

Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School
2501 Kensington Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19125

PHONE: 215-291-4436

FAX: 215-291-4985

Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School assumes that when a parent/guardian registers a student, this registration is an acknowledgement that the parent/guardian and student will abide by and cooperate with all school rules and regulations governing Academics, Discipline, Attendance, Activities, Athletics, and all other aspects of school life.

Handbook Copy

To verify that you have reviewed the Student Code of Conduct and this checklist, **please sign the following statements:**

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

STUDENT: I have reviewed the Student Code of Conduct with my parent or guardian and understand my responsibilities.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN: I have reviewed the Student Code of Conduct with my child and understand my responsibilities.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print Name: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN: I understand that my responsibilities to the school and my positive participation are vital to my child's success at the school.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Office Copy

To verify that you have reviewed the Student Code of Conduct and this checklist, **please sign the following statements:**

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

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Date: _____

Print Name: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN: I understand that my responsibilities to the school and my positive participation are vital to my child's success at the school.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print Name: _____

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Policy Statement

The Board of Trustees of the Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School (“Charter School”) has the authority to make reasonable and necessary rules governing the conduct of students in school. The Board of Trustees of the Charter School is committed to creating a safe and positive learning environment wherein students recognize their rights and responsibilities, as well as those of other students, teachers, parents, administrators, and members of the school community.

The Charter School believes that all students are able to meet and exceed high academic standards regardless of their background or gender. Therefore, the academic standards, teaching methods and materials of the school will address the needs of students with a wide variety of differences in their academic and social preparation. We will also accelerate their learning so that all meet and exceed high academic standards and become life-long learners and well-rounded individuals. The school design is reinforced by a culture of high achievement that supports students and builds their confidence to set more challenging goals. Therefore, the mission of the Charter School is to establish and maintain a culture of high achievement in which innovative teaching strategies, effective use of data and assessment and use of technology support accelerated learning.

The Charter School does not discriminate in employment or educational programs, services or activities, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, handicap, religion or age.

Purpose

The purpose of the Student Handbook is to define the rights and responsibilities of student and parent members of the school community, the standards for acceptable conduct of students, and the consequences for failure to meet those standards. In doing so, the Board of Trustees seeks to provide a safe environment in which students can learn and thrive individually and as members of a larger community.

The Charter School complies with all applicable federal, state and local laws in providing equal opportunity to all Charter School students. Consistent with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act (43 P.S. §§ 951 - 963), a student may not be denied access to a free and full public education, nor may a student be subject to disciplinary action on account of race, sex, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

Scope of Student Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct applies to conduct of the Charter School students that occurs:

- On school grounds at any time;
- Off school grounds at any school-related activity, function or event;
- Off school grounds when the conduct may reasonably be expected to (i) undermine school authority; (ii) endanger the safety of students, teachers, administrators, or any other member of the school community; (iii) or disrupt the school;
- While traveling to and from school on school buses or vans, regardless of the School or District of ownership, or on public transportation; and
- Off-school grounds when the conduct may reasonably be expected to undermine the proper disciplinary authority of the Charter School, the safety of the students or staff or encourage a disruption within the Charter School.

Regardless of the age of any student at the Charter School, all are treated equally under school policy. While students who are 18 years or older are adults in society, they are still subject to all school policies, guidelines, and rules as students at the Charter School.

SCHOOL HOURS

Early morning procedures are designed to create a calm environment as students arrive and begin their instructional day. The front doors are open for breakfast daily from 7:30 to 7:45 A.M. The doors will reopen at 7:50 A.M. for the students to proceed to their first period class. First period begins at 8:00 A.M., therefore students MUST be in their classrooms by 8:00 A.M. The school day ends for the Junior Academy and Senior Academy at 3:05 P.M. Students should be picked up promptly or proceed home immediately.

On minimum days students will have the option to either eat lunch in the cafeteria or to be dismissed. Please note that students who arrive prior to 7:30 A.M. and who remain on school grounds after school hours (unless involved in a club or approved extracurricular activity pursuant to the Charter School's Extracurricular Policy) will not be supervised. The safety of these students is not guaranteed by Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

School Number 215-291-4436

School Fax Number 215-291-4985

Chief Executive Officer	ext. 245
Principal	ext. 261
Junior Academy Principal	ext. 254
Senior Academy Principal 9 th & 10 th	ext. 253
Senior Academy Principal 11 th & 12 th	ext. 268
Junior Academy Special Education Coordinator	ext. 503
Senior Academy Special Education Coordinator	ext. 267
Security	ext. 251
Discipline and Enrollment	ext. 263
Attendance	ext. 225
Junior Academy Office	ext. 224
Senior Academy Office	ext. 226

Parents must inform the office in writing if you have changed your address, phone number, cell phone number or work number. We also require two accurate emergency phone numbers.

HEALTH CONCERNS

All students are required to be fully immunized in accordance with the requirements of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia in order to be admitted to the Charter School.

In accordance with the School’s Medications Policy, the Request for Administration of Medication or Use of Medical Equipment in School Form must be completed and signed by a parent or legal guardian at the beginning of each school year, if your child has a specific medical problem, and requires medicine or medical equipment to be administered. The Student’s physician must complete all applicable portions of this Form and execute same. The parent or legal guardian is responsible for updating the Form during the school year if the student’s condition changes and thereby necessitates a change in the administration of medicine or medical equipment. All prescription medication to be administered to the student must be delivered in the pharmacy’s original container to the school nurse. Further instructions and explanations with regard to the administration of non-prescription medications are set forth in the Medications Policy.

VISITORS

For safety reasons the school doors are locked and monitored throughout the day. Visitors must enter through the main entrance. The main entrance for the Junior Academy is on Cumberland Avenue and the main entrance for the Senior Academy is on Kensington Avenue. All visitors must go directly to the main office. Visitors entering the school area must fill out a visitors pass and the pass must be visible at all times. Unless there is a scheduled meeting, teachers and their classes may not be interrupted during the school day.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Students leaving school before 1:00 p.m. will be considered absent and will have an unexcused absence on their attendance record. Students should only be picked up by parents/guardians if a student becomes ill or needs to leave the school because of an emergency. The students may be excused **ONLY** by the Principal, Nurse, Dean of Students, or School Counselor. Students who are excused to leave early by either of the aforementioned individuals must be picked up by a parent/guardian. We will not allow any student to leave the school premises without the presence of a parent/guardian or an emergency contact listed in the student file. The emergency contact must provide identification prior to being permitted to take the student from school premises. Anyone picking up a student must present proper identification.

Parents are to avoid scheduling appointments during school hours. **Students are prohibited from leaving school early on their own.** No early dismissals after 2:45 P.M.; students will have to wait until regular dismissal time to leave the building.

Students who are 18 years old or older are permitted to sign themselves out as long as they provide a note signed by the parent stating the reason for early dismissal. Notes must be given to the Principal the day before the scheduled early dismissal.

A student must be in attendance for the entire school day to be eligible to participate in any school-related, school-sponsored or extracurricular activities that take place on that day unless excused the Principal or CEO or their designee deem that the absence is validly excused.

SNOW EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:

Any snow emergency information will be announced over KYW-1060 radio and Channels 3, 6 and 10. If the media announces, “All Philadelphia Public and Parochial Schools are closed, or Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School, or #731” the Charter School is closed. If they announce “Opening Late”, students may not arrive earlier than 30 minutes before the announced opening time. In the event of an early closing, normal dismissal procedures will be followed.

FIRE DRILLS AND CODE RED

Periodic fire drills and code red drills are held as required by law and as part of the school safety routine. They are very serious exercises designed to prepare students and staff for an emergency. The objective of these drills is to clear the building as quickly as possible in an orderly fashion.

