drugs, alcohol, or tobacco are not allowed.
- Garments with obscene or suggestive words or material and garments that are dehumanizing, offensive to other students, or disruptive to the educational environment may not be worn.
- No see-through clothing may be worn. Neatness and good grooming, which respect the legitimate sensibilities of others in the School and community, constitute the primary goals and norms for the school dress guidelines.
- Clothing shall cover the appropriate body areas and be sufficient to conceal undergarments at all times.

- Shirts, overalls, and blouses must be worn with the top button fastened.
- It is prohibited to reveal "tops" due to length, texture, straps, or lack of coverage.
- ALL SHIRTS MUST HAVE SLEEVES AND MUST COVER THE SHOULDERS.
- Shorts may be worn to School that do not cause embarrassment due to lack of proper coverage, do not have rips, tears, or holes, and comply with the improper coverage policy.
- The allowed shorts/skirts must not be shorter than the end of the relaxed arm/hand.
- Leggings and tights can be worn **only** under shirts, pants (with tears, holes, or cuts), skirts, or dresses **no shorter** than 4" above the knee.
- Big, baggy coats or oversized clothing, including trench coats that could be used to conceal a weapon, are not permitted.
- Bandanas and sunglasses are not permitted inside the building at any time.
- Hoodies must be worn down. Heads are not to be covered with a hood.
- "Sagging" is not allowed. Pants must sit above the student's hips. Pants and shorts will be worn, pulled up, and secured at the waist.
- Undergarments may not be visible (Male or Female).
- Pajama pants and bedroom slippers are not permitted.
- Overalls of any type must be worn with straps fastened around the shoulders as designed.
- Full camouflage clothing is not permitted.
- Footwear (shoes or sandals) must always be worn on the school campus and in the classroom, and it must be properly fastened.
- Bedroom slippers, flip-flops, and backless shoes are not allowed.
- Chains, spikes, dog collars, large or numerous safety pins, or sharp objects are prohibited.
- Gang-related clothing, accessories, hairnets, grooming, language, and behavior are prohibited on school property, at school events, or during regular school hours.
- Students participating in school-sponsored, off-campus activities may be subject to more stringent dress codes.
- The responsibility for determining dress and grooming rests with any school staff member.
- Students who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary actions that may include, but are not limited to, any one or a combination of the following: informal discussion, conference, alternative attire, parental involvement, and short-term suspension.

Visitors and Campus Rules

- Everyone entering the school building will be scanned with a handheld scanner or a Magnetron.
- Unauthorized persons will not be permitted on the school grounds or in the school buildings at PACE Academy.
- Expelled or students on "Suspension" are not allowed on campus.
- Visitors will not be permitted on testing days or during the final two (2) weeks of each semester.
- Parents may make individual arrangements with the administration.
- Violators of this policy may be subject to appropriate legal action as provided by Arizona State law.
- All visitors **MUST** sign in and obtain a "Visitors Pass."

Visitation, Tours, and Classroom Observation

- Classroom tours are exclusively for parents and legal guardians of PACE Academy students.
- Appointments for visitation **must** be requested in writing and approved by the administration.
- Observations or visits are not permitted on test days.
- Visitors must sign in at the Registrar's desk, obtain a visitor's pass, and provide identification.

- No more than four (4) family members or legal guardians are allowed per visit.
- This is an observation visit/tour; visitors are not permitted to disrupt the educational process.
- Any questions during the visit should be directed to the administrator escorting the tour.
- No photos are to be taken in the building without permission.
- Conversations with teachers or students during class time are not allowed.
- Parents may request a copy of all information in the student's official cumulative file.
- The administration reserves the right to respond to all questions in writing within seven business days.
- Parents always have access to the "Parent Portal" to monitor their student's course progress.

Dismissal Policy

- Parents are to pick up students immediately after the school day has ended. PACE Academy and its staff are not responsible for students arriving earlier than their scheduled class start time or remaining on campus after their class has ended.
- Parents should make necessary arrangements so that their students are not left without transportation or supervision.

Loitering

Any person loitering on or near school property at any time will be reported to local law enforcement. Enforcement for trespassing.
Students are not permitted access to the school campus except during regular school hours.

Contacting Students

All telephone calls should be made to the School, not their cell phones.
All incoming student messages to the School will be taken by or relayed through the teachers.
Messages will be relayed to students through the school staff at the teachers' discretion.
Non-emergency messages may be e-mailed to the teachers or the Registrar.
Please **DO NOT** text your student and expect an answer during school hours.

