

# American Preparatory Academy – Salem Secondary Parent-Student Handbook



2022

2023

*\*Please review this Handbook and the School, Parent, and Student Compacts  
(located at the back of the Handbook) with your student(s).*

**\*This Handbook is reliable upon printing  
but may change over time,  
and will be updated with policy changes annually.**

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# A Letter from the Executive Director, Carolyn Sharette

Dear American Preparatory Academy Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the 2022-23 school year! This year represents a significant milestone for our school as we begin our *20th year of operation!* It is hard to believe that we have been engaging in this wonderful work of educating students for nearly 20 years. We will have some special events and activities this year as part of our celebrations. Watch your newsletters for them!

We are very excited about the upcoming year and the opportunities that it holds for your student(s). The American Prep staff has been working diligently to prepare so that this year is the best it can be for everyone in our school community! Since school dismissed for the summer, staff has met in extensive work sessions where we analyzed the data from last year related to many things, including student achievement, participation, attendance, and behavior. We have carefully reviewed the parent surveys as well and appreciate your input! From these meetings, teams of administrators have been working on new plans and program “tweaks” that we believe will help us provide an even more effective, meaningful, and successful school for your child. Our summer activities have included a full week of teacher meetings (held in June and called “Post-Service”), a full week of administrator Post-Service meetings where administrators reviewed the information and goals were formulated, and a full week of staff training on August 1, where we share information about the goals and new plans for the year with all staff members - in addition to providing nearly 400 different classes for our staff members to gain new skills. We are excited about the upcoming school year!

## **School Security**

One of our primary objectives this year is to increase school security. Last year we added locked entry points with cameras and door controls at 2 of our campuses. This year we plan to add these features to the other campuses. We are also implementing a state-of-the-art phone-based app, which is an incident management system. This will be implemented at all campuses. Watch newsletters and emails for more information as these security initiatives come online.

## **Student and Staff Engagement Initiative**

Sadly, and with great concern, teachers and parents have reported significant negative impacts from students having decreased interaction with other students and staff members due to COVID closures, remote learning, and wearing masks in school. Reports of students lacking confidence, refusing to engage in conversations, falling behind in their school progress, and being lonely and without friends have come to us from parents and staff alike. In response to these many concerns from staff and parents, we are launching a campaign to explicitly teach (or re-teach) students how to engage with each other in positive, healthy ways. Our campaign focuses on consistent practicing of smiling, looking eye to eye, waving, giving high fives/fist bumps, and initiating conversations/using encouraging words with peers and teachers. Our goal is to see our students quickly become confident, friendly, and happy as they learn, re-learn and practice the skill of positive interaction with others.

In order to facilitate the success of the Engagement Initiative, we ask that students do not wear masks at school. We have seen first-hand the damage done to many students’ academic achievement, confidence, and social development by the wearing of masks, and we anticipate we can make great progress this year in helping students make up for the time lost in these vital development areas if parents, students and the school work together to enthusiastically achieve this goal. We appreciate parent support in this important initiative. We believe it to be a vital aspect of your child’s education. If there is an extenuating circumstance where a parent feels a mask is required, the parent may fill out a request for their child to wear a mask. An administrator may contact you to clarify the information on the request form. A timeline will be established and the form may need to be renewed every 3-4 weeks, depending upon the circumstance. This practice has the added advantage of providing the needed communication about a

child's special health needs to their teachers. In other words, if a child has a health need that is serious enough to require them to wear a mask in school, the school staff needs to be aware of that health need. We feel this process will provide that important information to ensure we can address the health need effectively at school.

## **COVID-19**

COVID-19 has now become endemic (meaning it is widespread within our communities) and it is not anticipated that it will be eradicated in any community; it is expected that cases will continue to ebb and surge. Vaccines are available for all age groups, and while they do not prevent someone from getting the illness, they do provide protection against death and serious illness for adults.

Because some of our students live with elderly or fragile relatives, we will continue to provide the Request to Test program at each campus. Parents can request a COVID-19 test for their child, and the school will do the test the following school day and report the results to the requesting parent/guardian. We hope this is helpful for families who need to know the COVID-19 status of their children.

## **American Ideals, Critical Race Theory, and Social-Emotional Learning (CRT & SEL)**

American Preparatory Academy supports the American founding ideals of Liberty, Equality, Justice, Respect for the Rule of Law, and Patriotism. We teach that an important part of our American Ideals is our view that each human being is unique and of immeasurable worth and value. We believe that differences (race, religion, gender, etc.) are unique characteristics of each person and make our society as a whole richer. It is this belief that drives our associations and interactions with one another. We respect each other, we value each other.

Critical Race Theory - CRT proponents identify humans based upon immutable characteristics (things they don't control, such as their skin color, their ethnicity, etc.) and then sort people into categories, assigning value, privileges, and constraints based upon their attributes or categories. They justify this approach because of the past - because some people were treated poorly based on immutable characteristics, now we should make up for that by elevating those whose forebears were treated poorly, in some great attempt at "equity" (which doesn't mean equality). CRT proponents also teach educators that we must view "different" students through different "lenses" and give special "consideration" to each student based upon their unique attributes. To support this CRT theory, some schools are changing expectations, changing discipline consequences, and even providing multiple grading scales based upon the school's judgments of a student's attributes. This is a dangerous and discriminatory practice. We believe it violates the American Ideal of Equality, and specifically violates the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

As each human's unique qualities contribute to their immeasurable worth, it follows that any philosophy that would deviate from this ideal will work against our American Ideal of equality and justice. We reject the idea that those unique qualities can, or should, be organized into colors, languages, ethnicities, religions, etc., and given more or less value or respect from person to person. The powerful American philosophy we honor is that all men and women are created equal and endowed with the same rights. Therefore, any time spent viewing others through various "lenses" based upon their immutable characteristics is wasted time and leads toward subjective judgments and discrimination and away from every person being empowered to fulfill their lives to the maximum extent possible and according to their own desires. In short, all students are equally valuable, regardless of any personal distinguishing characteristic, are treated with dignity and respect, and must have full access to all opportunities the school provides.

Social-Emotional Learning - SEL is a name used to describe a national curriculum and movement that proposes a direct approach to social and emotional development in children. The expensive and "comprehensive" programs adopted by many Utah districts have been objected to by many

Utah parents as over-reaching into domains not appropriate for schools. The programs often use surveys to ask students personal questions about their families, homes, and their feelings.

APA teaches students civic and character education not through an SEL “lens” but through our Builders and Ambassadors Programs, through reading classical literature and studying heroes in history and science. We learn about virtues and character flaws vicariously as we read - from The Little Red Hen in kindergarten to PollyAnna in 4th grade to The Count of Monte Cristo in high school. Each year our students read many, many books and stories where we discuss the broad landscape of human virtue and human flaw and the consequences of actions. Parents know what our students are studying and can engage in conversations and guide the development of their child’s perspectives and values. We feel the role of the school is to support the parents in educating their children.

APA rejects indoctrination of students with theories such as CRT that are primarily political in nature, do not reflect our nation’s ideals, and which can easily lead to violations of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. We believe children should be taught “social-emotional” concepts through great books and with the full support of parents. It is not our right to question students on theirs, or their family’s closely held religious, political, or personal beliefs.

APA supports the “colorblind” theory of Martin Luther King, Jr. that each individual must be judged on the content of their character and not the color of their skin, or any other characteristics outside those encompassed in character. Our time will be spent studying our American ideals and founding documents to ensure our students have a strong grasp of the great tenets that have resulted in liberty and prosperity for so many individuals and which bring hope to the world.

**As we continue educating to the standards we have set forth, we will partner with parents to effectively assist students in becoming as smart, capable, and as good-hearted as possible so they can flourish in their lives and be prepared to support our nation’s democratic republic and change the world for the better.**

Carolyn Sharette

Executive Director



# The Trust of Public Education

## American Preparatory Academy

A public school's central mission is two-fold:

1. To ensure that each student achieves maximum **academic proficiency** and,
2. To ensure that each student develops **virtuous character** and motivation for productive citizenry, that thereby students become effective citizens of a free nation, and possess the intelligence, skills and desire to dedicate a portion of their lives to **changing the world for the better**.

The trust of the citizens of our nation, expressed in their hard-earned tax dollars flowing to our public schools, must be maintained through strict accountability to these two objectives, and repaid by students who benefit from that public trust by their diligence, hard work and commitment to community.

American Preparatory Schools accomplishes this central mission by espousing the following tenets:

- ❖ Schools achieve maximum academic success and student proficiency by:
  - teaching skills to mastery levels,
  - imparting valuable knowledge,
  - transmitting the common culture that binds us as a nation, and
  - exposing children to supreme examples of artistic and intellectual achievement.
- ❖ Mastery of a fundamental core of knowledge is essential to a child's achievement in later grades. Material should be coherent, sequential, content-rich, and challenging, and must be taught to mastery level by the teacher.
- ❖ Standardized testing is an essential tool for measuring student learning and teacher success.
- ❖ The formation of good character goes hand in hand with mental training.
- ❖ Serious scholarship requires a willing and enthusiastic mind, self-discipline, determination, patience, and humility.
- ❖ All children can learn, although their pace may differ, and their response to higher standards is an improved performance.

The school must be structured to support parents so that they may play an active role in all aspects of their child's education.

# I. Mission and Vision

## **American Preparatory Academy Mission Statement**

To provide a classical, liberal arts education through an orderly, safe and nurturing learning environment wherein content-rich, efficient curriculum and research-based instructional methodologies are utilized to ensure that every student achieves academic success and develops good character based on concrete measurements.

## **American Prep Jr. High Mission Statement**

American Preparatory Academy Jr. High assists students in their efforts to become student scholars by providing an academically rigorous classical, liberal arts program that prepares them for advanced study at the high school level.

## **American Prep High School Mission Statement**

American Preparatory Academy High School provides an academically rigorous classical, liberal arts education that prepares students for advanced study at the university level, thereby developing conscientious, confident citizens who think clearly, are effective proponents of those thoughts and are actively involved in the building and governing of society.

## **Philosophy Statement**

Student academic achievement is the primary goal of American Preparatory Academy. We believe that only when students master fundamentals and are fluent in the basic foundational knowledge of the major disciplines can they move on to effectively express their knowledge and master higher-level skills.

Therefore, the foundation of our instruction will focus on mastery of fundamentals. We define mastery as the ability to demonstrate knowledge and skills repeatedly and accurately. This requires repeated instruction in the subject matter, increasing the degree of challenge and considerable practice. As our students master the fundamentals, our instruction focuses on sequential building of conceptual knowledge and promoting independent expression of knowledge. APA students demonstrate individual internalization of conceptual knowledge through extensive written work and verbal presentation. This focus on repetitive, sequential knowledge acquisition, combined with extensive expression of understanding, prepares APA students for advanced study at high school and collegiate levels.

## **School Model**

American Preparatory Academy is a liberal arts, classical education school model. In the modern sense, this means that we teach a broad range of topics as opposed to “specializing” or teaching vocational skills. In a traditional sense, it means that we adhere to the concept of the Trivium, as interpreted to represent three stages of knowledge acquisition. The Grammar Phase is identified with the young child (0-9), who easily memorizes songs, poems and factual knowledge. The Logic Phase (9-14) is identified with learners “connecting” their factual knowledge in a logical manner, “making sense” of things. The Rhetoric Phase (14-beyond) is that in which students learn to coherently and persuasively defend their logic in writing and speech. In medieval times, these three designations were subjects of study preceding the study of arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music.

## **Virtuous Character Development – Builders and Ambassadors Programs**

In order to establish an excellent institution and a loving, positive atmosphere at American Prep, we must build a foundation of virtuous character in our students and ourselves. We also believe that mental training goes hand-in-hand with the formation of a good character. We have firmly planted these ideals into our institution through a district-wide “Builders” theme and Ambassadors Program. All staff, parents, and students work together to “build” our great school on the following principles.

### **Building Foundations**

**Expectations:** High expectations in academics and character reflect the unwavering confidence we have in our students. We believe that our students can and will achieve whatever is set before them. High expectations are the vital first step toward achieving our school mission of academic excellence and virtuous character development for each student. The confidence engendered in our students by the high expectations we hold motivates them toward excellence.

**Effort:** We believe that properly reinforced effort is the key to achievement. Our students and staff know the value of hard work and are committed to working hard every day. The fruits of work are real and satisfying and are won without exception by those willing to engage in work earnestly and consistently. The fruits of work cannot be borrowed or lent.

**Enthusiasm:** Enthusiasm propels one on to greater effort. Enthusiasm makes work enjoyable and provides encouragement for others to put forth increased effort. It is the responsibility of every member of the American Prep community to bring enthusiasm to their work and to their associations at school.

**Encouragement:** Expertise in the art of encouragement is a hallmark of American Prep staff. Nearly constant, expertly applied encouragement is required to balance the high level of rigor we require of our students.

**Excellence:** Excellence is a self-perpetuating value. When one achieves excellence, motivation is generated that leads to a natural increase in expectations and encourages one to apply effort and enthusiasm to obtain new, even higher levels of excellence.

### **Builders Theme**

The Builders Theme is reinforced by our “Builders Song” (K. Woodcox, 2004) and the “Builders” poem (below). Every student and staff member memorize this poem and recites it at school events and in classrooms. It is also promoted through monthly “Builders Mottos” and “Builders Awards” that are presented to students and staff. We ask all members of the American Preparatory community to conduct themselves as builders by asking themselves the question: “What would be building behavior?” Keeping the standard of behavior at that of a “builder” makes it easy to know how to conduct oneself and promotes a positive place for learning.

### *Builders*

I saw them tearing a building down,  
A gang of men in a busy town.

With a yo heave ho and a lusty yell,  
They swung a beam and the sidewall fell.

I asked the foreman if these men were as skilled  
As those he would hire if he were to build.

He laughed and said, "Oh, no indeed,  
Common labor is all I need,

For they can wreck in a day or two,  
What builders have taken years to do."

So I asked myself, as I went my way,  
Which of these roles am I to play?

Am I the builder, who works with care,  
Measuring life by the rule and square?  
Or am I the wrecker who walks the town,  
Content in the role of tearing down?

I've made my decision; I'll start today,  
I'll be a builder in every way.

- Anonymous and Howard Headlee

## **Builders Mottos**

	<b>Starts with an EVEN year (ie: 2022-2023)</b>	Starts with an ODD year (ie: 2023-2024)
August	Be a Builder!	Be a Builder!
September	I am a builder when I Build with Enthusiasm	I am a builder when I Build with Enthusiasm
October	I am a builder when I Demonstrate Integrity	I am a builder when I am Perfectly Honest
November	I am a builder when I Express Gratitude in Word and Deed	I am a builder when I Express Gratitude in Word and Deed
December	I am a builder when I looking for ways to serve others (Kigatsuku)	I am a builder when I looking for ways to serve others (Kigatsuku)
January	I am a builder when I think positive thoughts about myself and others	I am a builder when I Work diligently
February	I am a builder when I use my words to encourage others	I am a builder when I Befriend others
March	I am a builder when I quickly acknowledge mistakes and humbly make amends	I am a builder when I am willing to try and I believe in my ability to succeed
April	I am a builder when I face obstacles with determination and positivity	I am a builder when I use kind and courteous words
May	I am a builder by respecting my body and mind	I am a builder when I'm utterly reliable
June	Be a Builder!	I am a builder by respecting my body and mind

## **Ambassador Program**

American Preparatory Academy is committed to helping students become great scholars and exceptional citizens who contribute to the world in which they live. This is accomplished through our structured academic model and orchestrated Ambassador Program.