Fire drills and emergency drills are extremely important because they help students become accustomed to what to do in case of fire. For this reason, running, shoving, pushing or any other kind of thoughtless behavior cannot be tolerated. During a fire drill there is to be absolutely no talking either going from or returning to the classroom. Also there is no time to stop at your locker, for drinks of water or for any personal belongings. **Illegally setting off the fire alarm is a criminal offense. Violators will be prosecuted by law and in accordance with the Charter School’s Code of Conduct.**

Rights and Responsibilities of Students

General

Student responsibilities include regular school attendance, conscientious effort in classroom work and homework, and conformance to school rules and regulations. Most of all, students are responsible to share with the administration and faculty a responsibility to develop a climate within the school that is conducive to wholesome learning and living.

No student has the right to interfere with the education of fellow students. It is the responsibility of each student to respect the rights of teachers, students, administrators and all others who are involved in the educational process.

Students should express their ideas and opinions in a respectful manner.

It is the responsibility of the students to conform to the following:

- (1) Be aware of all rules and regulations for student behavior and conduct themselves in accordance with them. Students should assume that, until a rule is waived, altered or repealed in writing, it is in effect.
- (2) Volunteer information in matters relating to the health, safety and welfare of the school community and the protection of school property.
- (3) Dress and groom to meet standards of safety and health, and not to cause substantial disruption to the educational processes.
- (4) Assist the school staff in operating a safe school for the students enrolled therein.
- (5) Comply with Commonwealth and local laws.
- (6) Exercise proper care when using public facilities and equipment.
- (7) Attend school daily and be on time at all classes and other school functions.
- (8) Make up work when absent from school.
- (9) Pursue and attempt to complete satisfactorily the courses of study prescribed by local school authorities.
- (10) Report accurately in student media.
- (11) Not use obscene language in student media or on school premises.

Education

Right: Students have the right to a public education, unimpaired on account of race, sex, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

Responsibility: Students have the responsibility to avoid actions or activities that interfere with other students' rights to an unimpaired public education.

Learning Environment

Right: Students have the right to an orderly school and classroom environment that will promote learning for all students.

Responsibility: Students have the responsibility to ensure that their actions do not disrupt the school or classroom environment, or school activities.

Expression

Right: Students have the right to express themselves in speech, writing and/or expression within the boundaries defined by federal and state law, and the policies established by the school. The right of public school students to freedom of speech is guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Commonwealth. Students shall have the right to express themselves unless the expression materially and substantially interferes with the educational process, threatens serious harm to the school or community, encourages unlawful activity or interferes with another individual's rights.

Responsibility: Students have the responsibility to ensure that their expression does not disrupt the educational process, present health or safety hazards, damage public property, infringe on the rights of others or violate federal or state law, or the policies established by the school.

Possession and Distribution of Literature

Right: Students may use publications, handbills, announcements, assemblies, group meetings, buttons, armbands and any other means of common communication, provided that the use of public school communications facilities shall be in accordance with the regulations of the Principal or Chief Executive Officer.

Responsibility: Students have the responsibility to be aware of the feelings and opinions of others and to give others a fair opportunity to express their views. Students have the responsibility to obey laws governing libel and obscenity and to be aware of the full meaning of their expression.

Students have the responsibility to ensure that the literature they possess or distribute does not infringe upon the rights of others, and does not contain offensive language of a religious, racial or ethnic nature, or language that may be construed as harassing or obscene. Identification of the individual student or at least one responsible person in a student group is required on posted or distributed materials.

Students must submit to the Chief Executive Officer or Principal for prior approval a copy of materials to be displayed, posted or distributed on school property.

School officials may require students to submit for prior approval a copy of materials to be displayed, posted or distributed on school property.

Bulletin boards must conform to the following:

The Principal or Chief Executive Officer may restrict the use of certain bulletin boards.

Designated bulletin board space will be provided for the use of students and student organizations.

The Principal or CEO requires that notices or other communications be officially dated before posting, and that the materials be removed after a prescribed reasonable time to assure full access to the bulletin boards.

School newspapers and publications must conform to the following:

Students have a right and are as free as editors of other newspapers to report the news and to editorialize within the provisions in paragraphs School officials shall supervise student newspapers published with school equipment, remove obscene or libelous material and edit other material that would cause a substantial disruption or

Religion

Right: Students have the right to their own religious beliefs and the exercise of those beliefs to the extent that the exercise of those beliefs is consistent with state and federal laws.

Responsibility: Students have the responsibility to ensure that the exercise of religious freedom does not infringe upon the Constitutional rights and freedom of religious expression of others.

Search and Seizure

Right: Students have the right to be free from unlawful searches and seizures of their personal property and possessions.

Responsibility: Students have the responsibility to not possess materials, objects, implements, and/or instruments that are prohibited by federal, state and/or local law, or that may be disruptive or otherwise in violation of the School's Rules.

The Principal or Chief Executive Officer will adopt reasonable procedures regarding student searches. The school shall notify students and their parents or guardians of the procedures regarding student searches.

Illegal or prohibited materials seized during a student search may be used as evidence against the student in a school disciplinary proceeding.

Prior to a locker search, students shall be notified and given an opportunity to be present. When school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the locker contains materials that pose a threat to the health, welfare or safety of students in the school, student lockers may be searched without prior warning.

When school authorities have reasonable suspicion that materials that pose a threat to the health, welfare or safety of students or the school community are in the possession or a student or contained within a student's belongings, school authorities may search the student's person and/or belongings to the extent that such search is permitted by applicable state and federal laws.

Peaceful Assembly

Right: Students have right to peaceful assembly.

Responsibility: Students have the responsibility to secure approval for use of school facilities for assembly; to discuss with an administrator the appropriateness of the facility for the function; and to ensure that assembly does not disrupt the educational process. Lack of adequate supervision shall be grounds for disapproval of assembly.

Transportation

Right: Students have the right to safe and orderly transportation to and from school or a school activity when transportation is provided.

Responsibility: Students have the responsibility to ensure that their conduct contributes to a safe and orderly atmosphere; to refrain from conduct which may cause a hazard to themselves, their fellow students, or to the public; and to refrain from violating federal, state and/or local laws or school policy regarding transportation. Students who fail to fulfill their responsibility may relinquish their right to transportation.

Rights and Responsibilities of Parents

Enrollment

Right: Parents have the right to enroll their children in the Charter School, regardless of their district of residence, within the enrollment guidelines established by the Board of Trustees. Enrollment may not be denied on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin or disability

Responsibility: Parents have the responsibility to ensure that their children who are enrolled in the Charter School attend school regularly, on time, and for the entire school day in accordance with state law and the policies set forth by the Board of Trustees.

Progress

Right: Parents have the right to receive regular official reports of their children's academic progress, through both written and oral communication.

Responsibility: Parents have the responsibility to assist the School and their children in achieving their academic potential, including planning a time and place for completing homework, ensuring the completion of assignments that are missed, and providing the necessary supervision while their children complete assignments. In addition, parents have the responsibility to attend and participate in all parent-teacher conferences.

Language Preference

Right: Parents have the right to receive any oral and written communication from the School in the language used by the family in the home. This right includes the right to have a translator present at any disciplinary proceedings commenced against their child.

Responsibility: Parents have the responsibility to inform the School when they need to receive oral and written communications in a language other than English. This responsibility includes the responsibility to notify the School if a translator will be necessary at any disciplinary proceedings commenced against their child.

Enforcement

Right: Parents have the right to ensure that the provisions of this Code are applied reasonably and fairly with respect to their children.

Responsibility: Parents have the responsibility to understand the rules set forth in this Code and to discuss expected behavior with their children, as well as to inform the Administration and/or the Board of Trustees of their concerns regarding the application of this Code to their children in a calm and reasoned manner.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Policy Statement

The Board of Trustees of the Charter School has the authority to make reasonable and necessary rules governing the conduct of students in school. The Board of Trustees of the Charter School is committed to creating a safe and positive learning environment wherein students recognize their rights and responsibilities, as well as those of other students, teachers, parents, administrators, and members of the school community.