Questionnaires and Contests

No questionnaires shall be distributed at PACE Academy without the approval and concurrence of the administration, if necessary.
No contests of any nature shall be conducted at PACE Academy except those sponsored by school authorities or considered by the administration as essential for carrying forward the School's educational program.

Fire Drills/ Emergency Warnings

- A steady siren indicates an emergency.
- Students must leave the classroom with their teachers and clear the building.
- All persons in the School will evacuate according to the posted fire evacuation plan.

Fire Alarm System/Equipment

- According to Arizona State Law, tampering with fire alarm systems or equipment is prohibited.
- In EACH case of tampering, the law will be followed.

Electronic Devices - Cell Phones – Yonder Phone Free School Program

- Staff may confiscate cell phones on campus during school time.
- Cell phones may not be used during school hours except during lunch.
- Upon entering the School, students power off their phones (or switch to airplane mode), place the device in a pouch, and lock it upon arrival.
- Students keep the locked pouch in their possession.
- At dismissal, students unlock pouches at designated stations, remove their phones, and return the Yondr pouches to the designated station.

- Student/parent/guardian will be charged \$30.00 for damaged or lost Yondr pouches
- The School is not required or responsible for charging students' phones.

Food/Beverages on Campus

- Students may bring healthy snacks and water to School in original clear containers with unopened seals (NO SODA, coffee, or sweet drinks).
- Food or snacks are NOT allowed at the students' desks.
- Food and snacks are only allowed at the designated lunch tables during breaks and lunch periods.
- One large bottle of water with a screw top is allowed at the student's desk.
- Refilling those bottles from the water fountain is permitted only before class, during designated break times, and at lunch.

Student Behavior

- PACE Academy recognizes the need for every student to receive a thorough education and to attend School regularly.
- PACE Academy also recognizes that discipline is necessary for learning and that each student's conduct must always follow school rules, regulations, and policies.
- All employees of PACE Academy are expected to share the responsibility for supervising students' behavior and ensuring that the students abide by the established rules of conduct.

Community

- PACE Academy believes in close cooperation between ALL stakeholders.
 - Students
 - Parents
 - Community members
 and the School are essential and most effective in preventing behavioral problems.
- The quality of the school community, both socially and academically, depends on the choices made by the student population.
- Upon entering a school, students assume part of the responsibility for creating a stimulating academic and social environment in which everyone is free to grow and learn.
- The exercise of students' constitutional rights must be conducted in a manner that does not disrupt the learning of others in the educational process.

Arizona law authorizes School employees to act "in loco parentis" (in place of parents)

- All students are subject to the authority of all faculty and staff members during the regular school day and at all school functions.
- The regular school day includes the time between a student's arrival and departure from the school campus.
- Any student who is insubordinate or disrespectful to a faculty or staff member, or who violates accepted rules of good citizenship and behavior, will be referred to the administration for disciplinary action.

Student Responsibilities

- Maintaining a school climate free of disruptions enables all participants to learn and grow. Students, teachers, parents, and administrators working together create a shared willingness to learn.
- Specific student behavior and attitudes foster the desirable, healthy learning environment that schools strive to create. Among these are the following:
 - Friendliness and acceptance of people of different political, economic, social, religious, and racial backgrounds and abilities.
 - Eagerness to participate in both academic and non-academic activities.
 - A spirit of cooperation and willingness to share abilities, time, and skills not

- only to further one's goals but also to help others succeed.
- Prompt and regular attendance in class and at school-sponsored activities.
- A willingness to follow school rules and positively contribute to the academic and social climate.

Student Rights

- All students have the right to an educational school setting that is orderly, educationally efficient, and free from disruptions to standard teaching and learning functions.
- The following is a list of policies designed to define some of the rights and responsibilities of students at PACE Academy.

Educational Opportunity

- Every student has the right to an education and a corresponding responsibility not to deny this right to any other student.

Prejudice

- An individual shall not be subjected to prejudicial treatment nor to abridgment of their right to attend and benefit from public Schools based on ethnic identity, religion, color, gender, political belief, mental or physical handicap, or for exercising their rights within this policy.

Publications

- Official school publications shall reflect a broad spectrum of student opinions wherever possible.
- Standards of responsible journalism shall govern students.
- The responsibility to determine whether specific materials comply with the standards of responsible journalism rests with the administration.