**Every student who attends APA is a participant in the Ambassador program.** The character development ideals embodied in the Ambassador Program are championed from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. **The program is not an extracurricular activity**, but an integral part of the two-fold mission of APA, which is to promote rigorous academic instruction and strong character development.

The Ambassador curriculum is built upon seven areas of focus: social graces, professional behavior, self-management skills, peer leadership experiences, community service, civic awareness, and arts/cultural appreciation. The program begins in the elementary grades with the character traits of a builder. Secondary students follow the Builder tradition with monthly Builder awards and assemblies.

A few students who exemplify the month's virtue are selected to receive the "Builder of the Month" award at the monthly builder assembly. Training workshops and activities focused on builder themes and other ambassador traits are held frequently each year from 7th to 12th grade. In Junior High, students focus on learning and discussing these skills and traits. As the students progress to High School, the workshops and activities center more on applying these traits.

As an APA student progresses through the Ambassador Program, the calendar of events expands to include: service projects, cultural events, legislative experiences, and other opportunities for each student to practice the professional and social skills they are mastering.

The Ambassador Program is designed to develop the leadership qualities of an Ambassador. An Ambassador is a representative, an advocate, and a leader—an individual who *naturally puts into practice* the social and professional protocols necessary for success in the business world, educational pursuits and family relationships.

**The Ambassador Program is a part of the APA curriculum and attendance at Ambassador events is required.**

## **Our American Ideals**

American Prep values and embodies the American ideals of liberty, equality, democracy, rule of law and patriotism. We reference our nation's Declaration of Independence in that we believe that all students and staff have been endowed with certain, unalienable rights that we respect at school. As a classical school, human flourishing is our aim and we believe it is our duty to teach and demonstrate these ideals in our schools.

Included in the important rights of each student is that of being viewed as an individual of great worth to our community. ***Every person in our school community is equally viewed as a person of unmeasurable value and potential.***

We carefully work to ensure that:

- The right to fully participate in our school programs is available equally to each student.
- The right to opportunities to develop character traits of diligence, hard work, humility, and scholarship are available to all students equally.
- Each student and staff member are viewed, treated, and respected as a full and equal member of the community.
- All students, regardless of disability, are included in classes and non-academic activities to the maximum extent possible

## **Perpetuation of our Democratic Republic**

American Preparatory Academy’s aim is to engage in efforts that prepare our students to actively participate in preserving our nation’s form of government. We believe this is best achieved by our school community coming together in unity around our American ideals including liberty, equality, democracy, rule of law and patriotism - and thus preparing our students to “change the world for the better”.

These shared ideals provide a solid foundation on which to discuss and persuade and debate issues. We believe public education must provide a foundation for successful dialogue.

We believe that every individual has the right, the freedom and the responsibility to share ideas and to develop informed opinions, and that this process naturally results in diverse opinions among our students, staff and families. We believe this diversity of opinion is a positive, even vital, aspect of American life. As a classical education school, we teach students the process of respectful dialogue. Our interactions must meet the school’s standards for decency and respect, and invite all in our community to assist us in promoting respectful communications as the standard at the school.

We believe that it is often through disagreements that we learn the most and advance our understanding of one another and of important issues. We believe that a healthy environment of diverse opinions and ideas, expressed appropriately, strengthens our students, staff, families and community.

We believe it is in conflict with our school’s shared ideals of democracy, equality and freedom to disrespect the thoughts, ideas or opinions of others or take steps to minimize their expression. We believe that ideas and opinions should be appropriately articulated, discussed and debated.

We acknowledge that disagreements will be part of any vibrant democratic community, and we believe when principles of freedom and respect are applied, disagreements will ultimately strengthen us. In reality, it is in large part the appropriate communication regarding our differences that opens the doors to understanding each other and that understanding binds us together as a community.

These principles of freedom and respect apply to all within our community equally. No individual or group has special privileges or unique constraints when it comes to appropriate freedom of expression.

We recognize that opinions and ideas will be shared among students and staff informally as a matter of course in their classes and social interactions. We believe this is a healthy and important aspect of a high-quality educational experience.

We believe that debate, argumentation, and persuasion when conducted upon the foundation of freedom, equality, and respect, will benefit our students and our nation.

We are confident that properly facilitated discussions will result in successful communication of ideas and an ability for students to learn how to agree to disagree, which is a vital skill for a successful and effective community member in our free nation.

## **Parental Rights in Utah**

Utah has a very strong parental right law which clearly states that:

“The state recognizes that a parent has the right, obligation, responsibility, and authority to raise, manage, train, educate, provide and care for, and responsibly discipline the parent’s children; and the state’s role is secondary and supportive to the primary role of a parent.

It is the policy of this state that parents retain the fundamental right and duty to exercise primary control over the care, supervision, upbringing, and education of their children.”

American Prep honors this law and we therefore view our role as one of supporting parents in their responsibilities to educate their children. We encourage parents to read the “Rights of Parents” and “Children’s Rights” law which can be found at <https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title62A/Chapter4A/62A-4a-S201.html>.

## II. Daily School Operation

### Schedules

1. School will begin each day at 8:00 a.m. Parents may drop off students beginning at 7:40 a.m. each morning.
2. Please follow this schedule for pickup times:

### School Hours

Students assigned to Dismissal #1

	M, T, F		W, Th		Half Days	
	School Begins	School Ends	School Begins	School Ends	School Begins	School Ends
AM Kindergarten	8:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	10:30 p.m.	8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. (on a rotating schedule with PM)	
PM Kindergarten	12:10 p.m.	3:10 p.m.	11:40 a.m.	2:10 p.m.	8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. (on a rotating schedule with AM)	
1 <sup>st</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> Grades	8:00 a.m.	3:10 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	2:10 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.

Students assigned to Dismissal #2

(Academic Extended Day)

	M, T, F		W, Th		Half Days	
	School Begins	School Ends	School Begins	School Ends	School Begins	School Ends
AM Kindergarten	8:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	10:30 p.m.	8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. (on a rotating schedule with PM)	
PM Kindergarten	12:10 p.m.	3:40 p.m.	11:40 a.m.	2:40 p.m.	8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. (on a rotating schedule with AM)	
1 <sup>st</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> Grades	8:00 a.m.	3:40 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	2:40 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.

\* There will be no second dismissal on half days

3. Phones will be answered from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on school days.
4. ***Generally, students are not allowed to use the school telephones to call home during the day. Please don’t instruct your students to call you. School office personnel will determine if there is a need to contact the parent and will assist students to make the phone calls or call home for the student.***



## **Attendance**

It is vital to our success that students attend school each day. American Prep supports a state goal of 95% attendance school-wide. Our academic goals will be achieved only if our students attend school regularly.

### **General Procedures**

**Due to allergies, student, and staff sensitivities, please do not bring pets into the school building when checking out students, dropping off lunches, or any other time. Service dogs are exempt.**

1. If a student is unable to attend school, a parent or guardian must call the school on the day of the absence before 8:45 a.m. to report the absence. If a parent does not notify the school, the student may be considered truant. **SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER: 801-465-4434.**
2. If the absence is illness related, we ask parents to report any symptoms or doctor's diagnosis for the child's absence. We will be tracking illnesses for potential outbreaks of communicable diseases.
3. Attendance will be kept each day at American Prep and will be reported to the administration by each teacher. Administration will track daily attendance and will report any extended absences to the Director.
4. Absences may affect a student's grade according to the class disclosures in secondary grades and depending upon work missed.
5. Parents are encouraged to schedule appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.

### **Truancy – Failure to Attend School**

Utah is a compulsory education state. Students are required by law to attend school each day. If a student chronically fails to attend school, defined by American Prep as missing more than five days per school year with no communication from the parent regarding the absence, American Prep may report the student as truant.

### **Scheduled Absences**

1. If a student needs to be absent from school for a special purpose that is known to the family in advance, the parent needs to fill out a **Scheduled Absence Request** via Skyward on the computer or mobile app by going to "Family Access," then selecting "attendance" then "add absence request". Only when this form is filled out and accepted by the administration will a student be allowed to make up missed schoolwork. Scheduled absences still count toward the total number of absences. Turning in a "Scheduled Absence Request" does not excuse your student from missed class or homework. Absences will not be approved during state or school testing.
2. ***When parents complete a "Scheduled Absence Request," it is the responsibility of parents and/or students to:***
  - a. *email the teacher and notify them of the planned absence*
  - b. *check the student's learning plan for homework and schoolwork assignments*
  - c. *email the teacher to clarify any homework or classwork assignments*
  - d. *collect the student's books and materials needed to complete the work – this includes making copies of needed materials.*
  - e. *grade student work that was assigned during the absence.*
3. Administration may not approve scheduled absences if a student has less than 95% attendance. If an absence is not approved, teachers may not be required to do extra work to assist the student in gathering and correcting missing work. Parents may be requested to pay for additional copies and/or assist with correcting schoolwork.

## **Check-ins and Check-outs During the Day**

1. Because we teach “bell to bell,” it is vital that students remain for the entire school day. Parents are encouraged to schedule appointments outside of school hours whenever possible. In general, afternoon appointments are preferred so that students don’t miss reading or math instruction.
2. If a student needs to be checked-in during the school day, the student must be accompanied into the school by an adult and signed in at the front desk.
3. If a student needs to be checked-out during school hours, the responsible adult must come into the school, present photo ID, and sign the student out. For safety reasons, students will not be sent out to meet parents at the curb outside of regular carpool times. To minimize missed
4. To minimize missed academic time, students will not be called out of class until parents arrive at the school. Please allow 10-15 minutes of time to check out your student(s). We ask that parents not check out their student(s) early to avoid waiting in carpool.
5. Students will only be released to those listed as parents, guardians, or emergency contacts (as provided during online enrollment or re-enrollment), unless authorization is provided by the parent.
6. Any adult checking out a student may be asked to present a photo ID.
7. School staff may also ask the student “who is this picking you up?” as an added safety measure.
8. Your student must be in attendance at least 4 hours during a school day in order to be considered present for the day.
9. If parent/guardians are leaving town, be sure your caregiver is listed as someone authorized to pick up your student from school. Please send us an email detailing where you will be, how to get in touch with you if appropriate, and if you have given permission to authorize medical treatment to a caregiver in your absence.

## **NO Check-outs During Carpool**

The school office will be open for student check-outs from when school begins until 15 minutes before dismissal. Due to the secretaries’ duties during the carpool time, there will be **no student check-outs after that time**. Please arrange to arrive early if you need to check-out your students at the end of the day. If you arrive after that time, you will be asked to wait in the front office waiting area until school is over.

## **Check-outs for Special Awards**

If one of your children is receiving a *special award* at the school, and you would like his/her school-age sibling(s) to observe that recognition, you **must** use the same procedures for checking your child out of school. **For security reasons, no one is ever allowed to go directly to a classroom to pull a child out of class.**

## **End-of-day School Check-outs**

If parents know of a regular conflict for which the student must be dismissed early (like a practice that is scheduled after school consistently at a time that needs special consideration) the parent can seek administrative approval so that the school can facilitate this need for the family. The school secretaries will help parents through that process. If there is a one-time appointment that a student needs to be excused for early, the parent should check their student out using the normal procedure, ensuring they arrive at the school well before 15 minutes before the end of the school day, as the office is closed for check-outs 15 minutes before the end of the school day. Parents need to leave sufficient time for school staff to retrieve students and get them to the school office.

Students are only retrieved from classes when parents are at the school office and have checked them out. The school will generally not retrieve students early based upon a phone call from parents telling the school they are “on their way, please have my child waiting.”

**We ask that parents not check out their student(s) early to avoid waiting in carpool, or for other reasons of convenience.** Excessive checkouts may result in a student being placed on Attendance Probation or Attendance Warning.

## **Attendance Violations**

### **Excessive Absences**

1. If during any term a student has more than three absences in a class period, any subsequent absence is an assumed "S" that would generate an NC (No Credit). Parents must meet with an administrator to create a plan for reformation and to remove the NC mark.
2. If a student has more than 9 absences during the year (not necessarily consecutive) without written approval of the student's application for "**Extenuating Circumstances**," the Director will send a letter to the parents outlining that the student has been placed on "**Attendance Probation**" and a meeting with school administration and/or the governing board may be required. It is important to note that our promotion policy requires a student to attend a minimum number of school days to be promoted to the next grade.
3. Please note that we are required to remove from our enrollment any student who is absent ten or more consecutive days of school without extenuating circumstances.

### **Unexcused Absences**

1. If a student is not present in a class, teachers will mark the student in the system as an "X". If the student is identified as absent without parent permission the attendance mark will be adjusted to an "S" (sluff).
2. Students who leave campus without permission will automatically be recorded as an "S" in any class period missed and may face disciplinary action.
3. An "S" in any class period will generate an automatic NC or No Credit, which results in no credit for the class. The NC will remain until the student makes up the "S" by attending 90 minutes of attendance school and paying a fee.
4. Once the student has made up the "S" through the fine and attendance school, the class grade will return (as long as they do not have a NC in the same period due to accumulating four or more tardies as outlined in the tardy policy).
5. NCs received from "S" marks may only be made up during the term they were received.
6. If at the conclusion of the term, a student has an NC and a class percentage of below 60%, the student will receive a failing grade and the NC removed from the transcript.

### **Tardies**

1. Secondary students are allowed five minutes between class periods. By the second bell students are expected to be:
  - a. seated at their desks,
  - b. with the necessary materials ready (pencil, book, binder),
  - c. in full school uniform (name tag, shirt tucked in, etc.), and
  - d. working on the bell ringer activity.
    - i. Students who are not present and prepared at the beginning of class may be marked tardy for that class.
2. If a student accumulates a total of four or more tardies in any class, they will receive no credit (, no credit - **NC**) for that class. Each class is evaluated independently.
3. The No Credit (NC) will remain as the letter grade for that class and no credit will be given unless tardies are made up through attendance school (details below). If at the conclusion of the term, a student has an NC and a class percentage of below 60%, the student will receive a failing grade and the NC removed from the transcript.
4. To make up each tardy, a student may be required to pay a \$5 fee and attend 30 minutes of Attendance School (see below).