The faculty and staff at the Charter School are dedicated to the academic and social growth of all students. Therefore, one of our goals is to prepare students for responsible citizenship in our society. Each student must learn to work with, and share the rights and responsibilities of good citizenship with other individuals. It is our belief that character and ethics is a school-wide responsibility centered on the belief that the students are expected to be aware of all rules and regulations. Consequently, they are mandated to comply with school policies and directives, and they must be respectful, courteous and polite to teachers, staff, visitors and other students. Most of all, students are responsible to develop a climate within the school that is conducive to wholesome living and learning. Being a responsible member of the school community includes informing adults when you are concerned about a situation that may be a threat to the health, safety or welfare of any member of the school community. In addition, no student has the right to interfere with the education of his/her fellow students. It is the responsibility of each student to respect the rights of all who are involved in the educational process.

Students are here to learn, therefore they will:

□ Respect others, their environment and themselves.

Do their best to learn and encourage others to learn.

Act responsibly, safely and with kindness.

Purpose

The purpose of the Student Code of Conduct is to define the rights and responsibilities of student and parent members of the school community, the standards for acceptable conduct of students, and the consequences for failure to meet those standards. In doing so, the Board of Trustees seeks to provide a safe environment in which students can learn and thrive individually and as members of a larger community.

The Charter School complies with all applicable federal, state and local laws in providing equal opportunity to all Charter School students. Consistent with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act (43 P. S. § § 951—963), a student may not be denied access to a free and full public education, nor may a student be subject to disciplinary action on account of race, sex, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

Behaviors Warranting Disciplinary Action

Students who commit any of the following offenses shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including suspension and expulsion, as set forth in the Pennsylvania School Code. Offenses are leveled for suggested disciplinary consequences. Any offense can receive the suggested consequence, a lesser, or a more severe consequence, depending on the severity, repetition of offense or effect on others. This list is not exhaustive of behaviors that may result in disciplinary action.

Guidelines and Consequences for Student Behavior

No student may engage in conduct, or encourage any other person to engage in conduct, that jeopardizes or threatens the health, safety or welfare of any member of the school community, or that disrupts or undermines the educational mission of the Charter School.

None of the consequences listed below will be applied in such a manner as to discriminate against any student based on race, sex, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin or disability. The Administration of the Charter School will impose consequences for behavior that falls within the range of consequences for a particular violation of this Code. The severity and/or nature of the consequence imposed will be based on factors including, but not limited to, age of the student, number of prior offenses, disability, and/or severity of the violation.

The Charter School has the right to impose consequences for acts or behaviors that are not specifically delineated within this Code if those acts or behaviors threaten the health, safety and/or welfare of other members of the school community, or if those acts or behaviors disrupt the learning environment.

Various means may be used by school personnel to discourage or extinguish undesirable behaviors. Such means may include counseling the student; conferencing with the parent/s; assigning extra responsibilities at school; assigning community service; or imposing detention, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension for up to ten (10) consecutive school days, expulsion for a period of more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or permanent expulsion.

Corporal punishment is defined as physically punishing a student for an infraction of the discipline policy. Use of corporal punishment is strictly prohibited by law and school policy and will NOT be tolerated as a disciplinary measure. Teachers and school authorities may only use reasonable force under the following circumstances:

- (1) To quell a disturbance.
- (2) To obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects.
- (3) For the purpose of self-defense.
- (4) For the protection of persons or property.

By law, unnecessary physical force may not be used by the superintendent, Principal, supervisor, and teachers and their aids and assistants. This authority extends to any

person delegated to supervise children who are enrolled in our school, even if the student is at a school function away from the facility. This authority also extends to bus drivers. Any employee using physical force to control a student must report the incident in writing to his/her supervisor immediately

Level I Offenses---Classroom Offenses

Principal or designee may recommend the following consequences for offenses occurring on school property, at school-sponsored activities or for school-related reasons:

- a) Notice to parents in the form of a letter or a phone call.
- b) Placement on daily report.
- c) Temporary assignment to “time out” or restrictive class setting.
- d) Loss of privileges, including, but not limited to trips, dances other extracurricular activities such as athletic, club or non-instructional programs, or graduation ceremonies.
- e) Detention. A teacher may detain a student after school for misconduct, to make up incomplete work, or for additional instruction. Personal commitments and/or work schedules are NOT valid excuses to miss detentions. Detentions are not optional and failure to attend a detention will result in other disciplinary actions.
- f) Reassignment to another class.
- g) Referral to the SAP team.
- h) A meeting between the teacher(s) and the student to discuss the student’s behavior and expectations for improving his/her behavior.
- i) Mediation between the students involved.
- j) Confiscation of materials.
- k) Student must replace, fix or pay for damaged property.
- l) Saturday Detentions
- m) Suspension

Rule 1: No Student Shall Disrupt the School or Learning Environment

Students are expected to act in a courteous and peaceful manner toward staff, visitors and each other. A student may not act in any way that disrupts or disturbs any educational or school-related program.

- Disobedience
- Disrespect
- Dishonesty
- Failure to follow established school rules
- Failure to attend class or late arrival to class without a valid excuse
- Failure to comply with the established dress code
- Failure to comply with the established attendance policy
- Loitering and/or failure to provide identification upon request
- Possession or use of beepers, pagers, cell phones, walkman, ipod, MP3 players, look-alike or toy weapons (those that are capable of inflicting serious bodily injury will be treated as a Level II offense), laser

pointers, mace, pepper spray, lighter, or any telephonic, stereophonic or digital device, not including a calculator or digital watch, during school hours or programs

- Running or making of excessive noise in the school building
- Lying to school authority
- Failure to follow established classroom rules

Rule 2: No Student Shall Use Disruptive and/or Offensive Language

Students are expected to communicate with staff visitors and each other, as they themselves should expect to be treated. A student shall not language that may be classified as vulgar, obscene, intentionally disruptive or offensive language or which would violate school policies regarding discrimination and/or harassment of any kind, during any school activity. This rule includes all spoken and written messages. Students shall not send or pass any offensive, sexually oriented, messages or pictures from any source. **Sending, passing or having items that are sexually oriented will also be considered a higher-level offense.**

A student will be considered to have violated this Rule if he/she wears or displays any colors or symbols with the intent to show or indicate allegiance to or affiliation with any gang.

Rule 3: No Student Shall Abuse Computer/Internet Privileges or Any School Technology

Students are expected to respect the computer privileges given to them and shall comply with the School's Acceptable Use Policy whenever they use the School's computers, equipment, network system or any technology owned by or licensed through the School. All students who have permission to use school computers must keep their passwords to themselves. It is against the rules to give one's password to another or to use another person's passwords or accounts. Students are also not permitted to break into (hack) other files or systems, to download material that has a copyright, or to conduct a personal business enterprise using the school computer network. Students shall not go into any sites on the Internet, which contain sexually explicit, violent or otherwise offensive material. Students who damage or destroy computer software or hardware will be responsible for the cost of the damages. (See Rule 4) No student shall destroy data of another student or School employee or harm or destroy the internet or other school networks or purposely or recklessly create, download or upload a computer virus. No student shall access and/or alter school records, information or files.

Rule 4: No Student Shall Damage, Deface, Destroy or Steal School or Personal Property of Another Member of the School Community

Students are expected to respect the property of others. A student shall not try to damage, deface, destroy or steal the private property of others. This conduct is not allowed whether it is on school grounds, during a school activity, function or event off school grounds, or while traveling to or from school. **Students will be responsible for repairing or paying for damages.**

Rule 5: Students Shall Maintain Good Records of Attendance

Students are expected to be on time for both school and all classes. See **Attendance Policy section. The following, although not exhaustive, will be considered violations of this Rule:**

- Excessive unexcused absence (i.e. three or more)
- Excessive unexcused lateness or tardiness (i.e. three or more)
- Failing to report to class without a valid excuse
- Truancy

Rule 6: No Student Shall Possess/Use Electronic Equipment In or During School

A) General: Electronic equipment is prohibited in the school. Possession or use of cellular phones, beepers and pagers is prohibited at all times during school and school sponsored activities. Violations of this rule include but are not limited to walkmans, CD players and electronic games such as game boys. All contraband material will be confiscated.