Students shall have the right to encounter diverse points of view

- Students shall have opportunities to hear speakers and view presentations representing a wide range of opinions, as outlined in the charter school's guidelines.
- If it is established that if a student or parent objects as a matter of principle to participating in an activity assigned by school personnel, an alternative activity may be given without penalty or embarrassment.
- Parents are welcome to view all curriculum materials and request a list of specific texts, videos, and other resources at PACE Academy.
- Please allow the administration sufficient time to gather the requested materials.

Privacy - Student Records

- Student records are kept in a secure location.
- With sufficient notice, parents/guardians and students may review records. They will be treated confidentially in accordance with the Governing Board Policy, Arizona State Board of Education Regulations, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Custody

- Except in extreme circumstances, school personnel shall not relinquish custody of a student to any person without the prior approval of the parent/guardian unless the student is placed under arrest.
- In every arrest case, the school authorities will try to notify the student's parent/guardian.

Questioning

- Suppose police authorities desire to question a student on school premises regarding

any alleged act of misconduct by the student. In that case, school authorities shall try to contact the parent/guardian.

- The parent/guardian will be permitted to be present. A school official will be present if the parent/guardian is not present during questioning.
- According to AZ State Board of Education Regulations incorporated within PACE Academy Board Policy, student rights will be protected. Education is a right guaranteed to the student.
- The courts have defined the basis on which denying that right is justified.
 - The conditions of denial carry with them the guarantee of due process.
 - The Governing Board intends that every reasonable effort be made for the student's education. PACE Academy would like to inform students and their parents of the regulations regarding disciplinary and appeal procedures that affect students within the School.
- Faculty, parents, and students shall attempt to resolve problems affecting students and the educational process through informal means.
 - If any student or parent feels that the conditions of the School or decisions made by its staff are not satisfactory, the student or parent shall be allowed to confer with the administration.
 - The student or parent may appeal to the School Board if not satisfied with the disposition of the matter.
- If a student's behavior disrupts the educational process. School authorities shall promptly, efficiently, and consistently deal with such negative behavior.

Bullying • Hazing • Cyber-Bullying

- Per A.R.S. § 15-2301, hazing, solicitation to engage in hazing, bullying, cyber-bullying, or aiding and abetting another who is involved in that activity of any person is prohibited.
- Any intentional, knowing, or reckless Act committed by a student or students against another student, which includes an action that contributes to or causes a substantial risk of potential physical injury, mental harm, or degradation, is against Arizona law and school policies.
- There is no defense to violating this policy if the victim consents to or acquiesces to hazing.
- All students, teachers, and staff shall take reasonable measures within the scope of their authority to prevent violations of this policy.

Reporting/Complaints Procedures

- Students and others may report hazing to any professional staff member.
- Professional staff members **must** report the incident in writing to the school administrator or the next higher administrative supervisor, providing details that may have been gathered.
- Failure by a staff member to inform the school administrator or their next higher administrative supervisor in a timely manner of a hazing allegation or their observation of an incident may subject that staff member to disciplinary action in accordance with Charter policy.
- Staff members shall preserve the confidentiality of anyone involved in a hazing incident, disclosing the incident only to the appropriate school administrator, subsequent higher administrative supervisor, or as otherwise required by law.
- Any reported or observed hazing, including child abuse or violations of statutes known to the staff member, shall be reported in accordance with statutory requirements and referred to a law enforcement agency.
- Someone who complains of or reports a hazing incident may do so directly to the school administrator or a professional staff member.
- The staff member receiving the report/complaint shall retrieve sufficient detail from

the person to complete the designated form.

- At a minimum, the report/complaint form shall contain identifying information about the complainant, including the specificity of names, places, and times, to facilitate an investigation.
- When a professional staff member receives the information, they will transmit a report to the school administrator or supervising administrator no later than the next school day following the day the staff member receives the report/complaint.
- The report/complaint of a hazing incident will be investigated by the school administrator or a supervising administrator following the procedures below:
- An investigation of the reported incident or activity shall be made within ten (10) school days when School is in session or, when School is not in session, within fifteen (15) days during which the school offices are open for business.
- An extension of the timeline may only be necessary if the administration determines it is necessary.
- The investigator shall meet with the person who reported the incident at or before the end of the investigation period and discuss the conclusions and actions to be taken as a result of the investigation.
- Records and student information confidentiality shall be observed when making such a report.
- The investigator shall prepare a written report of the findings and provide a copy of the report to the administration. All violations of this policy will be addressed per the charter school's policies related to student conduct and discipline, as well as staff and other personnel conduct and discipline policies.