## **Attendance School – Secondary**

1. Attendance school hours will be posted in the secondary offices and published in the newsletter. Typically, it is held on Saturday mornings from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. for the second half of the term. No students will be admitted late to attendance school.
2. During attendance school, students must wear full uniform and must work quietly or read. No electronics are allowed in attendance school. If a student is talking, sleeping, using their cell phones or other personal electronics they will be excused and they must attend another day.
3. Once all sluffs and sufficient tardies are made up, the NC will be removed and the student's earned letter grade will reappear.
4. NCs must be made up by the end of the quarter during which they were received.
5. Students who failed to make up NCs due to extensive tardies by the end of each quarter may do so the following quarter but the tardy fees may double (a \$10 fee and 60 minutes for each tardy).
6. Students who failed to make up NCs due to one or more Sluffs (S) in a class will not be allowed to make those up during subsequent quarters.
7. *\*Students are parents are encouraged to regularly check Skyward to stay up-to-date on their grades, attendance, tardies, NCs, etc.*

## **Excessive Check-outs - Secondary**

1. A student who is checked out early more than 2 times in any quarter will be placed on "Attendance Warning."
2. A student with two or more quarters in violation of the early check-out limit may be placed on "Attendance Probation" the result of which *may* be a required meeting with administration or the Governing Board.

## **Calendars**

At the beginning of each school year, each family will be given a copy of the school narrative calendar for their reference throughout the year. Additional calendars may be requested if needed. School calendars are also available online at [www.americanprep.org](http://www.americanprep.org). Current school events and updates may be found in the weekly school newsletters. **School calendars are subject to change.** You may view the most up-to-date calendar for this campus by visiting: <https://saalem.americanprep.org/calendar/>

### **2022-2023 School Year Calendar**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>August 17</b>	<b>Start of School</b>
<b>August 1-5</b>	<b><i>Staff Only - DI Training Week</i></b>
<b>August 8 - 12</b>	<b><i>Staff Only - Preservice</i></b>
<b>August 12</b>	<b><i>Meet and Greet - All from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm</i></b>
<b>August 19</b>	<b><i>Parent Orientation - All from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm</i></b>
<b>September 5</b>	<b><i>No School - Labor Day</i></b>

September 16	<i>No School Secondary</i> - Parent Teacher Conferences: All Day
October 7	<i>Early Dismissal Elementary</i> - Elementary Grading
October 12	<i>Early Dismissal All</i> - Professional Development
October 17 - 21	<i>No School</i> - Fall Break
November 4	<i>No School All</i> - Parent Teacher Conferences
November 9	Veterans Day Assembly at 9:15 am
November 23 - 25	<i>No School</i> - Thanksgiving Break
December 21 - January 3	<i>No School</i> - Winter Break
January 16	<i>No School</i> - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 20	<i>Early Dismissal All</i> - Professional Development
February 10	<i>Early Dismissal Elementary</i> - Elementary Grading
February 20 - 24	<i>No School</i> - Midwinter Break
March 17	<i>No School All</i> - Parent Teacher Conferences
March 22	<i>Early Dismissal All</i> - Professional Development/Secondary ACT testing
March 29	Builder of the Year Assembly at 8:00 am
April 3 - 7	<i>No School</i> - Spring Break
April 19 - May 26	<i>*No excused absences permitted*</i> - Assessment Days
May 24	Memorial Day Assembly at 1:00 pm

May 25	<i>Kindergarten Last Day</i>
May 29	<i>No School - Memorial Day</i>
June 1	<b>Last Day of School</b>
June 5 - June 9	<i>Staff Only - Post Service Training</i>

## **SECONDARY TERM DATES**

Term 1 - August 17 - October 14

Term 2 - October 24 - December 20

Term 3 - January 4 - March 31 (includes winterim)

Term 4 - April 10 - June 1

## **School Closures and Delays – Weather Related**

American Prep schools will remain open, when possible, even if weather conditions are severe, as we know that for some of our families it is very important that school is open on scheduled school days. American Prep is concerned about the safety of all students, staff, and patrons. We encourage everyone to use caution traveling safely to and from our schools and buildings.

**American Prep recognizes that the decision to keep children home when weather conditions are severe is always at the parents' discretion.**

Students who are kept home by a parent or guardian will not be penalized for their absence or tardiness. Make-up schoolwork may be necessary, but schools will accommodate students on the timely completion of required assignments or tests.

On occasion, the weather may be so extreme that American Prep will close schools or implement a late start or early dismissal. American Prep will make decisions for each campus on a case-by-case basis. The following information outlines the communication procedures that will be followed if such school closures or delays become necessary.

### School Website and Social Media

The school will post on its website at [www.americanprep.org](http://www.americanprep.org) the status of each campus as early as possible in the morning, but by 6:30 a.m. This is the **FIRST** place that parents should go to find the closure information. No announcement means normal operation. Closures or late starts are for one day only.

### Text Messages from the School

Families who can receive text messages from the school will receive a text with any weather-related changes to the school schedule.

### Media Announcements

There may be announcements on radio or television related to school closure information. These usually take place between 6-8 a.m.

### Types of School Closure

1. "Schools Will Be Closed"
2. "Schools Will Start Late" (this means school will begin 2 hours after its normal start time)

3. “Schools Will Dismiss Early” and parents will be notified via text message when the dismissal is in effect

### Make-up Days

The Utah State Board of Education requires a minimum of 180 instructional days of school. Days lost because of inclement weather will be made up as per policy.

## **Carpool**

**For the safety of our students, PLEASE do not operate cell phones or allow other distractions to your attention during carpool.**

### General Instructions

- Carpool lineup begins on the South side of the school at 2:50 p.m. on M, T, and F and at 1:50 p.m. on W and Th. A staff member will unlock the gate and direct traffic into the lineup.
- Students are required to wait at the curb for their parent. They will not be allowed to walk over to a parked car or to meet their parent in an alternate place. Please pull completely over to the curb to pick up your student.
- After you have picked up your student, exit the parking lot with caution. Observe the speed limit in the neighborhood. Please be cautious and observant to ensure the safety of our students who are walking home.
- For student security, students are issued a carpool number tag which will be attached to their school bag. Replacement cost is \$5.
- Please make sure you are here to pick up your students **promptly**, to allow our teachers to go home on time!

### Late Pickup

- Students need to be picked up promptly within 15 minutes of their assigned dismissal time.
- If parents consistently fail to pick up their students on time, they will be contacted by administration for a conference. If the late pickups continue, it will be considered a violation of the Acceptance of Policy.

### Student Behavior at Carpool

1. Students are to walk directly to their vehicle.
2. No horseplay or running allowed at carpool.
3. No swinging of backpacks, lunchboxes, or any other items.
4. No yelling, screaming, or speaking in loud voices.
5. No groups watching videos or playing games on electronic devices.
6. Students are expected to have all belongings when they go out to carpool.
7. Students waiting for a carpool are welcome to study on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at the high school lunch tables or in a teacher’s classroom. However, students should not be wandering the hallways during carpool.
8. The sports field is off limits to students during carpool with the exception of school teams participating in practice or games. Students are not permitted to throw, kick or otherwise use any sport equipment during carpool.

### Carpool Suspension

If a student is persistently disruptive during carpool or refuses to follow carpool procedures, they may be put on carpool suspension and will not be permitted to participate in the normal carpool process. The length of the suspension will be determined by administration. If any student in your carpool is on carpool suspension, the driver must park and come into the school to get the student. Students on carpool suspension will be instructed to sit near the office area until their driver comes inside to escort them out. Misconduct by a parent during carpool may result in a suspension from carpool as determined by school administration.

## **Student Busing**

For busing requests, please fill out a transportation request and turn it into the front office. Jennifer Wilson coordinates our bus routes. For any questions regarding routes please email her at [jwilson@apamail.org](mailto:jwilson@apamail.org). For any issues or questions regarding busses in general, please contact Butch Wilson at [bwilson@apamail.org](mailto:bwilson@apamail.org). The code of conduct for students is the same on the bus as at school.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

Students will recite the Pledge of Allegiance as a class each day, during school-wide assemblies, the Pledge of Allegiance is recited as a school-wide event.

## **Valuables at School**

It is not recommended that students or staff bring valuables onto the school campus. American Prep cannot be responsible for damage to or loss of valuable items. Items found in hallways, bathrooms and other school areas that are not claimed by a student will be placed in the Lost and Found. Parents are encouraged to check the Lost and Found frequently for their student's missing items. Periodically, any unclaimed items will be donated.

## **Holiday Celebrations**

Although we teach about many of our nation's holidays in our curriculum, we do not use academic time in class to celebrate them. Listed below are some of these holidays and the ways they are acknowledged:

**Constitution Day** (September 17) - APA has a special Constitution Day program every year that is live-streamed on Facebook and parents can watch/hear the reading of the entire Constitution and Bill of Rights on Constitution Day.

**Halloween**—It is important for teachers and parents to remember that we don't celebrate or even acknowledge Halloween.

**Veterans Day**—We celebrate Veteran's Day with a school-wide assembly where we honor our invited veteran guests. The students also participate in writing activities that express their respect and appreciation to our nation's veterans.

**Thanksgiving Day**—The Builder theme for the month of November focuses on being grateful and expressing that gratitude through word and deed.

**Religious Holidays (Christmas, Kwanza, Hanukkah, Ramadan etc.)**— These holidays will be discussed as part of the curriculum and to help students understand what others in our school are doing and experiencing. We may sing songs from these or other similar holidays as part of the curriculum in our music classes.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**—The contributions of Martin Luther King, Jr. are discussed around this day.

**President's Day**—We talk about Presidents around President's Day.

**Valentine's Day**—We focus on the Builder theme of "caring and sharing" during the month of February. We encourage students to show they care by doing good deeds for others all during the month. Often, the school participates in a school-wide service project during February. We ask that students not bring items that will be visible or distracting during the day such as balloons, confetti, large stuffed animals, etc.

**Memorial Day** – Students perform and participate in a school-wide assembly and learn about the meaning and history of this holiday. Students, parents and staff have the opportunity to participate in a "poppy fundraising drive" to benefit veterans.



## **Unity and Diversity & Opt-Out Policy**

It is vital to our mission and to our community that we are unified in purpose. We recognize the strength we have in our different cultures, nationalities and religious faiths and we honor the diversity of our students and families. Our strength and unity is built as we honor and embrace our diversity while focusing on our shared mission of academic excellence and character development for each student.

Parents may exercise their ability to opt-out their student of any activity they determine is in conflict with their religious or cultural tenets. If it is a classroom activity (such as a book you don't wish your student to read), parents may exercise this opt-out by speaking with the classroom teacher and selecting an alternative activity. If it is a school-wide or ambassador activity, parents may opt-out after first observing the activity and then submitting a Request for Waiver of Participation Form (available at the main office). Administration will review the request to ensure that religious freedoms or exercise of rights of conscience are not infringed. Alternative activities may be required. We also recognize prayer in school as a Constitutionally protected right. American Preparatory Academy is neutral on the RISE test opt-out. We do not encourage nor do we discourage opting out of this test.

### **Non-Discrimination Statement**

APA employees and students shall not be subjected to discrimination in employment or any district program or activity on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other protected class. APA is committed to providing equal access and equal opportunity in its programs, services, and employment, including its policies, complaint processes, program accessibility, district facility use, accommodations, and other Equal Employment Opportunity matters.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies and practices at APA:

Unity & Diversity Coordinator: Peri  
Daley  
Address: 12894 Pony Express Rd  
Suite 600  
Draper, UT 84020  
Phone: 801-797-0089  
Email: [pdaley@apamail.org](mailto:pdaley@apamail.org)

Regional Office of Civil Rights for  
Utah  
Denver Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Building  
1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 310  
Denver, CO 80204-3582  
Phone: (303) 844-5695  
Email: [OCR.Denver@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Denver@ed.gov)

### **Title VI**

Title VI, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.

### **Title IX**

Title IX is a federal program that protects our employees and students from any acts of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or gender-based harassment.

**Title IX Coordinator:** Peri Daley, [pdaley@apamail.org](mailto:pdaley@apamail.org), 12894 S Pony Express Rd Suite 600, Draper, Utah 84020, (801) 797-0089

## III. Health and Safety

### Wellness

At American Prep, the health and wellness of our students is very important to us.

- Staff, students or family members who are ill should not come to the school.
- Regular hand washing and sanitizing will be implemented at the school daily.
- Cleaning of desks and facilities will occur on a regular basis using approved cleaners.
- In order to learn effectively, students need to have a healthy breakfast and nutritious lunch daily.

### Student Medical Information

1. A parent/guardian will complete a Health Alert form for each student as part of school enrollment.
2. Students will not be allowed at school without the health information on file in the front office.
3. Parents of students who have specific or special health concerns, chronic illness, or are in need of medication during school hours will add that information to the Health Alert form at the time of enrollment. This information will be given to the school nurse who will create a red Health Alert folder to be kept at the school office. This folder will contain information on procedures to follow in case of illness or emergency, as well as any necessary parental permission. Should changes occur that may affect the student's care, it is the parent's responsibility to notify the school and to update the Health Alert form at the school office.
4. Parents who wish to give specific instructions regarding air quality days need to include this information on the Health Alert form.
5. The school nurse will provide teachers with health files on students with health concerns, chronic illnesses or who take daily medication during school hours.
6. At times, students may consume food at school not provided by their parent(s) – for example, by trading lunch items, or receiving a birthday treat or having special food at a culminating activity. It is imperative that parents disclose any food allergies to the school by including this information on the Health Alert form so that precautions can be taken to prevent allergic reactions in students.

### Immunizations

***By law, every student must be immunized before entering school or must complete a vaccination exemption form prior to entering school.***

Prior to school, every student must have the following immunizations:

#### **Seventh Grade Entry Requirements**

- 1 Tdap
- 3 Hepatitis B
- 2 Varicella (Chickenpox) - history of disease is acceptable, parent must sign verification statement on school immunization record
- 1 Meningococcal

The data is to be tabulated on a Utah Certificate of Immunization form and signed by your physician. Parents need to bring the original to the school for verification. The school will make a copy of the certificate and put it in the student file.

**If you would like to opt-out of immunizations, you must go to this website and complete the module:**

<https://immunize.utah.gov/immunization-education-module/>.

**Print the form and return it to the front office.**

## **Illness During the School Day**

In case of illness, students will come to the school office. School staff will contact parents if they deem it is necessary. *Students who are ill (fever, vomiting, excessive or productive coughing, runny nose and/or eyes) must be picked up immediately from school.* If a parent cannot be reached, the emergency contact listed on the student enrollment form will be notified to come and pick up the student. If a student feels ill but there are no obvious symptoms of illness, the school secretary may, after conferring with the parent, invite the student to rest in the school office for 10 to 15 minutes to determine if the symptoms will subside. If the student is not feeling better after this time, the parents will be contacted again and will need to pick up the student.

