



Restoring America's Heritage by Developing Servant Leaders®

FAMILY /SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Board Approved: December 11, 2025

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

WELCOME

Dear John Adams Academy Family,

You are joining or returning to an Academy that has a very special set of core values that guide how we act as a community to build a strong culture focused on achieving our unique vision of Restoring America's Heritage by Developing Servant Leaders®. The united effort of every member of the Academy is crucial in building such a strong culture. To this end, we are providing you with the **Family/Scholar Handbook** to assist you in your understanding of the processes that have allowed families and the Academy to come together for over a decade to build a safe, inspiring environment, based on virtue and the highest ideals of an academic standard.

Your help is invaluable when it comes to shaping the environment that our scholars will learn and grow in. It is crucial for you to be able to set the standard while modeling for your scholars many of the virtues that we hold dear. *Simply put, we cannot do this without you.* The state of our society and the challenges that our scholars face in an ever increasingly aggressive and hostile society demand that we come together in support of the proven methods that have created a beautiful learning environment

Whether you have been here from the beginning, or you are joining us for the first time, we urge you to read these expectations and to reaffirm your enrollment agreement. It is only with a firm commitment that we will be able to fulfill the ongoing success of our vision and mission. Familiarity with, and adherence to, the policies and procedures contained in this handbook will help your family receive the full benefit of our unique American Classical Leadership Education®.

The following are key concepts used at John Adams Academy to be reaffirmed on a yearly basis. A detailed understanding of these policies can be found in the **Family/Scholar Handbook**. We highlight these sections in the table of contents in red with an asterisk for ease of reference.

Please review these essential concepts contained in this document with your family to reaffirm your commitment by signing and returning the Family/Scholar Affirmation.

With great admiration,

Troy Henke
Superintendent

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK



FAMILY/SCHOLAR AFFIRMATION

We are grateful to have you on this journey with us. Again, the full benefit of our educational model is experienced when families partner with us to *Build a Culture of Greatness*.

By signing below each school year, and by living the 10 Core Values, I/we acknowledge that my/our scholar's education and their development as a servant-leader of virtue and character matters and that I am/we are not only aware of these policies and procedures, but commit to partnering with the staff, teachers and leadership of John Adams Academy.

1. Safety

Safety is our first priority. Any adult signing a scholar out of school must be either a parent/guardian or listed as that scholar's emergency contact in Aeries. That adult must show a photo I.D. while checking in at the front desk. All visitors to the campus are required to sign in at the front desk and must wear an identification sticker or badge while on campus. Any persons not signed in and badged, may be asked to leave the premises. Volunteers outside of the direct supervision of an Academy employee must complete a background check and have LiveScan clearance. I.D., background checks, and insurance requirements are required for field trip chaperones, and field trip drivers. (see "[Fingerprinting Policy \(LiveScan\)](#)" and "[Field Trips](#)") In the event of an emergency, please follow our emergency procedures guidelines. Adherence to these guidelines will assist the Academy in providing the safest and most efficient means of keeping your scholar safe. (see "[Emergency Procedures](#)")

2. Attendance

Each school day is an essential learning opportunity for your scholar and impeccable attendance is crucial for your scholar to gain the maximum benefit from their education. (See "[Attendance, Chronic Absence, and Truancy Policy](#)") A John Adams Academy American Classical Leadership Education® is based off the participatory nature of Socratic discussion and primary source learning. The habits of good study require the discipline of excellent attendance and by choosing John Adams Academy, you pledge to support your scholar with excellent attendance. Please plan any family trips or days away from school with careful consideration of the school calendar. If your scholar is going to be away from school for more than two days, please consider using Independent Study to minimize the impact on their academics. Though nothing can replace their time in the classroom with their classmates, Independent Study is available to encourage daily engagement in schoolwork, even during times of extended absence. Learn more about this option in the "[Independent Study](#)" section.

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

3. Family Participation

When signing the enrollment agreement, families pledge to volunteer 40 hours per year at the Academy. Your volunteer hours are crucial to the success of your scholar. (see "[Volunteer Hours](#)") The Academy has only been successful because of the hard work and commitment of the families that have come to help build a school rather than attend one. Your service will allow you to model the core values and help you be the primary educator of your children. From helping to set the culture, to helping us grow our program, parents/guardians enable the Academy to maximize its resources while making sure that this is a partnership in building a strong community. Our Parent Service Organization (PSO) outlines how all parents/guardians are members and are encouraged to model servant leadership. (see "[Parent Service Organization](#)") Another important way you can support our academic programming is to participate in the *Materials Donation Program*. We urge you to partner with the Academy in creating an environment where our scholars' education is a priority. Learn how your contribution of \$100 to the *Materials Donation Program* speaks to the heart of our *Abundance Mentality* by infusing this core value into our community in a very tangible way. (See "[Materials Donation Program](#)")

4. Campus Environment

In building an environment that is edifying and free from distraction, we expect scholars to come prepared to learn. This means that scholars are not allowed to use electronic devices at school. (see "[Electronic Devices and Cell Phones](#)") Scholars should not bring toys or other items from home and should come dressed and groomed in the approved uniform while they are on campus and participating in school-related activities. This includes shoes, outerwear, and grooming standards. (see "[Dress Code/Uniform Policy](#)") Also see the "[Inappropriate Items](#)" section to help keep distractions out of the classrooms and off the playground.