Controlled Substance

Definition: Any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant or mind-altering substance.

- Possession:
 - Having any substance capable of producing a change in behavior or altering a state of mind or feeling.
 - Having a "look-alike" or items sold as a controlled substance.
- PACE Academy recognizes that alcohol and drug abuse is are treatable health problems.
- Health problems of youth are primarily the responsibility of the home and community. Still, the schools share that responsibility when misuse, abuse, and dependency problems interfere with school behavior, student learning, and the maximum possible development of students. The School will intervene with individuals who exhibit signs of misuse or abuse and make every effort to educate and assist them.
- PACE Academy shall endeavor to educate and counsel students and staff concerning the abuse of alcohol, illegal drugs, and/or controlled substances.
- Every reasonable effort shall be made to provide students and staff with an environment free of alcohol, illegal drugs, and controlled substances.
- School authorities shall consider all students' health, safety, and educational rights when prescribing disciplinary action for students who use, are under the influence of, possess, or distribute alcohol, illegal drugs, and controlled substances on school premises or while engaged in school-sponsored activities.

Behavior Disruptive to the Educational Process A.R.S. § 13-2911

- The following policy does not attempt to set social standards.
- The definition of unacceptable behavior is based on whether the behavior has the potential to disrupt the educational process.
- The policy aims to assist students, parents, teachers, staff, and school administrators in understanding that the school community exists to help all students develop their

full potential for learning and the necessary self-discipline to become productive and responsible members of society.

Enforcement

- The administration is responsible for taking **discretionary action anytime** the educational process is threatened or disrupted.
- Nothing in the following provisions is intended to prevent a staff member, teacher, or other administrator from using their best judgment concerning a particular situation.
- The provisions of the Student Behavior Policy are in force:
 - Any time students are on school property.
 - During regular school hours.
 - During the transportation of students.
 - At times and places where school administrators and staff have jurisdiction, including, but not necessarily limited to, school-sponsored events, field trips, and any other school-related activities.
 - Additionally, the administration, any public-school official, or designated chaperone is authorized to take administrative action when a student's misconduct away from School or during a school activity has a detrimental effect on the other students, staff, or the orderly educational process.
 - Students are reminded that negative behavior affects the reputation of their high School.

Search and Seizure

- Students possess and are assured of the right of privacy of a person and freedom from unreasonable search and seizure of property guaranteed by the Constitution's Fourth Amendment.
- The individual's right, however, is balanced by the School's responsibility to protect all students' health, safety, and welfare.
- School administrators may conduct or authorize searches when they suspect that students' health, safety, or welfare may be in danger.
- Any administrator making a search or seizure will follow the guidelines.
- Items that disrupt or interfere with the educational process may be removed from a student's person.

Searches

- School officials have the right to search and seize property when there is reason to believe that some material or matter detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of the student(s) exists.
- All students and guests entering PACE Academy will undergo a security scan. The School's search policy aims to deter the entry of harmful items, such as weapons, drugs, and alcohol, thereby ensuring school safety and a disruption-free educational environment. This practice reassures parents and the community about the proactive measures taken to ensure safety. Regular searches promote respect for school rules and laws, fostering a safer and more conducive atmosphere for learning and personal growth.

General Searches on School Property

- Searches (including personal items found on school property) may be conducted at any time when there is reasonable cause for school employees to believe that anything violating a law or school rule is on school property.
- Suppose the search reveals illegal items (firearms, explosive devices, weapons, drugs, etc.) or other possessions determined to be a threat to the safety or security of others or that might interfere with school purposes. In that case, these items will be

- seized, and law enforcement may be called.
- When there is reasonable cause to believe students' health, safety, or welfare might be in jeopardy.

School administrators may search motor vehicles parked on school property.

Physical Restraining

- Any person employed by PACE Academy may use and apply such amounts of force as are reasonable and necessary for the following purposes:
 - Restrain a student from an act of wrongdoing.
 - Quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to others.
 - Obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects from a student or within a student's control.
 - For self-defense.
 - For the protection of persons or property.
 - For the preservation of order.