B) Cell Phones: A student may bring a cell phone or telephonic device to school provided that the phone is turned off BEFORE the student enters the building. Upon entering the building and before proceeding to class, the student MUST place the device inside their locker where it is to be kept for the duration of the day until dismissal. If the cell phone is seen or heard, in any way, by any staff member, for any reason during school hours, the phone (in its entirety) will be confiscated and will **NOT** be returned until the last day of school. Parents and guardians must be aware that the school is not responsible for and **WILL NOT REPLACE** lost and stolen items, whether they were in our possession or not, and we cannot guarantee the security of such devices at any time.

Rule 7: Students Shall Wear The School Uniform In and During School

All students are required to wear the school uniform to, from, and in school EVERYDAY. This includes females who are pregnant. Students will not be permitted in class if they are not COMPLETELY in UNIFORM. Students are required to place all non uniform items, including coats, jackets, hats, bandannas, cell phones, and MP3 players, in lockers upon arrival to school. Students must be in uniform—*all outerwear placed in locker*—before 8:00 A.M. (These items are not to be worn in school, and students who disregard this rule may have their garments confiscated by school personnel.)

The following uniform requirements will be strictly enforced:

Shirts

- Blue dress oxford shirt, button down collar (buttoned) long or short sleeves with the MBA logo. **Shirts MUST have the MBA logo.**

Pants

- Navy blue pleated, two pocket dress pants

Ties----All students will wear the plaid school tie

Sweater

- From November through March students **MUST** wear a navy blue v-neck sweater
 - The sweater **MUST** have the MBA logo embroidered on
 - No patches will be sold and no other sweater/sweatshirt will be accepted
 - **Sweatshirts are NOT permitted.**

Shoes

- Black or navy *School Shoe* **ONLY**
 - **School Shoes is defined as a shoe that laces up and covers the entire foot.**
 - **NO** sneakers, sandals, slippers, flip-flops, boots, open-back or sling back shoes.

Socks

- Navy or white blue socks or tights **ONLY**

Belt

- Students **MUST** wear a solid black belt

Gym Uniform

- **MANDATORY---OFFICIAL** royal blue tee-shirt with MBA bulldog

Uniform Expectations

- Shirts must be tucked into pants or skirts.
- Shirts worn underneath uniform must be **solid white**.
- No long sleeve tee-shirts can be worn under the uniform.
- Pants must be worn around the waist with button fastened and zippers zipped. Standard dress belts must be worn. **NO** oversized buckles are permitted.
- No jeans or any other pants are to be worn under the school pants.
- Student's pants must be worn at the proper length.
- Hats, headbands, bandanas sunglasses or any head-coverings are not permitted, unless for religious reasons.
- Pants **CANNOT** have pockets on the side of the leg.
- Long pants must be worn everyday—no shorts, capris or cropped pants.
- Socks or tights **MUST** be **SOLID** navy blue or **SOLID** white.
- Jeans or other pants are not permitted to be worn under skirts.
- **Girls are to wear either the skirt or the pants not both.**
- Items that contain sharp or jagged edges (such as rings, bracelets, collars, and metal picks etc.) must be left at home. If they are in school they will be confiscated and will not be returned.
- Pants should not have visible labels.
- Skirts must be no shorter than two inches above the knee.
- Excessive jewelry is not permitted
 - Students may wear one (1) pair of earrings.
 - No hoop, hanging or dangling earrings are permitted---**small post earrings ONLY**

- Students may wear one (1) ring per hand
- Students may wear one bracelet
- No gang-related, racist, or excessive tattoos are permitted to be visible in school.

If a student enters the building out of uniform s/he will either have to be picked up from school or someone has to bring a uniform to school for the student. If the student remains for the school day out of uniform a suspension will be issued.

Uniforms are always required for school trips, unless otherwise notified by Administration. If uniforms are not required for a trip then appropriate dress clothes are required. Students not wearing appropriate attire will not be permitted to go on the trip. Appropriate dress is defined as, but not limited to, clothing which is not see-through, low cut or revealing. Clothing bearing obscene, profane or other inappropriate words or pictures is prohibited. Tank tops, halter-tops, shirts that expose the midriff, expose the navel, low-cut tops or shorts above the mid-thigh are also not permitted.

LEVEL II OFFENSES--- Students who engage in activities that violate any federal, state and/or local law may be subject to criminal charges and punishment in addition to any disciplinary measures undertaken by the School. Violations of Level II rules will likely result in suspension from the charter school and may result in expulsion. Principal or designee may recommend the following consequences for offenses occurring on school property, at school-sponsored activities or for school-related reasons:

- **SUSPENSION**
- **Saturday Detentions**
- Notice to parents/guardians in the form of a letter and/or phone call.
- Behavior contract
- SAP referral
- Counseling
- Referral to the alternative program
- Referral to outside services
- Teacher and/or administrator meeting with parents
- Confiscation of contraband material

Rule 8: No Student Shall Engage in Repeated Violations of this Code

A student shall not continue to break any Rules 1 through 7, nor may a student repeatedly fail to follow directions given by any school staff member.

Rule 9: No Student Shall Damage School Property

Students are expected to respect school property. Students shall not recklessly or intentionally cause, or attempt to cause damage to or deface school property. Parents will be billed for the damage and will have thirty (30) days to pay for the damages. Failure to pay for the damages will result in an expulsion hearing.

Serious damage or defacement will be treated as an aggravated offense under Rule Twenty-one.

Rule 10: Students Must Attend All Assigned Classes In a Timely Manner

Students are required to be in their assigned class at the scheduled time. Any student leaving without permission, being out of class for an extended period of time, or attending another class will be in violation with this rule. This includes all expressive arts classes and lunch. Students are also forbidden in the teachers' lounges, bathroom or offices at any time a day.

Rule 11: No Student Shall Attempt to do Injury to Persons or Their Reputations

A student shall not recklessly or intentionally attempt to do bodily injury to a student, staff member or visitor in the school. The scope of this rule includes but is not limited to, running, pushing, shoving, horseplay and "play fighting."

Students shall not have on their person, in their clothing and/or belongings, schoolbag, or in any storage space provided by the school (locker), any tool, instrument, implement or capable of causing injury or death. Mace, pepper spray, and toy, fakes, play or "pretend" weapons will be in violation of this rule and will be subject to similar consequences.

No student shall attempt to ruin the reputation of a student, staff member or visitor to the School through slanderous or libelous remarks in spoken, written, technological or any other means.

Rule 12: Students Shall Not Directly or Indirectly Harass or Communicate Any Threat to a Member of the School Community

No student shall engage in verbal or physical activities, which have the effect of harassing any student, staff member of school visitor or placing another in fear or apprehension of injury, pain and/or ridicule. Harassment, includes, but is not limited to, bullying, intimidation, offensive expressions concerning a person's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability, sexual comments or sexually-oriented gestures, sounds, remarks or comments.

Students are not only responsible for harmful actions they intend, but they are also responsible for the reasonably foreseeable consequences of their reckless actions. A student may not act in a manner that ignores the health, safety or welfare of any member of the school community by harassing, bullying, threatening or placing them in danger of injury or pain. The intentional posting on networks of the addresses or telephone numbers of fellow students or other members of the school community is a violation of this rule.

Anti Bullying Policy

Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School believes that every child has the right to be safe physically, mentally and emotionally.

Bullying is any gesture or written, verbal, graphic or physical act (including electronically transmitted acts—i.e. internet, cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or wireless hand held device) that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression; or a mental, physical, or sensory disability or impairment; or by any other distinguishing characteristics. Such behavior is considered bullying whether it takes place on or off school property, at any school-sponsored function, or in a school or public vehicle.

Bullying is conduct that meets all of the following criteria:

- is directed at one or more pupils
- substantially interferes with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs of one or more pupils
- adversely affects the ability of a pupil to participate in or benefit from the school's educational programs or activities by placing the pupil in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing emotional distress; and
- is based on a pupil's actual or perceived distinguishing characteristics or is based on an association with another person who has or is perceived to have any of these characteristics.