## **Medications**

Students in need of prescription medication during the day will need a doctor's note, the medication in the original container, and a signed release form. Trained staff will dispense medications that comply with this policy. *Non-prescription medication will not be dispensed unless the parent brings the medication to school and signs a release form.*

Students with asthma may carry their inhaler to school in their backpacks *only if* the office has on file the above three items as well as a special, parent release form that may be obtained from the office. These documents must be on file with the office even if the student only occasionally carries the inhaler to school. *It is vital that every inhaler is marked with the student's full name in permanent marker.*

## **Air Quality**

The school shall check the air quality index from the website <https://air.utah.gov/currentconditions.php?id=slc>. When there an orange or red air quality day, the school secretary will forward air quality reports to the Director and staff. The Director shall determine if inside recess is appropriate to avoid hazardous air quality for individual students or for the school at large. Parents who wish their student(s) to stay inside on a particular air quality day must complete a health alert form and return it to the school office, outlining the parent's directions to the teacher.

## **School Lunch**

Parents are expected to provide a nutritious lunch for their students each day. They may do this by sending a lunch to school with their student, or ordering lunches through the school lunch program. We provide daily lunches that are similar to bag lunches as a convenience to families through the National School Lunch Program. (We do not serve hot lunch.) This program is designed to provide a healthy, mid-day, low-cost meal option for our families. American Prep does not seek to make a profit from our lunch program. "This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

Information provided for the Free/Reduced Lunch is kept confidential and is important to APA as we seek funding for our students. Parents have the choice to opt-in to allow the Lunch Program to share information with the school to be evaluated for School Fee Waiver eligibility. The lunch manager will notify families who qualify for free/reduced lunch.

Parents who send lunch to school with their student should ensure that the lunch is nutritious. We recommend that parents provide a lunch that contains recommended foods for growing children, including protein and fresh fruits and vegetables. Lunches that consist of a bag of chips and a sweet drink are not considered nutritious. Sometimes older students are left with the responsibility of packing their own lunch and they choose items that are not nutritious or substantial enough to get them through the afternoon with a clear and effective brain. Some parents have felt this is a natural consequence and use this as a way to teach their child responsibility. We urge parents to find other ways to teach those important lessons so that their child's education does not suffer. ***It is the parent's responsibility to ensure the student has healthy food in their lunch each day.*** Supervising lunch staff will encourage students to eat their lunch. Students will generally have access to a microwave, but access is not always guaranteed. Therefore, we encourage parents and students to pack a lunch that can be eaten cold.

Beverages: National School Lunch Program orders include milk. Parents may also pre-order milk for their students by the month or year prepaid. There will be no refunds for student absences. Forms are available from the Lunch Specialist at each campus. No soda is allowed with lunch or at school anytime. No drinks with red dye are allowed at school (as they will stain the carpet). Drinks containing stimulants of any kind, including caffeine or herbal stimulants, are not allowed at school.

Families who choose to participate in the school lunch program need to follow the directions provided on the National School Lunch Program Parent Information page. These include: 1) Complete and submit a family Free/Reduced Lunch form, 2) Set up an account online at [www.utahsmartlunches.com](http://www.utahsmartlunches.com) for all American Prep students in the family, and 3) Order and provide payment for date-specific lunches on the site calendar. The site will automatically calculate free/reduced lunches for eligible families. **ALL SCHOOL LUNCHES MUST BE ORDERED ONLINE.** No extra lunches will be available for purchase on campus. The lunch specialist is available for questions regarding online ordering procedures.

## **Security**

### **Building Security**

1. Students will be allowed into the building 30 minutes prior to the start of the school day.
2. Entry doors remain locked throughout the school day. Doors should never be propped open at any time.
3. The school premises are monitored by both video and audio surveillance in most classrooms and in common areas.

### **Safety on school grounds**

1. No hard balls are allowed on the exterior areas of the school grounds unless they are practicing with a team or during physical education.
2. If a ball or other play equipment needs to be retrieved from outside of the school property, a teacher or other adult should retrieve it.
3. In addition to the items listed under "VI. Code of Conduct," skateboards, roller skates, roller blades, skate shoes, and scooters are not allowed on school premises.

### **Emergency Response Plan**

1. In the event that the school premises must be evacuated, staff will escort students to a safe location.
2. Once students are located to a safe location, staff members will contact guardians and/or other approved adults from the family registration cards.
3. The APA Emergency Response Plan is available as a quick-access flip-chart and is located at each classroom exit.

## IV. Academic Policies

Our academic policies support our academic mission and philosophy (see [Mission and Vision: Academic Achievement](#)).

### Academic Success

**American Prep is a “school of choice” with a rigorous academic program.** American Prep’s academic program comprises three vitally important components:

1. The work and effort of the teachers and staff
2. The work and effort of the students
3. The support of the parents

### Teachers and Staff Component

We believe that it is the responsibility of the school to provide effective organizational systems, positive motivation, excellent teachers and relevant, interesting curriculum for each student so that they can achieve academic success at American Prep. Our staff and teachers are trained and well prepared to teach our students. They are an experienced group of professionals who are enthusiastic about their job in assisting your student as they achieve academically and learn and grow. However, if a teacher is not putting forth sufficient effort to enable the students to achieve mastery in their content area, the administration is committed to rectifying this through staff development, coaching and training. If the teacher, after the remedies have been implemented, continues to be unsuccessful in working at the level required, they will be dismissed (see [School Compact](#)).

### Student Component

Likewise, the students at American Prep bear much responsibility with regard to exerting effort and completing assigned work so that they can benefit fully from the excellent academic programs of American Prep. Most students who attend American Prep are well prepared and bring their own enthusiasm and love of learning to school with them each day. We are confident that working together, all students can achieve academic success at American Prep (see [Student Compact](#)).

### Parent Component

We recognize that parental support is key to student achievement. American Prep parents commit to support the learning process by ensuring their student has time each day for studying, a place at home to study, by checking the learning plans daily, ensuring on-time arrival and minimizing absences, providing healthy food for lunch, and engaging in positive communication to address questions, concerns or provide feedback (see [Parent Compact](#)).

### Organization

An important and vital component of academic achievement is that of organization of student work. American Prep students will be given tools and training that will assist them in becoming independent students and in organizing their school work, thus maximizing the potential for them to succeed.

### Planners

A Planner will be issued annually to students. Replacement planners for the students are \$15.00 each.

1. ***Parents will review their student's Learning Plan each night.*** When assignments are completed, parents will initial the planner. If a student is unable to finish an assignment, the parent is to circle and initial the assignment indicating they are aware of the assignment that must be completed.
2. Students will be taught to fill in their planner during each class period. If this is done correctly, they will receive a stamp or initials in the box at the bottom of the class period. (This may not happen each day in each class, but is a process that will be taught and implemented generally as a means to support the student and parent in the communication process.)

## **Lockers**

Every secondary student is issued a locker. Students are required to keep their locker securely locked with the APA issued padlock at all times. American Preparatory Academy will not be responsible for lost valuables kept in lockers. Secondary students are expected to keep backpacks, bags, purses, outerwear, and all belongings inside the locker. Backpacks, bags, and purses, and outerwear will not be allowed in classrooms or lying in the hallways. If needed, students will receive assistance in organizing lockers and backpacks. Students may not decorate the exterior of lockers for birthdays, holidays, etc. Students will be held responsible for any damage done to their locker, including damage to the interior of their locker with any permanent type materials, including: stickers, dry erase marker, ink, permanent marker, paint, etc. Students may decorate the interior of lockers with non-permanent, non-sticking items only. Writing of any kind is not permitted on interior or exterior locker surfaces. American Preparatory Academy is not responsible for missing or stolen items from lockers.

## **Gym Lockers**

Students enrolled in PE courses or participating in other athletic teams may utilize the locker room lockers. These lockers do not have locks; thus, students should provide their own locks to secure belongings. Students should not bring any items other than required athletic/PE attire to the locker room. All other belongings and school materials should be kept in their student lockers, secured by their padlock. American Preparatory Academy is not responsible for missing or stolen items from gym lockers.

## **Homework**

Homework is an integral part of the education program at American Prep. It is an extension of the classroom lessons and should directly relate to class work. It reinforces skills and concepts that are taught and helps develop good study skills and habits. It also informs parents of what is being taught in the classroom. It is the expectation of American Preparatory Academy that students complete all of their homework each day. It is the hope of American Prep that our students will come to love learning and desire to spend free time studying and reading. To assist our families in developing life-long learners, American Prep has adopted the following policies based upon these principles:

## **Homework Policy**

1. Homework is assigned with coordination between teachers and consideration of the importance of child participation in family activities and responsibilities. Students will be given homework every day. It is our intention that homework given will be appropriate, relevant, interesting and at times, challenging. Homework assigned should not be new material for students, but should be a review, extra practice, or an extension of material already taught in school.
2. Secondary students should be able to complete their homework within 90-120 minutes each evening. Students should expect additional homework minutes if they fall behind, or participate in Advanced Placement (AP) course.

3. *An American Prep student should spend time each day studying, whether or not homework is assigned.* If no homework is assigned, students are encouraged to review core subjects' lessons, study for tests, and read independently. We believe it is in the best interest of our students to spend a portion of their free time reading, studying, and playing games that are mentally stimulating.

### **Late Work Policy**

At American Prep, we believe students should complete all work that is assigned. Initiating and sustaining work is a vital scholarly skill for advanced academic studies and for a productive career and adult life. We feel strongly that even if work is not turned in the day it is due that the work should still be completed and turned in. The following outlines the policies for late work and the points that a student can earn when work is turned in after the due date:

- Work that is submitted after the due date will be penalized 10% per day that it is late unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- The maximum penalty for late work is 40% off; meaning that work that is turned in four or more days late can only earn a maximum of 60% of the available points.
- **7th through 9th grades:** Late work from the first half of the term is due at the mid-term deadline and work from the second half of the term is due at the end of term deadline. Late work is not accepted after the deadlines.
- **10th through 12th grades:** Late work may only be accepted up to one week late unless indicated otherwise in the class disclosure.
- **AP and CE Courses:** Late work policies will be determined in the class disclosure.

### **Home Learning Environment**

1. Parents need to provide an environment in the home that will make it possible for students to engage in scholarly pursuits at home on a daily basis. A successful learning environment contains the following elements:
  - a. a quiet place to study and complete assignments;
  - b. access to necessary tools (pencils, paper, adequate lighting, resources such as reference books); and
  - c. freedom from distractions (TV, video games, distracting music or conversations).
2. American Prep recommends that families adopt a “no screen time” policy Monday through Thursday. Ample research has demonstrated that it is not beneficial for students to watch TV, play video games, use social media, or use video screens in general on a daily basis. Lack of physical exercise is resulting in obesity in epidemic proportions in our country. We encourage our families to provide opportunities for their students to exercise and study during the weekday evenings.
3. American Prep recommends that families, where possible, establish study time in the early evenings, allowing their students time after school to engage in physical activities. We encourage families to engage in study time together, possibly at a central location such as the kitchen table. Parents may sit and study or complete work of their own while students complete their work. Family study time works well as parents are close by to act as a resource should the student need it, and also to help keep the student focused on studying. Parents can easily sign the learning plan when assignments are completed.
4. American Prep recommends that parents review the academic scope and sequence received from their student’s teacher, then utilize the public library to have educational resources on hand at home that will serve to extend and expand the student’s learning on the subjects they are studying at school.

## **Academic Communication**

### **Classroom Disclosures**

1. At the beginning of each class, teachers will send home a disclosure for the class, explaining in some detail what topics will be covered and when, allowing parents to supplement and extend the student's learning at home.
2. A learning plan will be provided to each secondary student at the beginning of the school year. Students will be encouraged to use their learning plan to track school work, homework, project due dates, test dates, etc. Correctly utilized, the learning plan is also a good source of information for parents to learn what their student is studying.
3. Secondary parents and students may check on the status of assignments and grades at any time through Skyward.
4. Term final grades will be available online the week following the end of the term.

### **Communication with Students**

Communication with students by all adults in our community shall be undertaken with our school vision in mind:

1. To provide a safe, fun, nurturing learning environment that is safe physically and emotionally.
2. Positive communication will be used by all staff, at all times. Corrections, when necessary, shall be undertaken within the context of encouragement.
3. Positive communication will be taught in a concrete manner to students.
4. Positive communication will be modeled by staff for families and students.
5. Positive communication will be addressed through regular, written communication from the school administration.
6. Because we believe that achievement is most effectively achieved through properly reinforced effort, staff members will watch for opportunities to notice and acknowledge effort in a positive manner.
7. If a student needs to be corrected, it is best done in close proximity to the student using a normal voice tone and calm manner.
8. If a group of students is involved in a negative situation, staff members shall separate the students and counsel with them individually.
9. Communication with students will reinforce American Prep's culture of inclusiveness, kindness and teamwork.
10. Communication with students will characterize our belief in the unlimited value of each individual student to our school community.
11. It is APA policy that our staff not "friend" or accept "friend requests" from K-12 students or former minor students on social websites.

## **Academic Programs and Enrichment Activities**

American Preparatory Academy supports a number of academic and enrichment activities each year in which students from varying grade levels may participate. These may include: Spelling Bee, Geography Bee, Speech Festival, Science Fair, Robotics Club and others.

### **Winterim**

Winterim is a two- to three-week term that immediately follows Winter break. Secondary students will have the opportunity to choose three elective courses. Students will explore potential careers and participate in experiential learning opportunities in the Arts, Humanities, Science and Technology, History and Culture, and/or Fitness and Life Skills. By the end of Winterim, students may have completed the equivalent of a semester's worth of curriculum and have a completed, culminating project they can add to their resume or portfolio. In addition to the skills and knowledge gained, 7th-12th grade students who successfully complete Winterim with a "Pass" grade will receive .25 elective credits toward their high school graduation.



Students that struggle to maintain grade level may be required to take one or more academic acceleration courses during the Winterim term. Placement in these courses will be determined based on academic performance through the end of the second quarter. Parents will be notified of their student's placement in an academic accelerator course as indicated on the student's Winterim registration. Parents are always welcome to speak with the academic director about this and other options for helping their students maintain grade level performance.

AP courses will continue through Winterim.

## **Extra-Curricular Participation**

### **Academic Requirements**

*Academics are the priority at American Prep.* For initial eligibility, students will need to have a 2.0 GPA or higher from the grading period prior to tryouts, and students cannot have more than one F. Reports that show an "NC" or "I" will be calculated as an F. Students will need to show coaches that they meet requirements before they are allowed to try out for any sport within the school year. Grades will be checked a minimum of four times throughout the season to check for similar compliance. If a student ends a grading period below this standard they are immediately removed from all activities until they complete a grading period that is compliant with this standard. APA follows the National Federation of High Schools mandatory eligibility rules.

### **Behavior Requirements**

Students who receive a "first" suspension during their respective activity/term season due to behavior issues, which includes but is not limited to: disrespect, defiance or truancy, will not be allowed to participate in any activities during the suspension. If that same student receives a "second" suspension for any reason, they cannot participate in any activities for the remainder of that school year. If a student exhibits a pattern of misbehavior at any time during the year without requisite improvements, or is suspended for a safe school violation, that student will not be allowed to participate in American Prep athletics.