Drug and Crime Prevention Dogs

- We strive to have our School be one of the most drug-free environments for your teens.
- Like many other area schools, PACE Academy will implement unannounced, periodic use of specially trained drug and crime detection dogs during the school year.
- The drug detection dogs will be used by the community Police Department staff to detect the presence of drugs in the school and parking lots.
- Searches will be conducted quietly and quickly. Students whose cars, coats, lunch bags, backpacks, etc., are found to contain drugs or the residual odors of drugs will face consequences in accordance with our School's Student Code of Conduct.
- Using drug and crime detection dogs is another effort to keep our schools safe.
- Like you, we want to keep your teen safe and better ensure their future.
- One of the biggest obstacles to a teen reaching full academic, social, and emotional potential is the use of alcohol and other drugs.
- We will continue our efforts, including the use of drug and crime detection dogs, to maintain a drug-free school environment. However, as a parent, YOU are the most significant deterrent to your teen's use of alcohol and other drugs.

Parents Please:

- Talk with your son/daughter and inform him/her that the use of alcohol and other drugs is illegal.
- It is unacceptable to you, and there will be consequences for use.
- Know where your teen is always.
- Supervise parties and gatherings in your home.
- Call the parents hosting parties that your teen wants to attend to ensure a parent is supervising and that no alcohol is being served.
- Working together, we can keep your teen, our student, safe and better ensure a bright future.

Referral Procedures

- **Step 1 - Staff/Student Contact:**
 - A staff member, defined as any PACE Academy personnel, will contact the student for a conference and verbally correct the student in accordance with the teacher's discipline guidelines.
- **Step 2 - Staff/Parent Contact:**
 - Staff members will contact parents via note, electronic media, telephone, or

- in person.
 - A conference with parents and staff members may be necessary.
- **Step 3** - Administrator/Student Contact:
 - The administrator will contact the student by telephone or in person.
- **Step 4** - Administrator/Parent Contact:
 - The administrator will contact the parent by note, electronic media, or telephone.
- **Step 5** - Administrator/Student/Parent Conference:
 - Administrator, student, and parent conferences may take place.

NOTE: In steps 1–3, the teacher can send the student to an administrator for disciplinary action.

Suspended Students

- A suspended student:
 - Will not be allowed on school grounds.
 - Will not be allowed to participate in or attend any school activities (field day, school trips, etc.).
 - Make-up work may be received only at the discretion of the school administration.

Consequences of Misconduct

- Minimum mandatory consequences have been established and must be expected for any misconduct violation.
 - Each result depends on the severity of the violation and whether the violation is a first offense or a repeated act.
- The administrative response to unacceptable behavior may vary depending on the discussion between the administration and the student regarding consequences.

Consequence actions are designed to:

- Provide the student with a just program that includes numerous opportunities for modifying their behavior in a positive manner, to be followed in disciplinary matters. This program should ensure consistency in applying disciplinary actions, offer a progressive approach (ranging from moderate to the most extreme action), ensure discipline with dignity, and properly notify the police.

Alternative Means of Correction may include, but will not be limited to

- Discussing the inappropriateness of the student's behavior with the student
- Discussing the inappropriateness of the student's behavior with the student and the parent
- Serving In-School-Suspension (ISS) or Detention (Friday detention)
- Other responsibilities or assignments deemed appropriate by the administration.
- The list is not all-inclusive; acts of misconduct not specified herein shall also be subject to discretionary action by appropriate school personnel.

Student Concerns, Complaints, and Grievances

- Students may use the following guidelines to issue a complaint or grievance, provided the topic is a subject that relates directly to the student and is not governed under a direct policy or regulation of the PACE Academy governing board.
- The Governing Board is not authorized to act upon a complaint or grievance for any matter whereby the review method or discipline procedure is governed by state law.
- The accusation must be made within thirty (30) calendar days from the action that constitutes the grounds for the student's complaint or grievance.
- All allegations must be reported on a PACE Academy Charter School form. *Forms are available at the school office.*
- The complaint or grievance must be made only by a school administrator or staff

member.

- The person receiving the complaint shall preserve the confidentiality of the subject, disclosing it only to the appropriate school administrator or next higher administrative supervisor or as otherwise required by law.

The following are valid reasons for student complaints or grievances and are not all-inclusive:

- Violation of the student's constitutional rights.
- Denial of an equal opportunity to participate in any program or activity for which the student qualifies per the PACE ACADEMY handbook.
- Discriminating treatment based on race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, or disability.
- Harassment of the student by another person.
- Concern for the student's safety.
- The administration shall determine any questions concerning whether the complaint or grievance falls within the charter school policy.
- A complaint or grievance may be withdrawn at any time.
- Once withdrawn, the process cannot be reopened if the resubmission is more prolonged than thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the alleged incident.
- Retaliatory or intimidating acts against any student who has made a complaint under this policy and corresponding regulations or against a student who has testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation relating to a complaint or grievance are expressly prohibited and constitute grounds for a separate complaint.