A student shall not engage in, or attempt to engage in, any conduct, which is intentional, repeated hurtful acts, words or other behaviors, including but not limited to:

- teasing
- name calling
- social exclusion
- threat
- intimidation
- physical violence
- theft
- sexual or racial harassment
- public humiliation
- destruction of property

Any threatening communication (verbal, electronic, physical) that occurs outside school that becomes disruptive to the school climate is in violation of this policy and is subject to disciplinary action.

Consequences for any student who commits one or more acts of bullying may range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension, expulsion or a report to the Philadelphia Police Department.

Rule 13: No Student Shall Threaten Or Intimidate A School Official Or A Student (Physical, verbal, written, or electronic threat or intimidation) – No student or shall place another person in fear of bodily harm through verbal threats without displaying a weapon or subjecting the person to actual physical attack. No student shall stalk, harass, bully

intimidate or threaten this rule includes but is not limited to secretly or stealthily pursuing another, spying on or watching another person, with or without the intent to harm, frighten, or coerce. Any threatening communication that occurs outside school that becomes disruptive to the school climate is in violation of this rule.

Rule 14: Students Shall Not Possess, Use or Distribute Tobacco Products or Related Paraphernalia

Students are expected to help keep our school safe and healthy. A student may not possess or use any tobacco product. Possession of cigarettes, lighters, matches and/or other such paraphernalia is prohibited. The Charter School, by law, is a non-smoking building. Smoking is not permitted within the building or on school grounds.

A pattern of violations of this Rule may result in expulsion or placement of the Student in an alternative school that addresses issues of substance abuse.

Rule 15: Student Shall Not Recklessly Endanger Any Member of the School Community

All students shall conduct themselves in a peaceful manner and shall not act in any manner which creates a substantial and unjustifiable risk of harm to others and indicates a conscious indifference to the consequences of the act. No student may fight, push, strike, hit, or use violence, in any manner, against a fellow student nor may any student encourage another student to violate this rule. In addition, *violent or threatening verbal or body language will be considered fighting*. Any student that engages in a violent activity that endangers the well being of any member of the school community will be in violation of this rule and will be immediately suspended.

Level III Offenses

Students who engage in activities that violate any federal, state and/or local law may be subject to criminal charges and punishment in addition to any disciplinary measures undertaken by the School. Violations of Level III rules will likely result in suspension from the charter school and may result in expulsion. Principal or designee may recommend the following consequences for offenses occurring on school property, at school-sponsored activities or for school-related reasons:

- The student shall be detained.
- Any incident involving any student ten (10) years of age or older will be reported to the *police* immediately.
- The parent/guardian will be notified immediately.
- An incident report will be filed with the school district and with the Dean of Students.
- Student will be suspended and/or will be recommended for placement in the alternative program or expulsion.

Rule 16: No Student Shall Engage in Repeated Offenses of the School Code

A student shall not continue to break any Rules 1 through 14, nor may a student repeatedly fail to follow directions given by any school staff member.

Rule 17: Students Shall Maintain Good Records of Attendance

Students are expected to be punctual and present for the entire school day. Students who accrue twenty (20) or more unexcused absences or twenty (20) or more late arrivals will be subject to level III disciplinary action which may result in expulsion.

- Absence—a student will be considered absent if he/she misses more than one quarter of the school day.
- Excused Absence—an absence will be recorded as an excused absence (see Attendance Section) if the school receives written communication from the student’s parent or guardian that indicates that the student was or will be absent from school for a legally permissible reason. If no excuse is received within 48 hours of the absence, the absence shall be considered unexcused.
- Unexcused Absence—any absence that is not excused is unexcused
- Late Arrival—a student will accrue a late arrival if he/she is not present in his/her first class of the day at the start of the class

Rule 18: Student Shall Not Recklessly Endanger Any Member of the School Community

Violent physical confrontation between two or more individuals that involves physical activity, behavior and action, whether or not injury occurs, including but not limited to: pushing, shoving, physical harassment, hitting, kicking, biting, spitting, throwing objects, other action directed toward another student, individual or adult.

This policy applies to all situations where school employees have jurisdiction over the students, including, but not limited to, while the students are in the school, on their way to or from the school, on school buses including buses owned and operated by school districts in Pennsylvania, on the school premises, on a field trip, at any extra-curricular activity or at any school sponsored event. This policy also applies to any physical altercations that take place involving students or individuals who are not members of the Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School community.

Rule 19: No Student Shall Assault Another Student or Member of the School Community

A physical attack that attempts to cause or causes personal bodily injury to another student, staff member or other person. A student shall not intentionally cause, attempt to cause or recklessly cause physical injury to any school staff member or student.

Rule 20: No Student Shall Possess, Use, Distribute or Solicit the Use or Distribution of Drugs, Alcohol, any other Intoxicant or Related Paraphernalia on or in School

A student may not possess, use, distribute, solicit the use or distribution of or be under the influence of any unauthorized prescription, non-prescription, narcotic drug, steroid, growth hormone, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind while on property owned by, leased or licensed to the School, or while at any school-sponsored or school-related activity or event. Students are also prohibited to possess drug paraphernalia such as rolling papers, bongs, roach clips or other items while on property owned by, leased or licensed to the School, or while at any school-sponsored or school-related activity or event. Any prescription medicine **must** be given to the School nurse with documentation from the student's physician and in accordance with the School's Medications Policy.

A pattern of violations of this Rule may result in expulsion or placement of the Student in an alternative school that addresses issues of substance abuse.

Rule 21: No Student Shall Possess a Weapon

Students shall not have on their person, in their clothing and/or belongings, schoolbag, or in any storage space provided by the school (locker), any tool, instrument, implement or weapon capable of causing injury or death. The definition of "weapon" shall include but is not limited to: any knife, razors, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, firearm, shotgun, rifle, stun guns, BB guns, starter pistols, discharged mace/pepper spray, explosives or devices which may cause a fire or any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury. Also, any objects or instruments that are not being used for the purpose for which they were normally intended and are capable of harming an individual. In addition, any toy, fakes, play or "pretend" weapons will be in violation of this rule and will be subject to similar consequences.

The following steps shall be taken by appropriate personnel at the School in the event a student violates this Rule:

- The student will be detained and, where possible, brought to the office of the Principal/CEO or designee.
- The incident will be immediately be reported to Police or any other appropriate authority
- The parent/s or guardian/s of the student will be immediately notified
- Expulsion may be recommended in accordance with the law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

A Serious Incident Report will be filed and should contain: Circumstances of possession and discovery of the weapon action taken by Police or other authority in response to the call for assistance action taken by the School, including details of contact with parent/s or guardian/s, filing of the report and notice to Police or

other authority an image of the weapon A report to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Rule 22: No Student Shall Engage in Sexual Misconduct /Harassment and/or Consensual or Non-consensual Sexual Acts

Sexual misconduct and/or harassment include but are not limited to inappropriate physical contact of sexual nature such as touching, patting, and pinching. It can also be defined as inappropriate or unwelcome sexual behavior, advances, requests for sexual favors, or other inappropriate or unwelcome verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature.

Rule 23: Students Shall Not Engage in or Attempt to Engage in Conduct Which Endangers the Health, Safety or Welfare of a Member of and/or the School Community in its Entirety

A student shall not engage in, or attempt to engage in, any conduct, which endangers the health, safety or welfare of any member of the school community, including but not limited to:

- a) **ASSAULT**, which includes attacks on any staff member or student, which results in injury, or places the person in danger of serious injury, or involves the use or attempted use of a weapon.
- b) Selling, distributing, or possessing any drugs or alcohol. Attending school high or intoxicated.
- c) Illegally setting off the fire alarm, security system or other such device when there is no threat of fire or breach of security and fire personnel, police or other authority is dispatched to the School.
- d) **ARSON**, which is setting fire to any person or to School property.
- e) Sexual acts that are forcible acts, as to the offender or voluntary acts, as to each student.
- f) **THEFT**, which includes taking, robbing, stealing, threatening to take school or personal property, receiving stolen items, being in possession of stolen items, knowingly being in unauthorized possession of property belonging to another.
- g) **VANDALISM**, which is considered the malicious destruction of, or damage to school property which disrupts, impairs or prevents the school from carrying out any of its programs. **There is full restitution of property damages, suspension and/or expulsion.**
- h) Retaliation against a school employee, witness or hearing officer for their participation in any investigation, academic or disciplinary proceeding where the student's action takes form of assault, threats or bodily injury or death, telephone harassment or stalking, or substantial property damage.
- i) **BOMB THREATS**, which include any action relating to the planting or hiding or threatening to plant or hide bombs or other explosive devices, or any weapon including biological or toxic substances to kill or seriously injure any member of the school community on property

owned by, leased or licensed by the School. This includes Stink Bombs.