*Additional Requirements are listed in the Athletic Handbook as well as the Extracurricular Participation Policy.*

## **School Promotion Policy**

Administration may recommend for promotion all students who meet the criteria for promotion (see below). The administration will consider relevant data and information regarding the student's performance, including but not limited to: grades, attendance, academic achievement records including assessments, work product, learning plans and extenuating circumstances in order to determine if the student qualifies for promotion to the next grade.

In order to recommend promotion, the administration will utilize concrete data that the student demonstrates sufficient skills and content knowledge to be successful at the next grade level. If the student does not demonstrate sufficient skills and content knowledge (as evidenced by grades, test scores and other evaluative measures including but not limited to those listed above) to be successful at the next grade level, the student will not be recommended for promotion and will be offered a seat in the current grade for the following school year.

### **Promotion of Jr. High Students**

Jr. High Students must meet the minimum criteria for promotion each year. Teachers may *automatically* recommend a student for promotion only if the student meets the following criteria:

1. Student passed all subjects three quarters of the year with at least a D grade.

2. Student attended school a minimum of 160 days (less than 21 absences).
3. Student has not been suspended during the year.

### **Promotion of High School Students**

In order to assist students in their progress toward graduation and maintain the academic integrity of American Prep’s rigorous classical education, the High School promotion policy requires students to have completed all core subject credits each year to automatically qualify the student for promotion to the next grade level of coursework.

Core subjects at APA are Language Arts, Mathematics, History, and Science. Students must pass APA’s core courses, on campus, for at least two of four quarters of every core class each year.

Students that receive an F, NC, or I grade in any term in a core class must complete external credit recovery for that term’s credit in order to be promoted to the next grade. External credit recovery credits must be earned and reported to APA by July 15th each year for the student to qualify for promotion. **If a student fails three or more quarters of any core class, they do not qualify for promotion.** If a student completes credit recovery for more than two quarters, APA will accept the credit recovery, but it will not qualify the student for promotion nor fulfill APA's requirement for graduation.

### **High School Core Courses**

#### **9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Language Arts 9  
 Science  
 History  
 Leadership (4th)

#### **10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Language Arts 10  
 Science  
 History  
 Health (.5 credits)  
 Leadership (4th)

#### **11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Language Arts 11  
 Science  
 History  
 Financial Lit (.5 credits)  
 Leadership

#### **For graduation:**

#### **12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Language Arts 12  
 Science (if needed)  
 History  
 Senior Seminar  
 Leadership

### **Release Time**

Release time is available as an elective for certain students in certain grades. Release time may be selected as either a semester or full-year course.

### **Release time options**

- Religious Studies / LDS Seminary
- Work Release
- Internship

- Career Development
- Sports & Performing Arts
- Concurrent enrollment courses taken off site

### **Eligibility**

Students must meet eligibility requirements (see below) to enroll in release time. Students who do not maintain these requirements may be removed from release time at administrative discretion.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

1. Credits are on track for High School graduation
2. Consistent demonstration of independence, maturity, and autonomy
3. Consistent timeliness in departing from and arriving back to campus

### **Academic Failure**

We recognize that we cannot control student effort, participation, and willingness to work, nor parental participation. We feel it is our duty to provide all the tools necessary and do all we can to motivate students to succeed. *Ultimately, we recognize that student effort is controlled by the student and motivated by the parent, and after all we can do, academic success will not be the result if the student and/or parent is unwilling to do their part.*

If a student consistently fails to participate in the American Prep academic program, or if their parent fails to honor the Acceptance of Policy and/or Parent Compact, and after counseling with the student and parent and working to increase participation, the School Administration may recommend that the Governing Board hold a meeting with the family to discuss the areas of concern. Any of the following, and other violations of the Acceptance of Policy or Student or Parent Compacts or other school policies may result in a Governing Board meeting:

1. Students who fail the academic course of study as a result of lack of effort.
2. Students who display willful noncompliance as evidenced by failure to turn in consecutive assignments or participate in classwork.
3. Parents who are unwilling to review and sign the learning plan each day for students, and who fail to ensure their student completes assignments.
4. Parents who habitually deliver their children to school late, resulting in the student missing important academic learning time.

### **Online Course Policy**

APA's curriculum is aligned with and exceeds state standards. Students are provided opportunities to take all state mandated coursework during their 4 years of high school.

If a student chooses to take additional coursework, the state of Utah provides the State Online Education Program (SOEP). Information regarding the state program can be found here:

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/edonline/>

APA will allow a student to take one full credit of online coursework each summer between their high school years at no expense to the student. Courses must be taken through the state's program. Students may only take courses which are required for graduation. Counselor approval is required

before a student signs up for the course. APA reserves the right to deny access to a course without prior approval or if the course is not required for graduation. Students and parents are responsible to adhere to the rules of the state's program.

Any courses taken beyond the allowable credit are at the expense of the student. Courses may not be taken for credit recovery.

## V. Dress Code

### Beliefs and Guidelines

#### Our dress code is based on our belief that uniforms:

1. Increase respect for students by other students, staff, parents, and public
2. Decrease distractions in the learning environment
3. Increase respect for learning for students, parents, and staff
4. Simplify school readiness on a daily basis for parents and students
5. Prepare students for future success by teaching them professional dress

#### Our dress code was developed with these guidelines in mind:

1. Simplicity – as few pieces as necessary to achieve benefits listed above
2. Equity - Few optional pieces to avoid student distinctions
3. Affordability
4. Durability
5. Ease of implementation by students, parents and school staff

### Dress Code Policies

1. Students should be in school dress code clothing any time they are on school grounds during the school day, with the exception of PE and recess times.
2. Students must be in full uniform to enter class. If a student is missing a portion of their uniform, they may be referred to the office. The student will call home with the member of staff to inform parents that they are out of uniform. The student will receive a uniform infraction allowing them to finish the day in classes. Students have three opportunities per year to phone home and receive an infraction to remain in the class. After the third time being out of uniform if a student arrives to school without the complete uniform, they will be directed to the office to phone parents and wait until the missing uniform pieces are brought for them to return to class.
3. Nametags are supplied by American Preparatory Academy. Nametags are part of the required uniform and will be subject to APA uniform policies. Students are asked to leave their name tags at school at the end of each day so that they are less likely to be lost or forgotten. Lost name tags may be replaced for \$5.50 from the school office. Lost magnet backs may be replaced for \$1.

### Exemptions

Under the Utah Code, the school administrator is allowed to grant an exemption from complying with the dress code requirements to a student for extenuating circumstances or religious reasons. The administrator will carefully consider all requests for exemptions, and grant those which meet the standard of necessity. For instance, unusual medical circumstances might constitute an exemption, as may a religious requirement such as the wearing of a headpiece. The administrator is directed to develop individual dress guidelines which, insofar as is possible, approximate the approved dress code for each student who receives an exemption from the dress code due to extraordinary circumstances.

## **Uniform Guide Access**

Consult the American Prep 2022-23 Uniform Guide for details regarding the approved uniform. Uniform Guides are available at the school office and one is distributed to each family annually. You may also find the guide on the school's website at: [www.americanprep.org](https://www.americanprep.org) under the Parent Library tab, <https://www.americanprep.org/topic/uniforms/>.

*School administration has final discretion regarding uniform compliance and additional uniform rules may be added at any time during the school year. Students will call home every day they are not in compliance. Students may not be allowed to attend class if they are out of uniform.*

## **Financial Hardship; Other Hardship**

If a family is experiencing hardship, we encourage them to meet with a School Administrator who will be able to point them to resources in the community whereby they may find assistance. If a family is under financial hardship, they may contact a school administrator to discuss the ways in which American Prep may assist them in procuring uniforms for their student.

## **VI. Code of Conduct**

Students and staff at American Prep will conduct themselves in a respectful, honorable manner. Members of our community will respect the mission of American Prep, and this will be reflected in their conduct and interaction while on school premises.

**The school reserves the right to modify this procedure or sequence of consequences according to student need and as determined by the School Director or designee. For violations of the Code of Conduct which threaten the health, safety or welfare of others the School Director or designee may immediately suspend students and/or begin expulsion proceedings according to the Suspension/Expulsion portion of the Code of Conduct (available from the school office upon request).**

Parental support is vital to the success of the Code of Conduct as consequences out of school are often more effective in producing motivation than consequences imposed in school.

## **Core Principles**

1. All students and staff members benefit from a learning environment that is free from disruption and harassment, and one that is physically safe and emotionally nurturing. Students at American Prep will not be allowed to disrupt the learning process.
2. All students are capable of appropriate conduct in the school setting.
3. It is the responsibility of the teachers and administrators to explicitly teach the behaviors that are expected and the behaviors that are unacceptable to each student in each setting at the school.
4. It is the responsibility of the student to learn self-discipline and to adhere to the Code of Conduct.
5. It is the responsibility of the parent to fully participate in the process of teaching the student appropriate conduct and supporting disciplinary measures.

## **Goals**

1. All students will have access to a learning environment free from disruption and harassment.
2. Students will be physically safe at American Prep.
3. Students will be emotionally nurtured at American Prep.

4. Students will learn appropriate conduct by practicing self-discipline and will be able to generalize their understanding of appropriate conduct to situations other than those specifically and explicitly taught.
5. Discipline training will be utilized at American Prep. Discipline refers to the process of teaching positive behaviors and allowing students opportunities to practice those positive behaviors until they become proficient at controlling unproductive behavior. Student self-management is the goal of discipline training at APA.
6. Consequences imposed as a result of unproductive behavior will be meaningful and effective, with the goal always being that the student is motivated and empowered to improve his/her behavior.

## Dress

Students will dress according to the school Dress Code guidelines, exhibiting respect for themselves and others.

## Language and Communication

Students, staff, and parents are encouraged to speak at all times with respect and kindness. Language that is positive and promotes the mission of American Prep will be taught, modeled, and fostered. Students and staff will notice positive behavior in others, and will commend others for their efforts. Language that builds, supports, and encourages will be frequently and consistently used. Communication will be positive. When corrections need to be made by staff members, this will be done privately whenever possible, and always in a respectful, kind manner. Positive language and encouragement will follow any necessary corrections. Gratitude will be expressed frequently and consistently by students and staff, both in word and in written form.

If parents are made aware of inappropriate communication or language of a staff member, either first-hand or by report of their student, ***we ask that they contact a member of the school administration immediately.*** Staff members are not to speak to students regarding topics such as human sexuality (with the exception of specified classes and utilizing approved curriculum). Staff members are not to discuss topics that may be considered crude or offensive to students or others. Staff members may not violate generally accepted community standards of decency. Staff members should take care to refrain from using slang that may be offensive to students' religious beliefs.

Staff should never direct students to keep information secret from their parents regarding what happens in a classroom, at the school or regarding something the teacher has said. Doing so is justification for immediate removal. If parents are made aware that this has happened, we ask that you notify administration immediately.

Parents are expected to communicate with all staff members in a professional and respectful manner. This includes, but is not limited to, refraining from verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct that is intended to intimidate or distress an employee (Utah State Code §53G-9-6-601). Administration is willing and eager to listen to, address, and resolve all parent concerns. If at any time communication becomes unprofessional or disrespectful from either party, the staff member or parent may ask to resume communication at a later time.

## Behavior

**Comportment** – Students and staff will demonstrate correct behavior with regard to their physical selves. Hands and feet will be kept to oneself, and respect will be shown by walking in an orderly manner in the hallways and in other school areas. Interaction will be friendly and helpful, without horseplay or other physical demonstrations that are inappropriate. Gang prevention and intervention activities are incorporated into American Prep's Behavior Code and Character Education programs (see [Virtuous Character Development](#)).

**Abusive Conduct** – The verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a parent or student directed toward a school employee that, based on its severity, nature, and frequency of occurrence, a reasonable person would determine is intended to cause intimidation, humiliation, or unwarranted distress. Staff who have experienced abusive conduct from a student may follow procedures outlined in the Staff Manual to file a grievance.

**Bullying** -American Prep defines bullying as a repeated pattern of disrespect shown toward classmates, displayed as physical or verbal aggression, domination or disrespect. Bullying of any type is not permitted at American Prep. No form of aggressive physical interaction among students is acceptable. Verbal threats, even when couched in “jokes”, are not tolerated and will be disciplined. Sarcasm and teasing may be considered bullying. Eye rolling, shoulder shrugging, and audible sighs may be considered bullying behavior. School staff will assess interactions and determine if behavior is considered “bullying” based upon what a reasonable adult would consider offensive behavior which has made or has the potential to make the school environment uncomfortable or hostile for the student.

**Hazing** - Hazing is a form of bullying that is done for the purpose of initiation or admission into, any school or school sponsored team organization, program, or event, or against a person who is associated with such. Victim consent or acquiescence does not remove culpability or diminish consequences for any form of bullying, and any instances will be addressed according to the Code of Conduct.

**Electronic Bullying** - American Prep defines electronic bullying as acts which are initiated by students, often outside of school hours using the internet, instant messaging, email or cell phone texting, which target other students, teachers or staff members and in which student, teachers or staff are spoken of or to in a negative or threatening manner. When these acts result in students or staff feeling uncomfortable about attending school, a hostile school environment has been created. We believe it is our responsibility to ensure that all students and staff feel comfortable and welcome at American Prep, and therefore American Prep considers these acts as bullying and we may initiate discipline procedures and parent notification if they occur.

Students should not take pictures or recordings of classes, school activities, classmates, or school property without express written permission of the school administration and those whose pictures they take. Posting online or distributing in any other way pictures or movies of school classes, school events or classmates without permission is a violation of the code of conduct that warrants suspension and/or expulsion.

**Gang Prevention and Intervention** - American Prep is a welcoming and safe campus. We do not tolerate gang affiliations, symbols, graffiti, recruiting, initiations, or other gang-related activities at our campus. School faculty and personnel are trained to recognize early warning signs for youth in trouble. Faculty and personnel report suspected gang activity to school administrators who will investigate all reports. The parent/guardian will be notified. Other actions may include suspension, expulsion, activity restriction, restorative compensation, and law enforcement notification.

**Sexual Conduct** - Any form of sexual conduct is prohibited at American Prep including all sexual behavior even when consensual. These standards are enforced at all times on the school campus and extend to off-campus events or activities when sponsored by or connected to American Prep. Students who report sexual abuse or unwanted sexual contact shall not be penalized for reporting the behavior and American Prep will not tolerate retaliation from those involved in the abuse.

**Safe Environment for All** - We believe it is our responsibility to ensure that all students and staff feel comfortable and welcome at American Prep, and therefore, American Prep will promptly investigate reports of negative behaviors impacting school safety. These reports will be considered by the Administrative Director or Elementary Director, and for those found to have exhibited destructive negative behaviors, may result in: an office referral/infraction record, development of a behavior modification plan, suspension, reassignment, expulsion, dismissal, or other appropriate measure

(see [Secondary Discipline Plan](#)). Law enforcement will be informed of all acts that constitute suspected criminal activity. The Office of Civil Rights will be notified of all acts that may be violations of civil rights.