Student Behavior & Consequence Rubric

Infraction	Definition	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense
Alcohol and Drugs Influence	Use of alcohol or drugs while on campus or at school-related activities	Parent conference, Suspension, long-term Suspension up to expulsion, police report		
Alcohol, Drug Possession	Possession of alcohol or drugs while on campus or at school-related activities	Parent conference, suspension, long-term suspension up to expulsion, police report		
Arson	Deliberately starting a fire of any type	Police report, restitution, long-term, up to expulsion		
Arson Related Materials – Possession	Possession of arson-related materials such as matches, lighters, etc.	Confiscation, parent conference,	Confiscation, parent conference, up to 4-day suspension	Confiscation, parent conference, up to 8-day suspension
Assault – Physical Towards Peers	Any use of physical means to force or injure another person	Parent conferences, up to a 10-day suspension, behavior contract	Long-term Suspension up to expulsion, police report	
Assault – Verbal Towards Peers	Any use of verbal means to force, degrade, or insult another person	Parent conferences, up to 4-day suspension,	Parent conference, up to 8-day suspension, behavior contract	Parent conference, up to long-term suspension
Assault – Physical Towards Staff Member	Any use of physical force toward any staff member	Police report, parent conference, long-term suspension up to expulsion		
Assault – Verbal Threat Towards Staff Member	Any use of words and gestures to threaten any staff member or their property with physical violence	Parent conference, long-term suspension up to expulsion, possible police report		

Truancy - 10 Consecutive Days	Unexcused absences for ten consecutive days	Student/Parent Conference, Attendance Contract	Possible withdrawal from School	
Unacceptable Usage of a Computer	Logging on as someone else, logging into any program other than ALS	Parent conference, behavior contract, up to 8 days of loss of internet & music	Parent conferences, behavior contracts, up to 4 days suspension and 30 days loss of internet & music	Parent conferences, behavior contracts, up to 8 days suspension and long-term loss of internet & music
Unacceptable Internet Usage	Deliberately accessing unauthorized websites	Parent conference, behavior contract, up to 8 days of loss of internet & music	Parent conferences, behavior contracts, up to 4 days suspension and 30 days loss of internet & music	Parent conferences, behavior contracts, up to 8 days suspension and long-term loss of internet & music

Unregistered Medication, Including OTC	Use, sharing of, Possession of Prescription & OTC Medications NOT Registered Through the Front Office	Student and parent conference, up to a 4-day suspension	Student and parent conferences, up to 8-day suspension to long-term, police report	Student and parent conference, long-term suspension up to expulsion, police report
Unsafe Driving Conduct	Any unsafe driving	Parent /student conference, behavior contract, up to 4-day loss of driving privileges	Parent /student conference, behavior contract, up to 8-day loss of driving privileges, up to 4-day suspension, police report	Parent /student conference, behavior contract, up to long-term loss of driving privileges, up to an 8-day suspension, police report
Vandalism and Inappropriate Use of School Property	Destruction or misuse of school property	Student and parent conference, restitution, up to 8-day suspension	Student and parent conference, restitution, up to 8-day suspension	Student and parent conference, restitution, up to expulsion. Police report
Weapons and/or Explosives	Any instrument (knife, gun, ammunition, other explosives, sharp objects, etc., any object used to cause harm to others)	Parent conference, police report, expulsion		
Weapons Unconventional I OR Potential	An object not customarily used to cause bodily harm, but with the potential to do so, including fireworks	Parent conference, police report, expulsion		

NOTES: The purpose of this disciplinary policy is to help ensure a healthy, comfortable, and educationally productive environment for students, staff, and visitors. PACE operates under a "NO Tolerance" policy for drugs, alcohol, weapons, tobacco, and violence. Any behavior that disrupts the learning process and threatens the safety of PACE students, faculty, staff, or visitors is subject to this discipline policy.

The principal will determine the severity of the behavior and the appropriate consequence. These decisions are binding.

If one student violates this policy multiple times, these numerous lesser offenses may lead to progressive discipline and result in long-term suspension or expulsion.

PACE reserves the right to modify this discipline policy or the implementation of its consequences to account for exceptional circumstances. This determination will be made at the discretion of the principal