- j) Any illegal activities via the school's computer network.

Disciplinary Action

Detention: Retaining the student after school hours with the parent and/or student being responsible for transportation of the student at the end of the detention period.

Exclusion from School: may take the form of suspension or expulsion;

(1) Suspension is exclusion from school for a period of from 1 to 10 consecutive school days.

(i) Suspensions may be given by the principal or person in charge of the public school.

(ii) A student may not be suspended until the student has been informed of the reasons for the suspension and given an opportunity to respond. Prior notice of the intended suspension need not be given when it is clear that the health, safety or welfare of the school community is threatened.

(iii) The parents or guardians shall be notified immediately in writing when the student is suspended.

(iv) When the suspension exceeds 3 school days, the student and parent shall be given the opportunity for an informal hearing consistent with the requirements of the Pennsylvania Code.

(v) Suspensions may not be made to run consecutively beyond the 10 school day period.

(vi) Students shall have the responsibility to make up exams and work missed while being disciplined by suspension and shall be permitted to complete these assignments within guidelines established by the governing board.

The Student is not permitted to be on school property at any time during the suspension, unless otherwise instructed by administration. If a Student has been suspended s/he will be excluded from school until the Parent/Guardian is present for a reinstatement meeting. This appointment is **MANDATORY** and must be kept. If Parent/Guardian is unable to make the selected time and date, Parent/Guardian must call to reschedule. Consequently, your son/daughter may not return to class until a Parent/Guardian attends the Reinstatement Meeting.

(2) Expulsion is exclusion from school by the governing board for a period exceeding 10 school days and may be permanent expulsion from the school rolls. Expulsions require a prior formal hearing pursuant to the Pennsylvania Code.

(c) During the period prior to the hearing and decision of the board in an expulsion case, the student shall be placed in his normal class except as set forth in subsection (d).

(d) If it is determined after an informal hearing that a student's presence in his normal class would constitute a threat to the health, safety or welfare of others and it is not possible to hold a formal hearing within the period of a suspension, the student may be excluded from school for more than 10 school days. A student may not be excluded from school for longer than 15 school days without a formal hearing unless mutually agreed upon by both parties. Any student so excluded shall be provided with alternative education, which may include home study.

(e) Students who are under 17 years of age are still subject to the compulsory school attendance law even though expelled and shall be provided an education.

(1) The initial responsibility for providing the required education rests with the student's parents or guardian, through placement in another school, tutorial or correspondence study, or another educational program approved by the district's superintendent.

(2) Within 30 days of action by the board, the parents or guardians shall submit to the school written evidence that the required education is being provided as described in paragraph (1) or that they are unable to do so. If the parents or guardians are unable to provide the required education, the school entity shall, within 10 days of receipt of the notification, make provision for the student's education. A student with a disability shall be provided educational services as required by the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act 2004.

(3) If the approved educational program is not complied with, the school entity may take action in accordance with 42 Pa.C.S. Chapter 63 (relating to the Juvenile Act) to ensure that the child will receive a proper education. See Pennsylvania Code § 12.1(b) (relating to free education and attendance).

Exclusion from classes—in-school suspension.

(a) A student may not receive an in-school suspension unless the student has been informed of the reasons for the suspension and has been given an opportunity to respond before the suspension becomes effective.

(b) Communication to the parents or guardian shall follow the suspension action taken by the school.

(c) When the in-school suspension exceeds 10 consecutive school days, an informal hearing with the principal or head of school shall be offered to the student and the student's parent or guardian prior to the 11th school day in accordance with the procedures in the Pennsylvania Code.

(d) The student's school entity has the responsibility to make provision for the student's education during the period of the in-school suspension.

Hearings.

(a) *General.* Education is a statutory right, and students shall be afforded due process if they are to be excluded from school. In a case involving a possible expulsion, the student is entitled to a formal hearing.

(b) *Formal hearings.* A formal hearing is required in all expulsion actions. This hearing may be held before the board or an authorized committee of the board, or a qualified hearing examiner appointed by the board. When a committee of the board or a hearing examiner conducts the hearing, a majority vote of the entire board is required to expel a student. The following due process requirements shall be observed with regard to the formal hearing:

(1) Notification of the charges shall be sent to the student's parents or guardians by certified mail.

(2) At least 3 days' notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be given. A copy of the expulsion policy, notice that legal counsel may represent the student and hearing procedures shall be included with the hearing notice. A student may request the rescheduling of the hearing when the student demonstrates good cause for an extension.

(3) The hearing shall be held in private unless the student or parent requests a public hearing.

(4) The student may be represented by counsel, at the expense of the parents or guardians, and may have a parent or guardian attend the hearing.

(5) The student has the right to be presented with the names of witnesses against the student, and copies of the statements and affidavits of those witnesses.

(6) The student has the right to request that the witnesses appear in person and answer questions or be cross-examined.

(7) The student has the right to testify and present witnesses on his own behalf.

(8) A written or audio record shall be kept of the hearing. The student is entitled, at the student's expense, to a copy. A copy shall be provided at no cost to a student who is indigent.

(9) The proceeding shall be held within 15 school days of the notification of charges, unless mutually agreed to by both parties. A hearing may be delayed for any of the following reasons, in which case the hearing shall be held as soon as reasonably possible:

(i) Laboratory reports are needed from law enforcement agencies.

(ii) Evaluations or other court or administrative proceedings are pending due to a student invoking his rights under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act 2004 (20 U.S.C.A. § § 1400—1482).

(iii) In cases in juvenile or criminal court involving sexual assault or serious bodily injury, delay is necessary due to the condition or best interests of the victim.

(10) Notice of a right to appeal the results of the hearing shall be provided to the student with the expulsion decision.

(c) *Informal hearings.* The purpose of the informal hearing is to enable the student to meet with the appropriate school official to explain the circumstances surrounding the event for which the student is being suspended or to show why the student should not be suspended.

(1) The informal hearing is held to bring forth all relevant information regarding the event for which the student may be suspended and for students, their parents or guardians and school officials to discuss ways by which future offenses might be avoided.

(2) The following due process requirements shall be observed in regard to the informal hearing:

(i) Notification of the reasons for the suspension shall be given in writing to the parents or guardians and to the student.

(ii) Sufficient notice of the time and place of the informal hearing shall be given.

(iii) A student has the right to question any witnesses present at the hearing.

(iv) A student has the right to speak and produce witnesses on his own behalf.

(v) The school entity shall offer to hold the informal hearing within the first 5 days of the suspension.

LOCKERS

Lockers and locks are the property of the Charter School. As a condition of providing student lockers, the Charter School Administration reserves the right to enter lockers at all times, without permission of the pupil to whom the locker is assigned if the Administration suspects a threat to the health, safety and welfare of the School community. Only locks issued by the school are to be placed on the lockers. **Students**

are not to share lockers or locker combinations. Students who use school lockers agree with all of these terms of use. Any students who do not comply with the terms will lose their locker privileges and will no longer be able to use the locker.

VEHICLES

When school administration have a reasonable suspicion that a student's belongings contain materials which pose a threat to the health, welfare and safety of the students, faculty and staff the student's vehicle and the contents in the car may be searched without prior notice. If a student is found with any items of contraband in his or her belongings, those items will be immediately seized by administration or if necessary, taken into possession by the Philadelphia Police Department.