**Parent Notification** - When a report of negative, non-building or bullying behavior leads to the creation of an office behavioral form, parents of involved students will be contacted and the issue will be discussed. Parents will be required to sign and return the form to the school. Parent Intervention or other involvement may be required in resolving the behavior (see [Parent Intervention Guidelines](#)).

When a student reports physical harm or feels threatened at school, directors will contact the individual's parents. Discipline measures may be revealed to the extent permitted by federal and state law, including the FERPA Act, as amended.

When a student expresses emotional distress including any type of self-harm, suicidal ideation, or other psychological distress, parents will be promptly notified.

**Reporting** - Any student, parent, or staff member may report an incident of negative, non-building or bullying behavior to a teacher or to the appropriate school director. Anonymous reports will be investigated, but disciplinary action will not occur in the absence of additional evidence.

**False reports are prohibited. School officials will respond appropriately.**

**Retaliation** - Any student, parent, or staff member who reports an incident of harassment shall not be penalized for reporting the behavior. American Prep will not tolerate retaliation from those involved in the abuse, and any such incidents will be reported to the appropriate school director.

**Discipline Records** – Discipline records will not be disclosed to a person who is not authorized to receive the record. The district Records Management Officer assures that discipline records are maintained, retained, and destroyed according to GRAMA laws, the district's student data privacy policy, and the Records Retention Schedule of the state of Utah. Aggregated, non-identifying student behavior data is analyzed annually for school improvement and is provided bi-annually as required by the federal Office of Civil Rights.

**Parent Intervention** - A parent will attend school with the student and follow the Parent Intervention Guidelines.

**Suspension** - Suspension means the student is not allowed to attend class or any school activities for a specified period of time. Suspension shall be from one to ten days maximum.

**Expulsion** – Student is removed from enrollment of American Preparatory Academy.

**Willful Non-compliance:** Students who refuse to participate in the programs of American Prep, or who fail to complete the consequences imposed by administration.

**Truancy:** Failure to attend school. Utah is a compulsory education state. Students are required by law to attend school each day. If students chronically fail to attend school, defined by American Prep as missing more than three days per year with no communication from the parent regarding the absence, American Prep will report this information to a truancy officer.

### **Academic Integrity**

One of the foundational beliefs at American Preparatory Academy is that students can achieve excellence both in academics and in character. Success in college and in a chosen career is contingent on individuals producing their own work and ideas. Cheating and/or plagiarism are not tolerated at American Prep.



**Cheating:** Obtaining or attempting to obtain, or aiding another to obtain credit for work, or any improvement in evaluation of performance, by any dishonest or deceptive means.

**Plagiarism:** The act of using the ideas or work of another person or persons as if they were one's own without giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism includes: copying work from any online source and submitting for credit, copying from another student's homework, quiz, or test; discussing answers or questions on a quiz or test (unless such discussion is specifically authorized by the teacher); obtaining or making copies of a test without authorization from the teacher; using notes on a quiz or test when not specifically authorized by the teacher; or other similar activity; failing to put a quotation in quotation marks and using proper citation, etc. **It is expected that students will acknowledge sources in work submitted for grading.** If it is clear a student has cheated or copied someone else's work and turned it in as his/her own, the student is subject to the following consequences:

1. Work that has been compromised by academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, or reporting dishonest scores will receive no credit and the student may not have the opportunity to redo the assignment for points.
2. On the first offense, a student who has participated in any form of academic dishonesty as outlined above shall receive an Office Behavioral Form and may be suspended for one day; and
3. On the second or subsequent offense of academic dishonesty, the student shall receive an Office Behavioral Form and may receive a multiple-day suspension and he/she may be required to attend an expulsion hearing before a discipline council.

### **Infractions**

The following behaviors are considered infractions of the Code of Conduct. This is not an exhaustive list and the school administration may deem other actions or behaviors violations of the Code of Conduct:

1. Any behavior or action which materially and substantially disrupts school work and discipline
2. Disruption of the learning environment, including speaking in class without permission
3. Lack of control of hands or feet – pushing, hitting, kicking, tripping etc. without malice - horseplay
4. Lack of control of hands or feet – with malice or perceived malice
5. Use of profane or offensive language
6. Disrespect, defiance or insolence toward staff
7. Disrespect shown toward classmates (including bullying and electronic bullying)
8. Abusing, misusing or destruction of property
9. Physical or verbal harassment
10. Possession of a banned item (see [Banned Items list](#))
11. Academic Dishonesty - Cheating/Plagiarism
12. Stealing
13. Leaving school premises without permission
14. Skipping class
15. Arriving tardy to class
16. Littering
17. Chewing gum
18. Appearing out of uniform

19. Truancy (not attending school without parent permission)
20. Sexual harassment
21. Possession of any of the following (see [Banned Item list](#) for full list of items)
  - a) Perfumed/deodorant sprays
  - b) Caffeine Pills/Energy Drinks/Sleep pills
  - c) Any non-prescription medication that is not approved through school policy/procedures (see [Health and Safety](#))
  - d) Permanent Markers (except by teacher permission)

### **Banned Items**

Weapons and dangerous substances are not allowed on the premises of American Prep. Possession of any of the following items may be grounds for immediate expulsion:

- Drug paraphernalia, including vape batteries, devices, or accessories
- Controlled substances
  - narcotics
  - tobacco, cigarettes, e-cigarettes/vapes, and other electronic smoking devices
  - Alcohol
  - prescription medications
- Weapons, including real weapons or look-alike weapons
  - Toy guns (Nerf, Rubber band Shooters, Airsoft, etc.)
  - Any explosive, noxious, or flammable material (including aerosol cans, such as deodorant sprays)
  - Matches or lighters
  - Bullets
  - Knives or other cutting tools (other than school scissors)
- Sexually explicit material – written, pictorial, or electronic including nude depictions of either gender in a sexual content.

### **Technology Usage Policy**

All students who wish to use computers at American Prep must sign the technology usage agreement before they are eligible to utilize American Prep computers.

### **Valuables, Electronic Devices and Games**

It is not recommended that students or staff bring valuables onto the school campus. American Prep cannot be responsible for damage to or loss of cell phones or other valuable items such as smartwatches and AirPods. Electronic devices are not allowed at American Prep and will be confiscated by faculty if found on campus. Cell phones, which can include smart watches, are distracting to our academic efforts at American Prep and can be impactful to our safe school culture. Students may not use their cell phone once they enter the school building and until they leave the building at the end of the day. In addition, students may not have their phones in their possession during the day and must leave their phones in their locker if they chose to bring them to school. This policy extends to smart watches.

1. If a student is found using a cell phone or other prohibited device or has possession of a cell phone while in the building, faculty will confiscate the phone or device and turn it into the JH or HS office respectively. The procedure regarding confiscation of a cell phone/device is

as follows, and applies to phones/devices in the student's possession regardless of ownership of the phone/device: The first time a phone or device is confiscated, the student may retrieve it from the office at the end of the day;

2. The second time a phone or device is confiscated, a parent or guardian must retrieve it from an administrator;
3. The third time a phone or device is confiscated, the student will receive a 1-day suspension.
4. On the fourth infraction, the student will receive a 2-day suspension.
5. Further infractions may result in increasing terms of suspension and meetings with administration.

If a student has an urgent need to communicate with their parent, they can approach a staff member and ask permission to go to the secretary's office. Calling parents to check when they will arrive, to ask where they are, or to tell them something about their day are not urgent needs.

## **Secondary Discipline Plan**

### **Generally Utilized Infraction Procedure**

1. Student may receive a verbal warning from a staff member who witnesses the infraction.
2. Staff members who witness the infraction will determine if an infraction referral is warranted.
3. If the infraction warrants a referral, the student will report to the Secondary Administration office to receive a referral form.
4. The staff member who witnessed the infraction will make the referral to a secondary administrator.

### **Referral Process**

1. **Administrative conference with student, contact parents** - Parental support is vital to the success of the Code of Conduct as consequences out of school are often more effective in producing motivation than consequences imposed in school. It is the parent's role as the school's partner to have a home consequence prepared that will discourage the behavior from recurring.
2. **Teaching and Instruction** - The school provides to each family annually the Parent-Student Handbook, which contains the Code of Conduct. Parents and students are asked to review the Handbook and sign the "Receipt of Handbook" demonstrating they have fulfilled this requirement. The first step in the discipline process is conferencing with the student and reviewing the Code of Conduct to ensure the student knows and understands the violation of the Code of Conduct.
3. **Application of consequence** - Student will make amends to those offended or impacted. Amends may include verbal apologies, written apologies, restitution of property, and other amends as determined appropriate by the teacher or school administration.
  - First Offense: Parent Intervention (parent attends school with student)
  - Second Offense: Short-term suspension (1 day)
  - Third Offense: Short-term suspension (3 days)
  - Fourth Offense: Long-term suspension (10 days) and review of potential expulsion proceedings

*Students who physically harm other students will not be allowed to remain in the classroom. American Prep does not have a form of "in-school" suspension. If a student is not able or allowed to attend class due to his/her inability to properly participate or as a result of a discipline referral, a Parent Intervention (Code of Conduct: Parent Intervention Guidelines) or a Suspension will occur.*

## **Parent Intervention Guidelines**

### **Goals**

Allow the parent the opportunity to view their student in their learning activities at school so they can provide the needed supports and structures at

home to assist the student in finding success at school. Students requiring a Parent Intervention may not be allowed to attend class or be on school premises until the intervention is completed.

Engage the student's parent to assist the student in learning:

1. How to stay focused on doing their best on all of their work.
2. How to be respectful to the teacher and focus on learning.
3. How to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner in each learning environment at school.

Review with the parent and student what is expected of the student at school each day

1. Students at APA are expected to do their best on all work.
2. Students are expected to respect the teacher and focus on learning.
3. Students are expected to govern themselves and control themselves in all situations at school.

### **Parent Duties**

1. Stay with the student – sit close to their student's desk during class time, transition with the student.
2. Fill out the data tracking form for Parent Interventions.
3. Re-direct the student back to learning whenever necessary.
4. Teach the student how to show respect to the teacher (i.e.: eyes on the teacher, feet flat on the floor, mouth closed, hands on the desk, etc.)
5. Help the student to see the value in self-control and self-governance.
6. Take any/all opportunities to notice good behaviors and teach correct behaviors during learning time, transitions, lunch, recess, etc.
7. Instill in their student the desire for success at school through establishment of meaningful rewards and consequences.
8. Parents should focus on their child's behavior and not interfere with the teaching and learning environment.
9. Parents should refrain from being on cell phones or computers during this Parent Intervention time.

*At the end of the intervention, the teacher, student and parent will meet to discuss the positive effects of the intervention and help the student set goals for a successful school year. If more coaching is needed, parents will be invited back to coach for an extended period of time.*

## **Suspension and Expulsion Policy**

### **Definitions**

- a) "Director" means the Director of American Preparatory Academy or his/her designee.
- b) "Governing Board" means the Governing Board of American Preparatory Academy, which is the governing body that has authority under the law to suspend or expel students attending APA and to delegate this authority to a designee of the Governing Board's choice.
- c) "Disciplinary Committee" means a committee of five parents, chosen from among the parent volunteers listed as eligible by campus Administrators and annually reviewed by the Governing Board at American Preparatory Academy.
- d) "Expel," "expulsion," "expelled", or another form of the foregoing means termination of educational services and removal from American Preparatory Academy.
- e) "Long-term suspension" means a suspension lasting longer than 10 days, but not removal from American Preparatory Academy.
- f) "Parent" means the custodial parent(s) or guardian of a student attending American Preparatory Academy.
- g) "School day" means a day in which school is scheduled to convene in regular session.

- h) “Short-term suspension” means a suspension of 10 days or fewer.
- i) “Student” means a student of American Preparatory Academy who is not disabled as that term is defined under Federal law.
- j) “Disruptive Student Behavior” means any behaviors as defined in 53G-8-210 that are grounds for suspension or expulsion from school as well as behavior that does not warrant removal.
- k) “Qualifying minor” means a school-age minor who is at least 9 years old or turns 9 years old at any time during the school year.

**When student behavior violates the Code of Conduct, school administration may determine that a suspension or expulsion is warranted and necessary to successfully implement the mission of the school.**

## **Short-term Suspension**

### **Delegation of Authority**

The Governing Board delegates the authority to the Director to issue short-term suspensions.

### **Notice and Hearing**

- a) Upon determining that a student’s conduct may warrant short-term suspension, the Director or his/her designee shall convene an informal hearing at which the Director shall notify the student of the following:
  1. the specific rule(s) in the student code of conduct that the student has allegedly violated; and
  2. the specific conduct in which the student has engaged that violates the student code of conduct.

The Director shall make reasonable efforts to immediately notify the student’s parent regarding the allegations against the student and the time of the hearing. However, if the Director is unable to contact the student’s parent, or if the student’s parent is unable to meet with the Director either in person or by telephone at the appointed time of the hearing, the hearing between the Director and the student shall proceed. The Director, in his/her sole discretion, may convene the aforementioned hearing immediately after the alleged violation of the student code of conduct.

- b) During the hearing, in addition to the requirements stated above in (a), the Director shall provide the student an opportunity to respond to the allegations that the student violated the student code of conduct. However, in responding to the allegations, the student does not have the right to:
  1. take time to prepare a defense
  2. call witnesses to testify in their favor;
  3. know the identity of or cross-examine witnesses who have complained against the student;
  4. have counsel present; or
  5. remain silent, such that a student’s refusal to speak may be interpreted as an admission of having engaged in the prohibited conduct.
- c) After hearing the student’s response, the Director shall determine whether a short-term suspension is warranted by a preponderance of the evidence. If so, the Director shall establish the duration of the short-term suspension. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Director determines that the student’s presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property at American Preparatory Academy, the Director may impose a short-term suspension before convening a hearing. However, the Director shall comply with the hearing procedures in paragraphs (a)-(c) as soon as is reasonably practicable after the danger subsides.
- d) After rendering a decision, the Director shall document the hearing in writing or on a permanent computer file.

- e) Upon the Director’s determination that a short-term suspension is warranted, the student shall be deemed suspended and shall be required to leave the school grounds immediately, provided that the Director has determined the best way to transfer custody of the student to the parent or guardian, emergency contact, or other person authorized by the parent to accept custody of the student.
- f) During the term of the short-term suspension:
  - 1. the student may not enter in or on the property of American Preparatory Academy, unless the Director grants prior approval;
  - 2. the student’s absence from class will be considered unexcused; and
  - 3. the student will be allowed to make up any work or tests missed during the short-term suspension, but such work may not be identical to that received by students attending class. (see Utah Code Ann. § 53G-8-208(1))
- g. The Director, at his/her sole discretion, may allow for more formal hearing procedures than those stated above, but is not required to do so. During the term of the short-term suspension, the Director may also recommend to the Disciplinary Committee that the student either be placed on long-term suspension or expelled.

