

## **Compass Public Charter School Policies**

### **School Mission**

The Compass Public Charter School's mission is to prepare each child with a personal compass that will guide them in life's directions. We do so by developing students who are competent, confident, productive and responsible young adults who possess the habits, skills and attitudes to succeed in life and be offered the invitation of a post-secondary education and satisfying employment.

The philosophy of the Compass Public Charter School is grounded in the belief that when there is low threat and content is highly challenging, accelerated learning takes place.

As our children chart their course through these tumultuous years, we hope to direct them to a safe harbor. Each child has the right to come to school without fear of taunting, teasing or violence. Each parent has the right to expect a school to provide a safe, kind environment for his/her child. Each staff member has the right to teach without fear of violence. Students, parents and teachers will experience peace of mind in the Compass Public Charter School setting. We believe that a kind environment should be extended through the potentially difficult middle school and high school years.

### **Student Conduct Expectations**

In addition to a solid academic foundation, Compass Public Charter School promotes a firm grounding in traditional moral principles. Beginning with clear standards of personal conduct that support the home environment, the school helps students develop good habits that will continue in adulthood.

There will be "zero" tolerance for unkindness at Compass Public Charter School

If students are kind, there will be no fights, no gangs, and no name-calling. Kindness covers all areas that can potentially cause behavior problems in a school setting. Many of the school's awards are behaviorally related.

### **What You Can Do as a Compass Parent**

- You are your child's first teachers.
  - Model the expectations.
    - Be supportive of school practices.
    - Avoid gossip, hearsay: Get the facts, not just the stories.
    - Be an visible advocate - Volunteer
    - Everyone loves the Harbor Method's approach to character, conduct & culture until their child is disciplined!
  
- Contribute to making the school a strong community in which students thrive
  - Bring your unique contributions to the school
  - Contribute to problem-solving

### Student Attendance Policy

Compass Public Charter School recognizes the importance of attendance and punctuality at all grade levels. Regular attendance helps to assure that students will get the benefits of a program that is 90% direct instruction. The expectation for each student is a 96% attendance rate. **Therefore, excused absences will be health-related circumstances and/or situations documented as extraordinary.**

<b>Grades 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup></b>	3 unexcused absences will result in the loss of credit per semester subject area.
<b>Grades 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup></b>	3 unexcused absences will result in the dropping of one letter grade in each course.
<b>Grades K – 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Students who recognize the importance of attendance and punctuality will qualify to participate in the Citizen of the Week and Student of the Month programs.

**Make-up Work** – Make-up work and make-up tests are allowed for students who have excused absences only. It is not the burden of the classroom teacher to create alternative assignments or put together homework “packets” for students who miss school due to family choice.

### Homework Policy

The education of today’s children must be considered a team effort by both parents and teachers. Research shows that the most successful students, regardless of family income levels or ethnic backgrounds, are those who have regular, structured homework time.

This parent-assisted practice serves a dual purpose:

- It allows the students extra practice to reinforce and advance the skills taught in school.
- It communicates to the child his/her priority in the parents’ lives. This contact time develops a sense of self-value and builds memories.

The discipline of nightly homework creates a habit that will benefit the student throughout life. It is our intent to provide reasonable and constructive assignments that will encourage the student’s success in the classroom.

**It is important that our parents share our beliefs about homework and will support us in this effort.**

### At the 7<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grade level -

The result of students not completing homework and being unprepared impacts the entire class, causing a disruption to the instructional effectiveness of the school. Therefore, those who habitually fail to complete homework will experience the following consequences:

- Five missing homework assignments may result in a Discipline Action Report (DAR) and a letter home to parents requesting a parent signature acknowledging that they are aware of the problem.
- If a student receives 3 DAR’s, an out-of-school suspension may result. In order for the suspended student to re-enter school, the student must prepare a written goal statement and academic commitment paragraph to present to their parent, teacher(s) and administrator in a scheduled meeting.
- Finally, if the same student receives an additional DAR within the school year, the student and parent will be required to meet before the Compass Public Charter School Board for an expulsion hearing.

### At the High School level –

Late work results in loss of credit for the assignment. If a pattern of incomplete assignments develops, the teacher will communicate with a parent. Additionally, a pattern of missing school work will most likely result in a failing grade in the class subjecting the student to Academic Warning or Probation. A student is placed on academic warning for receiving one F or two grades of D+ or lower in a marking period. A student is placed on academic probation for:

- (1) receiving two Fs or three or more grades of D+ or lower in a marking period, or
- (2) being placed on academic warning for two consecutive marking periods.

### **Grade Promotion**

Students 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade receiving a “C” or better grade average will be promoted to the next grade level. Students who do not obtain this academic goal may be recommended to the Board of Directors for retention. Each case will be determined individually.

### **Dress Policy**

In an effort to provide a safe and orderly school environment free of distractions for your children, we will expect the following dress guidelines followed by the students of Compass Public Charter School. Failure to follow the dress code policy will result in consequences as outlined in the behavior policy.

1. Gang attire of any kind is strictly prohibited (i.e., hair nets, bandanas, garments that are suggestive, colors, bandanas, or belts that have gang symbols on them).
2. Garments/items that advertise illegal substances or obscene statements are not allowed.
3. Pants will be worn at the waist! We do not want to see your undergarments!
4. Brief garments such as halter-tops, shirts that don't cover the stomach when sitting (bare midriffs), tube tops, net tops, tank tops, spaghetti straps, and plunging necklines (front or back) are not appropriate. Length of shorts and skirts should be at the mid-thigh. Shorts and skirts shorter than mid-thigh length will be considered inappropriate.
5. Makeup (lipstick, rouge, blush, eye makeup including mascara) is not allowed at Compass Public Charter School before 9th grade. Blemish correction and clear lip-gloss are acceptable.
6. Attire and footwear must be safe for students and others, non-distracting, and conducive to learning.
7. Any attire or grooming habit that disrupts the educational atmosphere will not be allowed.