DISCIPLINARY RECORDS

All official disciplinary records for incidents involving the possession of a weapon or acts of violence shall remain in the student's permanent record (pocket) and be transferred with the student to any public school within Pennsylvania. All incident reports shall be maintained in the student's permanent record. All incidents involving violence (to a person or to property) or possession of a weapon shall be maintained in the student's permanent record and transmitted to any K-12 school in Pennsylvania in which the student is enrolled. All other reports not involving weapons or acts of violence may be removed from the student's records after two years of excellent conduct.

PROHIBITION OF STUDENT POSSESSION OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

RADIOS, TAPE/CD PLAYERS AND ELECTRONIC GAMES

Radios, tape/CD players, cellular phones, electronic games and any other electronic devices are not permitted in class during the school day. If a student possesses one or more of these items during the school day it will be confiscated. Parents and students **MUST** understand the possible negative consequences of bringing items of value, either monetary or sentimental, to school because of loss, damage, etc. (Examples: disc players, head phones, radios, cassette players, mini TVs, calculators, card collections, cameras, etc.) These electronic devices are not essential for students' educational activities and should not be brought into the school or to a school-sponsored or related activity. The school is **NOT** responsible for lost, stolen or damaged student property.

CELL PHONE POLICY

If a student brings a cell phone or telephonic device to school, the device must be turned off **BEFORE** the Student enters the building. Upon entering the building and before proceeding to class, the Student **MUST** place the device inside their locker where it is to be kept for the duration of the day until dismissal. If the cell phone is seen or heard, in any way, by any staff member, for any reason during school hours, the phone (in its entirety) will be confiscated and will **NOT** be returned until the last day of school. Parents and Guardians must be aware that the school is not responsible for and **WILL NOT REPLACE** lost and stolen items, whether they were in our possession or not, and we cannot and will not guarantee the security of such devices at any time.

CAFETERIA, FOOD AND BEVERAGES

In order to promote an educational learning environment and maintain a safe and clean building, students may not consume food (including gum) or beverages in the school building except in the cafeteria. Food and beverages will be confiscated from the students who violate this rule, and the items will be thrown away. Students may not order food for delivery to the school.

When students are in the cafeteria the Charter School Code of Conduct rules still apply and there are the following additional rules to ensure the safety and well being of everyone. These rules apply during breakfast, lunch and any other time students are in the cafeteria.

- Students are expected to sit at their tables at all times.
 - Students are only permitted to get out of their seats to get their lunch.
 - Students are to form a single file line and take one lunch in an orderly manner.
 - No yelling, running or physical altercations.
 - No throwing of food or trash.
 - Students must demonstrate good table manners.
 - The table and floor must be left clean and orderly.
 - Students must arrive in the cafeteria on time and remain in the cafeteria until a teacher picks them up or until the person in charge of the cafeteria dismisses them.
 - Students may bring a brown bag lunch, however, glass bottles are not permitted.

STUDENT SEARCH AND SEIZURE

In order to protect the health safety and welfare of the students, faculty and staff, the Charter School reserves the right to search students, which includes the students themselves and their belongings (including lockers, book bags, purses, etc.). Same will be examined for weapons, drugs, alcohol, stolen property and other contraband materials. If a student is found in the possession of items that are illegal or are not permitted in the school, the student will be charged with the appropriate school offense and if the item is illegal the Philadelphia Police Department will be notified. If the police are notified and they deem it appropriate the student will be arrested and charges will be pressed. Any student who refuses a search or refuses to cooperate with school staff is subject to expulsion from the Charter School.

Lockers

Prior to a locker search, students shall be notified and given an opportunity to be present. When school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the locker contains materials that pose a threat to the health, welfare or safety of students in the school, student lockers may be searched without prior warning.

When school authorities have reasonable suspicion that

materials that pose a threat to the health, welfare or safety of students or the school community are in the possession of a student or contained within a student's belongings, school authorities may search the student's person and/or belongings to the extent that such search is permitted by applicable state and federal laws.

ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

Success in school and regular attendance go hand in hand. Students are expected to be present and punctual for all classes throughout the year. The only valid excuses for absence are personal illness, medical appointments and family emergencies. Parents must call in and send a note verifying the days and reason for an absence.

The Charter School places high value on student attendance. We believe that regular school attendance is a primary factor in a student's successful academic and social development and lays the groundwork for a thriving and productive life beyond high school. Frequent absences disrupt the continuity of the instructional process, which includes classroom participation, and learning experiences in the classroom from teacher and peers. Therefore, consistent daily attendance is necessary in order to successfully complete coursework.

In accordance with the required compulsory schooling in the state of Pennsylvania, the Charter School adopts the attendance policy outlined below:

- The school will place a student who is absent five (5) days under an attendance contract. This contract will indicate to the parent and student that he/she is in danger of receiving no credit for the class and/or is in jeopardy of being dropped from the attendance roll.
- The school will place a student who is late fifteen (15) times under an attendance contract. This contract will indicate to the parent and student that he/she is in jeopardy of being dropped from the attendance roll.
- A student with 10 or more absences for a class that meets everyday or 5 or more absences for a class that meets every other day will not be able to receive credit(s) and will receive an administrative failure for the course(s).
- If a student is more than 30 minutes late to class, s/he will be marked absent from that class. In addition, disciplinary actions may also be taken.
- Students who miss ten (10) unexcused days in a row will be in jeopardy of being dropped from the attendance roll. Also, a Truancy Report is required to be filed.

A handwritten note or other evidence or documentation explaining a student's absence

must be provided regardless of whether the student's parent or guardian notified the school by telephone that the student would be absent.

If a student is absent from school for three (3) or more school days without a valid excuse, the Charter School is required to report the student's absence to his/her district of residence for truancy proceedings. Any student who is absent from school for a period of ten (10) consecutive school days may be dropped from the school's rolls, unless the school has been provided with evidence that the absence may be legally excused or compulsory attendance prosecution has been or is being pursued.

Excessive Absence

Any student who is absent 20 or more times, late to any class 20 or more times is subject to disciplinary action; this will jeopardize the child's status for enrollment.

- **If a student is dropped from the Charter School's attendance roll, parents will be required to re-enroll their child by filling out an application and your son/daughter will go on the waiting list.**

This policy will provide for normal and usual illnesses and other valid excused absences such as family emergencies, medical/personal appointments and religious observances. It is the student and parent's responsibility to ensure that they provide the school authorities with the proper documentation to have absences considered excused. However, it must be noted that the above absence limits apply to excused as well as unexcused absences.

If a student experienced extenuating circumstances during the school year, which affected the amount of absences he/she accumulated and would like to appeal to the school authorities, the student and parent/guardian should contact the school counselor and request a hearing by the leadership members. The Assistant Principal will notify the student, parent/guardian in writing within 15 days of the hearing whether the absences are justifiable and the student will be able to obtain a credit for the class.

Excused Absences

Parents/guardians must communicate with the school on attendance issues. Students who are absent for a valid reason such as illness must bring a written excuse signed by a doctor, parent or guardian on the day that he or she returns to school and given to the main office to be processed by the attendance officer. The excuse note must be turned in within two (2) days or the absence will be coded as unexcused.