### **Long-term Suspension and Expulsion**

#### **Delegation of Authority**

The Governing Board delegates authority to the Disciplinary Committee to have original jurisdiction over cases for long-term suspension and expulsion. If the Disciplinary Committee finds against the student, such decision may be appealed to the Governing Board. A student must exhaust his/her administrative remedies by appealing the Disciplinary Committee’s decision to the Governing Board before appealing to a court of competent jurisdiction the decision to expel or place the student on long-term suspension.

#### **Notice**

- a) Except as provided in the Emergency Suspensions and Expulsions section, prior to expelling or placing a student on long-term suspension, the Director shall deliver notice to the student and his/her parent or his/her designee The Notice of Hearing for Disciplinary Action notice shall contain:
  - 1. A clear statement of the school’s intent to consider disciplinary measures that may result in the long-term suspension or expulsion of the student;
  - 2. A clear statement of intent to hold a disciplinary hearing wherein further disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, will be considered. The specific rule(s) in the student code of conduct that the student has allegedly violated;
  - 3. the specific conduct in which the student has engaged that allegedly violates the student code of conduct;
  - 4. the date, time, and place of the hearing, which shall take place no less than 5 school days from the date parents receive the written notice, unless the parents and the Director shall agree otherwise in writing;
  - 5. a copy of the hearing procedures to be followed; and
  - 6. a clear statement of the rights of the student and parent, which are:
    - i. the right to counsel, which the student must obtain at his/her own expense;
    - ii. the right to present witnesses who voluntarily agree to testify in behalf of the accused student;
    - iii. the right to have the hearing recorded;
    - iv. the right to a fair hearing before an impartial panel of the Disciplinary Committee.

- b) Even if the parent of the accused student does not dispute the expulsion or the long-term suspension, a hearing will be held unless the parent signs a written waiver of hearing.

### **Emergency Suspensions and Expulsions**

- a) A student shall be immediately expelled or placed on long-term suspension for any of the following reasons:
1. if the student commits any serious violation affecting another student or staff member, or any serious violation occurring in a school building, in or on school property, or in conjunction with any school activity, including:
    - i. the possession, control, or actual or threatened use of a real weapon, explosive, or noxious, or flammable material;
    - ii. the actual or threatened use of a look-alike weapon with intent to intimidate another person or to disrupt normal school activities; or
    - iii. the sale, control, or distribution of a drug or controlled substance as defined in Utah Code Annotated § 58-37-2, an imitation controlled substance defined in Utah Code Annotated § 58-37b-2, or drug paraphernalia as defined in Utah Code Annotated § 58-37a-3; or
    - iv. the destruction of school property, vandalism, graffiti, or etching as defined by Utah Code Annotated §76-6-107
  2. if the student commits an act involving the use of force or the threatened use of force which if committed by an adult would be a felony or a class A misdemeanor.
- b) A student who commits a violation of section (a)(1)(ii) or (a)(1)(iii) involving a real or look-alike weapon, explosive, or flammable material shall be expelled from school for a period of not less than one year subject to the following:
1. within 10 school days after the expulsion, the student shall appear before the Disciplinary Committee accompanied by a parent or legal guardian to discuss what conditions must be met by the student and the parent in order for the student to return to school. The provisions discussed above in subsection (a) of the Notice section do not apply to the cases described in this subsection;
    - i. if the student should be placed on probation in a regular or alternative school setting consistent with Utah Code Annotated § 53G-8-208, and what conditions must be met by the student in order to ensure the safety of students and faculty at the school in which the student is placed; and
    - ii. if it would be in the best interest of both APA and the student to modify the expulsion term to less than one-year, conditioned on approval by the Governing Board and giving highest priority to providing a safe school environment for all students.
- c) A student who commits a violation of section (a)(1)(iii) or (a)(2) shall be immediately suspended for no more than 20 school days, during which time the Director shall issue the notice required under subsection (a) of the Notice section. A hearing shall be convened, as discussed below, which will determine whether to expel the student or place him/her on further long-term suspension.

### **Disruptive Behavior**

#### Definitions

- a) “Disruptive Student Behavior” means any behaviors as defined in 53G-8-210 that are grounds for suspension or expulsion from school as well as behavior that does not warrant removal
- b) “Habitual Disruptive Behavior” means disruptive student behavior that has occurred six or more times, absent suspensions or expulsions, throughout the school year. Suspensions or Expulsions due to disruptive behavior may reduce the number of incidents required to qualify as habitual.
- c) “Qualifying minor” means a student in 7th grade through 12th grade.

### Notice of Disruptive Student Behavior

1. A notice of disruptive student behavior may be issued for a qualifying minor who:
  - a. engages in disruptive student behavior, that does not result in suspension or expulsion, three times during the school year; or
  - b. engages in disruptive student behavior, that results in suspension or expulsion, once during the school year;
2. A notice of Disruptive Student Behavior requires that the qualifying minor and a parent of the qualifying minor:
  - a. meet with school Administrators to discuss the qualifying minor's disruptive student behavior; and
  - b. cooperate with the local school board or charter school governing board in correcting the qualifying minor's disruptive student behavior; and
  - c. must be mailed by certified mail to, or served on, a parent of the qualifying minor.
3. The student and/or parent may contest a Notice of Disruptive Student Behavior in the following manner:
  - a. If the notice is written by an assistant administrator or another designee, the appeal is made to the principal;
  - b. If the notice is written by the principal, the appeal is made to the district coordinator assigned to that school.
4. A school representative will provide to the student's parent a list of resources available to assist the parent in resolving the student's disruptive behavior problem.

### Habitual Disruptive Student Behavior

1. The Habitual Disruptive Student Behavior may only be issued to a student who has received a Notice of Disruptive Student Behavior and:
  - a. engages in disruptive behavior (that does not result in suspension or expulsion) at least 6 times during the school year;
  - b. engages in disruptive behavior that does not result in suspension or expulsion at least 3 times during the school year and engages in disruptive behavior that results in suspension or expulsion, at least once during the school year; or
  - c. engages in disruptive behavior that results in suspension or expulsion, at least twice during the school year.

### Hearing Procedures

- a) During the hearing, the Director either in person or through his/her duly appointed representative shall bear the burden of proving, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the accused student perpetrated the violation of the code of student conduct for which long-term suspension or expulsion is sought. Accordingly, the Director shall begin the proceedings by making a prima facie showing that the student violated the code of student conduct.
- b) After the Director has rested, the Disciplinary Committee shall provide the accused student the opportunity to rebut the evidence provided by the Director. At all times during the hearing, the Director carries the burden of persuasion.
- c) The Disciplinary Committee's decision may not be based entirely on hearsay, although hearsay evidence is admissible. The Utah Rules of Evidence will not control the presentation of evidence at the hearing. The presiding officer of the Disciplinary Committee has discretion to determine whether evidence is admissible.
- d) After hearing all of the evidence, the Disciplinary Committee shall make a determination of whether to expel the student or place him/her on long-term suspension based solely on the evidence provided at the hearing and only for those charges alleged in the notice.
- e) The Disciplinary Committee shall issue written findings of fact and conclusions of law that establish the basis for the decision. If the Disciplinary Committee finds in favor of the student, the Director may not appeal the decision to the Governing Board. If the Disciplinary Committee issues a decision to expel or place the student on long-term suspension, the student may appeal the decision to the Governing Board as discussed below.



### **Appeal to the Governing Board**

- a) If a student seeks to appeal the decision of the Disciplinary Committee to the Governing Board, the student must file his/her notice of appeal with the Governing Board within 10 school days after receiving the Disciplinary Committee's decision.
- b) The notice of appeal shall contain a concise statement of reasons why the Disciplinary Committee's decision was incorrect. However, the student may not request a stay of the Disciplinary Committee's decision.
- c) If the student disputes the Disciplinary Committee's findings of fact, the Governing Board shall exercise de novo review by issuing a formal notice to the student as stated in subsection (a) of the Notice section and by convening a hearing within 5 school days of the student receiving the aforementioned notice, unless the parties agree otherwise in writing. The hearing shall follow the same procedures discussed above in the Hearing Procedure section.
- d) If the student does not dispute the Disciplinary Committee's findings of fact, but instead disputes only the Disciplinary Committee's conclusions of law or the duration of the punishment, the Governing Board may provide the Director with the opportunity to respond in writing to the student's statement of reasons, which response shall be served upon the student. The Governing Board may review the submissions of the parties and the entire record before the Disciplinary Committee and issue a decision without a hearing. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Governing Board may, in its sole discretion, convene a hearing to address any matters the Governing Board deems necessary. Prior to convening such a hearing, the Governing Board shall issue the student a notice as discussed in the Notice section and shall convene the hearing no later than 5 school days after the student received the notice, unless the parties agree otherwise in writing.
- e) The Governing Board shall issue a written decision affirming or reversing the Disciplinary Committee's decision. If affirmed, the decision is the final decision of APA and may be appealed to a court of competent jurisdiction.

### **Effect of Long-term Suspension of Expulsion**

- a) If the student is suspended or expelled, the student may not enter into or upon the property of American Preparatory Academy without prior permission from the Director.
- b) If expelled or placed on long-term suspension, the student's parent is solely responsible for undertaking an alternative education plan which will ensure that the student's education continues during the period of suspension or expulsion. The Director, or his/her designee, shall work with the parent of the suspended or expelled student to counsel the parent as to adequate alternative education options for the suspended or expelled student. However, APA will not provide the student placed on long-term suspension with the opportunity to make up work that the student missed during the duration of the suspension, and such absences resulting from suspension will be considered unexcused.
- c) The Governing Board shall maintain a record of all suspended or expelled students and a notation of the recorded suspension or expulsion shall be attached to the suspended or expelled student's transcript.
- d) The Governing Board or its designee shall contact the parent of the suspended or expelled student at least once a month to determine the student's progress.
- e) The Governing Board shall be responsible for making all reports required by the Utah State Office of Education regarding students who are suspended or expelled.

## **VII. Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

### **Non-custodial parent/guardian**

American Prep abides by the provisions of the Buckley Amendment with respect to the rights of noncustodial parents. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, the school will provide the non-custodial parent access to the academic records and to other school-related information regarding the student. If there is a court order specifying that there is to be no information given, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the school with an official copy of the court order.

Likewise, non-custodial parents will have access to students during school hours in the same way that custodial parents do (including picking up the student from school) unless documentation to the contrary is presented to the school. It is the responsibility of the parents to provide the school with the appropriate documentation.

### **Caregivers (Temporary Guardian)**

If parents are going on vacation, over school days and will not be available in the case of an emergency or to pick up their student, the name of the temporary guardian and contact information must be provided to the front office and added to the student's registration card so the guardian can pick the student up from school, if necessary, while parents are away. Parents should also leave a completed medical permission to treat form with the guardian in case there is need for medical attention for the student while the parents are not available.

### **Visitors**

Visitors are welcome at American Prep. Visitors must sign in at either the Junior High office or the High School office. Visitors must wear a Visitor's Badge while they are in the school. Visitors are welcome to visit at any time to observe the instructional process. Parents wishing to observe a class should check in with the administrator, who will take them to the classroom and ensure they have a seat and will signal to the teacher that the visitor intends to observe the class. Visitors should not involve themselves in the classroom. We ask that visitors not bring small children to observe in the classroom. Visitors who are a student from another school or a minor must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or obtain approval from the administration.

### **Volunteer Guidelines**

American Prep asks families to provide volunteer service at the school. We consistently log impressive volunteer hours every year, thanks to our INCREDIBLE families and their generous gift of time and talents. This extraordinary service makes it possible for our students to have an outstanding educational experience, which would not be possible without our volunteers' assistance. THANK YOU, parents!!

Volunteers are needed for help in classrooms, in the offices and for special activities and programs. We encourage parents to sign up for what activities they might like to participate in each fall at Parent Orientation, where the FSO (family school organization) will have tables set up for parents to sign up. If you would like to volunteer, please contact your student's teacher or the office personnel. Some of the ways parents can volunteer:

- 1) FSO (Family Student Organization) Committee - help coordinate all volunteer efforts at our campus
- 2) Classroom Volunteer
  - a) Librarian - helps check library books in and out to students

- b) Lunch assistant - this is particularly helpful in K-2 classrooms
- c) Correcting papers, give other support as directed by teacher
- 3) Staff Appreciation
  - a) Bringing meals for teachers (during Parent Teacher Conferences, Staff appreciation week, Holiday party)
  - b) Activities during staff appreciation week
- 4) School General Volunteer
  - a) Help in curriculum room
  - b) Newsletter
  - c) Reading University Store
  - d) Facility Support
  - e) Club Coordinator
- 5) School Events
  - a) Spelling Bee
  - b) Geography Bee
  - c) Speech Festival
  - d) Science Fair
  - e) Veterans Day Assembly
  - f) Builders Assembly
  - g) Memorial Day Assembly
  - h) Field Day
  - i) Field Trips
- 6) Community Building Events
  - a) Fall Festival
  - b) Holiday Boutique
  - c) Spring Fun Run

It is important that volunteers work together as team members with American Prep staff members. The following guidelines are helpful in ensuring that volunteer service is a positive experience for parents and is effective for our students.

- Volunteers must sign in and out at the front office, get a Visitor's badge and wear it during the time in the building volunteering.
- Volunteer Dress & Behavior – please dress appropriately. The more we show respect for our school, the more respect the students will feel toward the school. American Prep's dress code is reflective of a high level of respect. We encourage volunteers to reflect this same level of respect in their own appearance when they volunteer at the school.
- Volunteers work under the supervision of staff.
- As a matter of professional ethics, and personal privacy, volunteers should not discuss teacher, student or school information gained while volunteering with other people. It is extremely important that confidentiality be upheld at all times. Administrators have the same expectations of confidentiality from volunteers as they do from the American Prep staff.
- Volunteers may be asked to grade student papers, and it is imperative that student work is ONLY discussed with the teacher or student, if directed by the teacher, and no one else.

- For our volunteers' protection, they should avoid being alone with one or two students. If this is unavoidable, volunteers should be sure and keep the door open or move to a hallway to work.
- Student Discipline: Volunteers have a responsibility to inform staff if there is a problem with student behavior. Volunteers should not discipline a child unless they are expressly instructed to do so by the supervising staff member.
- When volunteers are scheduled to work in the classroom with students, bringing young children is not recommended as they may become a distraction in the classroom. When coming to a meeting or a group work activity, bringing younger siblings may be acceptable.
- Volunteers have no claim to intellectual property created during their volunteer service at American Prep.

### **Drivers and Chaperones**

Parents may be asked to volunteer as chaperones and drivers. At APA we value our students' safety above all else. In order to make sure that our staff and parent volunteers are obeying the safety requirements set forth by APA and Utah State Law, we require anyone driving students in their personal or APA-owned vehicles to undergo a thorough driver certification process.