The note must include:

- The student's full name
- Grade
- Parent's full name
- The date (s) the student was absent
- The legitimate reason for the absence
- The date the excuse note was written

- The parent phone number in case of questions
- If for lateness the time should be on the note

Valid reasons for being absent or tardy are:

- **Personal Illness or injury**—An original doctor’s excuse is required for each single period of absence exceeding three (3) consecutive days. If a doctor’s note is not produced the absences will be considered unexcused. Quarantine ordered by a local health office or the State Board of Health.
 - **If a student exceeds a total of 20 unexcused absences they will be required to furnish a doctor’s note for any days absent from that point on. Absences not covered by a doctor’s note will be charged as unexcused.**
- **Medical / Personal appointments**—Such appointments should be made outside of school time if at all possible and documentation must be provided. Please do not schedule appointments during testing periods. Students must provide an original doctor’s note to be excused for the appointment. Students will only be excused for travel time to and from appointment and for time of the appointment.
- **Religious observances**—upon written requests, students may be excused from school for religious holidays observed by a legally recognized religious group.
- **Family emergencies**
- **Death in the immediate family**—Five (5) days maximum, including, but not limited to: parents, siblings, grandparents or other family members living in the household.
- **All family and educational trips with family member or guardian MUST have prior approval from the Principal. Approval may be granted for requests for trips to a maximum of five (5) school days per year.**
- **Required court or administrative proceedings if student is a party or subpoenaed as a witness.**
- **Upon written requests**, a student may be excused during school hours for the purpose of obtaining professional health care or therapy service if the following requirements are met:
 - The health or therapeutic services are to be rendered by Commonwealth licensed practitioners
 - It is not practical or possible for the student to receive the services outside of school hours
 - The time of necessary absence from school involves a minimum of interference with the student’s regular program.

Students are not permitted to participate in any school or school sponsored activity on days when they are absent from school, regardless of the nature of the absence.

Planned Absences

In order for the absences to be excused, parents need to have prior approval from the Principal and must also provide the school with a valid excuse note. Family vacations and other unauthorized absences during the school year will be considered unexcused. In

addition, it the student's responsibility to get his/her work from the teacher and to make up the work from the class he/she missed.

Unexcused Absences

An absence from school, which is not supported by a written note from parents within two (2) days of the student's return to school, will be charged as unexcused. The following are not considered valid excuses: overslept, missed the bus, car problems, working, babysitting, and helping at home. When a student exhibits a pattern of unexcused or excessive absences, except in the case of serious or chronic illness, the Charter School is required to notify the appropriate authorities, including the Department of Human Services and Truancy Court. Any absence of three (3) or more consecutive days requires a doctor's note if the student was ill. Without a doctor's note the absence **will not** be excused. A student's absences from school and classes without lawful excuse are a violation of the Compulsory Attendance Law of Pennsylvania.

Any student who is absent from school for a period of ten (10) consecutive school days may be dropped from the school's rolls, unless the school has been provided with evidence that the absence may be legally excused or compulsory attendance prosecution has been or is being pursued.

Lateness

A student who arrives late for school will be considered late unless a doctor's note is presented on the day the student arrives late. No parental notes will be accepted ---only a doctor's note. Students arriving after 10:30 and/or miss 3 or more classes will be considered absent and will have an unexcused absence on their attendance record.

Being punctual is a necessary habit that becomes increasingly important in life, especially when one enters the workforce. We believe teaching students to be responsible and punctual is a part of their educational experience. Each lateness within a grading period (without a written excuse from a parent) shall be subject to detentions. Failure to serve consequences as directed will be considered insubordination and will constitute grounds for action as outlined in the student discipline policy. Students who are habitually late to class will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the student code of conduct (See Rule 16).

Special Education Program

The Special Education Program at the Charter School provides a full continuum of services to students with special needs who require specially designed instruction. What that means is that depending on the needs of your child, he/she may receive support within the general education classes, receive additional resource support outside of the general education classes, or receive their instruction in the learning support classes for all or some of the academic subjects.

A certified special education teacher supports students within the general education classes by collaborating and co-teaching with the general education teachers. The special education teachers may also do "pull outs" from the regular education classroom to

provide specific skill building, extended time for test taking, pre-teaching of content, or Direct Reading Instruction.

For those students who cannot make adequate progress in the general education curriculum, specially designed instruction is provided in the Learning Support Classes. A student may be assigned to learning support classes for one or more academic subjects. Each Learning Support Class has an enrollment capacity of 15 students.

MBA currently contracts the services of a school psychologist, speech therapist, and occupational therapist and hearing therapist.

We highly recommend prior to enrolling your child that you contact the Special Education Coordinator in the Junior or Senior Academy to discuss your child's current Individual Education Program.

Does My Child Need Special Education?

Determining Eligibility:

Your child may qualify for special education (be eligible for special education) if your child:

1. Has a physical, sensory, mental or emotional disability **and**
2. Needs special education as determined by a team of people. This team of people is called the IEP team.

Your child must meet both qualifications in order to be eligible for special education. Eligible children have the right to a "free and appropriate public education" (FAPE). These students must have individualized education program (IEPs) plans. The IEP is a document that is written and developed by the IEP Team, of which the parent(s) are members.

NOTE: Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, children who have disabilities that substantially limit their participation in or access to school programs, but who do not need special education, may qualify for reasonable accommodations in the regular classroom.

Indications of Physical, Sensory, Mental or Emotional Disability:

Some signs that your child may have a disability and meet the first eligibility requirement are:

- Evidence of emotional disturbance over a long period of time that affects your child's ability to learn
- Consistent problems in getting along with others
- Difficulty communicating
- Lack of interest or ability in age-appropriate activities
- Resistance to change
- Difficulty seeing or hearing that interferes with the ability to communicate
- Health problems that effect educational performance

Need for Special Education

Your child may need special help not needed by other students in the regular education classroom. This need for special education is the second part of the two-part decision to qualify a child as an eligible child.

What Should You Do if You Have Concerns about Your Child's Academic Progress?

You are an important member of your child's educational team. Contact your child's teacher/teachers and express your concerns. Mariana Bracetti has a screening process in place that identifies students who may need special education. That process may include:

- A review of the student's records including attendance and report cards.
- A review of the student's vision and hearing.
- An assessment of the student's performance in the curriculum.
- A systematic observation of the student's behavior in the classroom or area in which the student is displaying difficulties.

For students with academic or behavior concerns, an intervention plan is developed based on the results of the screening. The student's response to the interventions is looked at closely and if interventions have produced little or no improvement, the student will be formally referred for evaluation for special education. *At any time in the process you, the parent, may request the evaluation for special education.*

Discipline of Students with Disabilities

The Charter School shall comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA 2004) and any applicable federal and state statutes or regulations when disciplining students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who engage in inappropriate behavior, disruptive or prohibited activities, and/or conduct injurious to themselves or others shall be disciplined in accordance with their Individualized Education Programs (IEP), behavioral intervention plan, Title 22 Chapter 711 and relevant portions of Chapter 12 of the State Board of Education Regulations, IDEA 2004, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and any other applicable federal or state law.

In general, within ten (10) school days of any decision to change the placement of a child with a disability because of a violation of a code of student conduct, the school, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP Team (as determined by the parent and the School) shall review all relevant information in the student's file, including the child's IEP, any teacher observations, and any relevant information provided by the parents to determine-

- (i) if the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the child's disability; or

(ii) if the conduct in question was the direct result of the School's failure to implement the IEP.

If the School, the parent, and relevant members of the IEP Team determine that either subclause (i) or (ii) is applicable for the child, the conduct shall be determined to be a manifestation of the child's disability.

Thereafter, the IEP Team must

1) Either

(i) Conduct a functional behavior assessment (“FBA”) and implement a behavioral intervention plan for the Student;

(ii) Unless an FBA was already done prior to infraction and then the behavioral intervention plan is to be reviewed for necessary modifications to address the behavior in question;

2) The Student is then returned to the original placement unless School and parents agree otherwise.

If the determination is made that the behavior is not a manifestation of the Student’s disability, then School personnel may apply the relevant disciplinary procedures to the Student as would be applied to students without disabilities. The only difference is that the Student with a disability must continue to participate in the general education curriculum and to progress towards meeting IEP goals, although in another setting. Student will receive, as appropriate, an FBA and behavioral intervention services and modifications designed to address the behavior violation to prevent recurrence.

Appeals

A parent of a student with a disability may appeal any decision regarding placement or the manifestation determination.

A School may appeal maintenance of a current placement if it would likely to result in injury to the Student or others.

In either situation, a Student must remain in the interim alternative educational setting pending the decision of the hearing officer or expiration of time period per law, whichever occurs first, unless School and parents agree otherwise.