#### **Certification requirements are:**

1. A current copy of your driver's license
2. A current copy of car insurance card - the one you carry in your car with the expiration date in the future (must be updated before each activity)
3. An auto insurance policy declaration page (\$150,000 minimum Auto Liability Limit required)
4. Fill out an Employee/Volunteer Driver Acknowledgement form (available from the office)
5. Review "Booster Seat Flyer"

## **Parent to School Communication**

### **Guidelines**

Communication at American Prep, as outlined in our school vision, will be positively framed and undertaken in good faith by all parties. Anyone with a question or concern is to take it to the person most able to address it and to no one else. This allows for all members of the community to feel safe and valued, and to have confidence that all concerns will be addressed to the point of satisfaction. Feedback from all stakeholders is essential for the school to be continually engaged in a process of improvement, and feedback is more likely to be shared freely when stakeholders are confident their feedback will be carefully heard and addressed.

***We acknowledge the many familial relations at American Prep.*** Our school was founded by a group of individuals, including family members and friends. Many of our employees have children or grandchildren who attend the school, and some of the employees are related to other employees. The advantage of having families included in our school structure is an elevated commitment level that is the result of serving our own children and the children of esteemed colleagues. Thus, the school is not just someone's "job," but is also a reflection of many family legacies and a commitment to something above and beyond the ordinary. This philosophy extends to all the families that have joined APA and brought their children, relatives and friends to invest their energies and become part of what we call the "American Prep Family." We realize that this environment may make some individuals hesitant to voice concerns. We assure you that we are dedicated to managing familial relationships professionally and addressing all concerns brought to us. We have provided a multi-level communication list with which to have your concerns addressed, so that if there is someone on the first step of the list you are uncomfortable bringing a concern to, perhaps due to a family conflict, you can move down the list to the 2nd

person and start there instead. All administrators and teachers at American Prep are committed to serving our parents in an excellent way. We hope you will bring your concerns to us so that they may be speedily and effectively resolved.

***Concerns must be brought by a parent about their own students or their own concerns.*** Due to federal privacy laws, it is often ineffective for parents to attempt to represent a group in bringing concerns to the American Prep Administration or Governing Board. Each parent's student-related concern will be initially addressed individually and confidentially. In order to preserve the confidentiality of our students, group concerns will be addressed in alignment with privacy laws and should arise from individual concerns brought by parents of students.

### **Channels of Communication**

Members of the American Prep community who have a question, concern, feedback, or a need for information will identify the person best able to answer their question or concern or most logically to hear their feedback and will approach that person in a positive manner. We have established a clear communication list through which we invite you to bring any concerns or questions you may have. The persons listed are in order of who you should address your concern to first, next, etc. If, for some reason you are not comfortable taking your concern to the teacher first, you may take it to the next person on the communication list. **If you are not satisfied with the resolution at any level, you may take it to the next person on the communication list.** Parents should email the staff member and make an appointment.

### **Academic, Behavioral, or Other Concerns**

1. Student's Classroom Teacher\* - teacher [firstinitiallastname@apamail.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@apamail.org) (example: John Smith - [jsmith@apamail.org](mailto:jsmith@apamail.org)) Some exceptions apply.
2. School Director – Richard Fillerup - [rfillerup@apamail.org](mailto:rfillerup@apamail.org)
3. Secondary Program Director - Daniel Baker - [dbaker@apamail.org](mailto:dbaker@apamail.org)
4. District Executive Director - Carolyn Sharette - [csharette@apamail.org](mailto:csharette@apamail.org)
5. Parent Advocate – [parentadvocate@apamail.org](mailto:parentadvocate@apamail.org)

\*Parents of students served by IEPs may also notify the student's Special Education Teacher.

### **Resolution Process**

***A parent would take an academic or classroom concern to the classroom teacher first, or, if they feel they can't take it to the teacher, should take it to the next person on the communication list.*** For example: If a parent has a question related to instruction or that relates to the classroom in any way, the classroom teacher should be the first person to whom the parent would go seeking information or resolution. If the parent does not feel their concern has been resolved by the teacher, they should ask the teacher for a meeting with an Administrator. If the parent desires, they may ask the school secretary for an appointment with the Director directly if they feel their concern would best be addressed at that level and they have already tried to address it with the teacher and are uncomfortable asking the teacher for an administrative conference. If the parent feels the Director has not sufficiently resolved their concern, they may bring their concern to the next person on the communication list. The last person on the list is the parent advocate member of the Governing Board. This may be done by emailing [parentadvocate@apamail.org](mailto:parentadvocate@apamail.org).

### **Non-Academic School-based concerns, such as facility, safety, carpool, or any other non-academic concern**

Concerns about carpool and facility safety should be brought to a school secretary. If the secretary is unable to resolve the concern, the secretary will notify whoever is best able to address the concern, or the parent may take the concern to a school administrator.

### **Concerns with regard to student emotional safety**

At American Prep, student safety is of utmost concern to us. We have undertaken measures to ensure our students' safety and we will continue to increase our efforts in this vitally important area of school operation. If a parent has any concerns about their student's safety with regard to student relationships (bullying), they should contact the student's homeroom teacher. If they do not feel their concern is resolved satisfactorily, they should take it to the next person on the communication list above. This applies to physical safety related to anything in the physical environment, and emotional safety as well, related to relationships with peers or staff at the school.

*If a member of the community is unclear who the best person is to answer their question or concern or hear their feedback, they may ask a member of the administrative staff, beginning with one of the school secretaries.*

## **Parent Feedback and Parent Survey**

American Preparatory Academy engages in a process of continuous improvement. This process relies upon input from our school community. Parents may offer feedback at any time during the year by speaking directly with school directors, or by using the school website: [www.americanprep.org](http://www.americanprep.org). There is a confidential feedback form located under Contact Us at <https://www.americanprep.org/contact/>.

In addition, we solicit our parents' views on our programs and staff members through regular surveys. Families will have the opportunity to express their level of satisfaction with all aspects of American Prep's programs at least annually. It is the goal of American Prep to have 100% parent participation in the parent surveys.

## **School-Parent Communication**

A weekly newsletter from the Director will be emailed and available as a printed copy to American Prep families. The newsletter will contain notification of important dates and events, as well as pertinent school news and information. For academic information, see [Academic Policies: Academic Communication](#).

## **Parent Meetings and Events**

Parents are required to attend the following:

- Parent Orientation Night (AKA Back to School Night, first week of school)
- Parent-Teacher Conferences (held throughout the year)
- Celebration of Excellence Enrollment Meetings (held in the spring, usually in April and May)
- Grade Level End-of-Year Culminating Activity for each student

Other school events parents are invited and encouraged to attend: Show What You Know Assemblies (Wednesday and Thursday mornings), Music Performances, Ambassador Events, Veterans Day and Memorial Day Assemblies (available through live-stream), Field Days, Field Trips, School Community Events, etc.

## **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Mandatory Parent/Teacher conferences will be held during second and fourth terms, in which academic goals are set for each student with input from parents and, at times, students. Parent-Teacher conferences are listed in the school calendar and all parents are expected to attend these conferences. A third Parent-Teacher conference is held mid-year which is an optional conference that parents or teachers may request.

**Conferences may also be scheduled at any time parents or teachers feel it would be beneficial.**

## **Financial Contributions**

We appreciate the willingness of our families to generously donate to our school. We are a qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, and donations to the school are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. We invite families to contribute to American Prep through the American Prep Education Foundation at <https://www.americanprepfoundation.org/>  
Please go to the APEF website and learn about how you can help APA! Thank you!

## **Fees**

APA works hard to bring outstanding programs that provide the very best opportunities for growth and learning. APA also works hard to keep costs to families as low as possible. In order to provide some of our programs, we find it necessary to charge some school fees. There are basic fees for all 7th-12th grade students, and special fees for some classes, teams, and activities. Fees may be charged to students in 6th grade when 6th grade students are included in those activities and programs with 7th-12th grade students. The Fee Schedule clearly outlines which classes and activities have fees associated with them. These fees are established annually by the Utah Charter Academies Board in accordance with the rules and regulations set forth by the Utah State Legislature and the Utah State Board of Education. According to law, American Prep provides waivers for families who meet certain criteria. Please check USBE for latest forms and guidance: <https://www.schools.utah.gov/schoolfees>.

American Prep's Fee Schedule and Fee Waiver Guidelines are provided to parents each year in the registration packet. The fee policy provides parents an avenue to invest in their children's school opportunities. Fees will be waived in accordance with the Utah State Board of Education standards. In addition, case-by-case determinations are made for those who do not qualify under one of the foregoing standards, but who, because of extenuating circumstances are not reasonably capable of paying the fee.

For information on West Valley Fee Schedules and fee waiver process, check: <https://www.americanprep.org/school-fees> or contact Richard Fillerup– Salem Fee Waiver Administrator at [rfillerup@apamail.org](mailto:rfillerup@apamail.org).

If a request of a fee waiver is denied, the student or parent may appeal the decision to the Administrative Director. If the administration upholds the decision to deny the fee waiver, the student or parent may appeal to the Utah Charter Academies Board. Please direct questions regarding fees or fee waivers to the office staff or school administrators.

## **Unauthorized Solicitation of Funds**

It is not permitted for any individual (student, staff, or parent) to sell merchandise to students on school grounds, through school media sites, or during school functions, with the exception of district-approved school fundraisers.

## **Lost or Damaged Books**

School property that is issued to students is expected to be returned in the same condition with consideration for normal "wear and tear" no later than the last school day of each school year. American Prep staff carefully records and inspects issued items, including: digital equipment, textbooks, library books, musical instruments, and other materials. When a student is issued an item during the school year, it is the family's responsibility to report any damage that may have escaped the school's notice within 2 school days. Failure to do so will result in the assumption that any damage found occurred while under the current student's care. Parents will be required to pay for all materials that are not returned, lost, or returned with damage.

Fines associated with unreturned, lost or damaged items are NOT subject to fee waivers. APA will work with families to provide options to help with the reduction of and payment of fines, including payment plans or the school may provide for a program of work the student may complete in

lieu of the payment. American Prep may withhold the issuance of an official written grade report, diploma, or transcript of the student responsible for the willful damage or loss until the fine has been resolved (53G-8-212(2)(a)). American Prep also reserves the right to seek payment through a collections agency if a fine has not been paid or resolved within 60 days of issuance for continuing students or immediately for unenrolled students.



## **Appendix A: School Compact**

### AMERICAN PREPARATORY ACADEMY AGREES TO:

1. Provide an orderly, safe and nurturing learning environment conducive to student learning.
2. Use multiple sources of information in determining the strengths and needs of the school and of individual students.
3. Establish school goals and student achievement standards based on an annual comprehensive needs assessment.
4. Educate students according to individual levels of comprehension and subject mastery based on regular assessments.
5. Provide frequent and ongoing feedback to parents on how the student is progressing academically in formats that are easily accessed and understood.
6. Utilize content-rich, efficient curriculum and research-based instructional methodologies to ensure that every student has the opportunity to achieve academic success.
7. Assist Secondary students in their efforts to become student scholars by providing an academically rigorous liberal arts program that prepares them for advanced study at the high school level.
8. Ensure that educational services are provided by highly effective teachers and paraprofessionals.
9. Prepare students to be good citizens and confident participants in their communities.
10. Help students resolve conflicts or behavior challenges in a positive, non-threatening way. Help students to become more resilient.
11. Encourage parent participation in school improvement, program awareness and activities, and student achievement. Build the capacity of parents to help their children achieve high standards.
12. Share assessment and evaluation data with parents and the community.

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Carolyn Sharette, Executive Director

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Richard Fillerup, School Director

## Appendix B: Student Compact

STUDENTS AGREE TO:

1. Come to class each day on time, ready to learn and do my best! (I. Mission and Vision: Building Foundations and I. Daily School Operation: Attendance)
2. Do my homework every day and turn it in when it is due (IV. Academic Policies: Homework).
3. Focus on healthy, scholarly pursuits and limit my screen time (TV, video games, social media) during the school week (IV. Academic Policies: Homework).
4. Abide by the Code of Conduct in my dress, language, and behavior (VII. Code of Conduct).
5. Practice good organization by using my docket and learning plan each school day (IV. Academic Policies: Organization).
6. Eat nutritious meals, exercise regularly (outside play works best), and get sufficient sleep, in order to be a healthy learner (III. Health and Safety: School Lunch).
7. Ask for help when I need it.
8. Give my parents (or the adult who is responsible for me) all papers and information sent home from school.
9. Respect myself and others at the school and in the community. Work to resolve conflicts in positive, non-threatening ways (VI. Code of Conduct: Language and Communication).
10. Treat school property, including books and materials, with deliberate care.
11. Promptly report any non-building behavior to a member of the school staff (VI. Code of Conduct: Behavior).
12. Be a Builder in Every Way! (I. Mission and Vision: Virtuous Character Development: Builder’s Theme)

Student #1	Grade	Student #2	Grade	Student #3	Grade
Student #4	Grade	Student #5	Grade	Student #6	Grade

## Appendix C: Parent Compact

### PARENTS AGREE TO:

1. Ensure that my student attends school regularly and on time. Notify the school promptly in the case of my student’s absence. As often as possible, schedule appointments outside of school hours (II. Daily School Operation: Attendance).
2. Abide by school policies and procedures regarding student drop-off and carpool (II. Daily School operation: Carpool).
3. Ensure that my student receives sufficient rest and has a nutritious breakfast and lunch (III. Health and Safety: School Lunch).
4. Ensure that my student arrives at school prepared for class with necessary materials and in appropriate dress uniform (IV. Academic Policies: Organization and V. Dress Code).
5. Abide by school policies regarding check-in/check-out procedures and visitor policies (II. Daily School Operation: Check-ins and Check-outs).
6. Review my student’s homework and sign my student’s learning plan each night (IV. Academic Policies: Organization).
7. Provide an environment in the home that will make it possible for students to engage in scholarly pursuits on a daily basis. This should include opportunities for exercise, study, homework, and reading. It may also include instrumental practice. Students should refrain from watching T.V. or playing video games Monday - Thursday (IV. Academic Policies: Homework).
8. Support my student’s education through attendance at school meetings, Parent-Teacher conferences, and Parent Interventions when necessary (VII. Parent and Family Engagement Policy: School-Parent Communication and VI. Code of Conduct: Parent Intervention Guidelines)
9. Support the American Preparatory Community by completing parent surveys or volunteering at my child’s school (VII. Parent and Family Engagement Policy: Parent-School Communication and Volunteer Guidelines).
10. Use “Builder Behavior” within the American Preparatory community by being positive and encouraging with staff, other parents, and especially with students (IV. Academic Policies: Communication with Students and VII. Parent and Family Engagement Policy: Parent-School Communication).
11. Inform and provide constructive input to appropriate staff at American Preparatory Academy in a timely manner should I become aware of obstacles to my student’s education (VII. Parent and Family Engagement Policy: Parent-School Communication).
12. Abide by other school policies and procedures as outlined in the Parent-Student Handbook and the Acceptance of Policy.

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Parent (1) Name

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Signature

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Parent (2) Name

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Signature