The section titled "[Habits and Academics](#)" articulates guidelines to help a scholar prepare for *High Standards of Academic Excellence*. John Adams Academy strongly suggests that scholars read at least 10 minutes per grade level daily. (4th Grade = 40 minutes, 5th grade 50 minutes, etc.) We also strongly encourage families with elementary scholars to read to their scholars daily.

5. Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is a fundamental principle that allows your scholar to have a fixed understanding of the power of ideas and respect for the effort it takes to produce great work. To honor the effort of our scholars and their ideas, we pay close attention to ensure our scholars do not plagiarize, use Artificial Intelligence "AI", or any other means of claiming, misrepresenting, or circumventing the process of authoring their own work.

Scholars should refrain from using works without proper citation, copying or using

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

content that is not their own, and falsifying any academic work or document. Please see the “[Academic Honesty and Plagiarism](#)” section for more information.

6. **Communication**

Communication at John Adams Academy takes effort on each party to remain connected to the academic process and school life. Thus, there can be an inordinate amount of communication from both the Academy and families. ParentSquare is the official communication platform for all safety notifications and official statements from the Academy. We urge all families to use the ParentSquare application for all communications as it is the only tool that reaches 100 percent of our families. The platform allows you to choose how you receive messages so that you may receive them in real-time or in a digest form once per day at 6:00pm. ParentSquare also allows for translation in variety of languages, ensuring our families have access to the most up-to-date information. John Adams Academy does not condone the use of unofficial social media pages, nor does it disseminate important information through social media platforms. The Academy is committed to clear and prudent communications. We ask our families to use direct communication with administration, including meetings, phone calls and close collaboration whenever working through an issue at the Academy. This ensures the highest degree of confidentiality and appropriate access to due process while providing for the safest environment for all families. (See “[Communication](#)”) All families are active in ParentSquare once enrollment is fully complete. To learn how to best utilize ParentSquare, please visit our website under FAMILIES and select ParentSquare.

7. **Technology**

Technology is and will continue to be an important part of our scholars’ lives. John Adams Academy utilizes the latest protections and strategies against those with malicious intent. We expect our scholars to be virtuous in the use of technology and work diligently to ensure their safety while doing so. When coming to John Adams Academy, families and scholars agree to use technology in a virtuous and noble manner. Any effort to misuse or circumvent, destroy, or alter any Academy hardware or software systems are subject to disciplinary consequence. Any inappropriate use, misuse, bullying or intimidation on any platform will not be tolerated. To that end, we encourage you to stay involved in your scholar’s digital life, and maintain a presence as you would with the use of any tool. We also suggest limiting the amount of screen time and access your scholar has to the digital environment. (See “[Computer and Internet Use](#)”)

As part of the affirmation process, we will also be asking our scholars to sign their Scholar Pledge in upholding the core values and expectations to create the best possible environment and conditions for learning. The Scholar Pledge will be discussed in class and sent home for you to discuss with your scholar. The Scholar Pledge is as follows:

Scholar Pledge

I willingly adopt the title of scholar and pledge myself to becoming a servant leader, to

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

understand and live the 10 Core Values, and commit myself to a lifelong pursuit of truth, virtue and wisdom through my own American Classical Leadership Education®.

As evidence by my/our signature on the enrollment agreement, and by my/our signature on this Family/Scholar Affirmation, I/we accept and agree to abide by this affirmation and the contents of the Family/Scholar Handbook, including the Scholar Pledge.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Scholar Signature

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

The Family/Scholar Handbook is subject to change. Any updates to the handbook will be put on the website and parents will be notified.

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	10
ACADEMY PHILOSOPHY	10
Vision & Mission Statement	10
Scholars.....	10
*ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM	13
ACADEMY HOURS AND SCHEDULE	14
ACCIDENTS	15
ADDING/DROPPING COURSES (SECONDARY GRADES)	15
APPOINTMENTS.....	15
ARRIVAL TO AND DEPARTURE FROM CAMPUS.....	15
ASSEMBLIES.....	17
ASSESSMENTS/TESTING.....	17
*ATTENDANCE, CHRONIC ABSENCE, AND TRUANCY POLICY	17
BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHTS.....	22
BIRTHDAYS	22
CALLS.....	22
CLASSROOM VISITS.....	22
CLOSED CAMPUS.....	23
*COMMUNICATION	23
COMMUNITY SERVICE	24
*COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE	24
COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL EDUCATION OPT-OUT	27
CONFERENCES.....	28
CURRICULUM	28
DANCE POLICY.....	31
DISCIPLINE AND ACCOUNTABILITY.....	32

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

<i>*DRESS CODE/UNIFORM POLICY</i>	40
<i>*ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND CELL PHONES</i>	45
<i>*EMERGENCY PROCEDURES</i>	45
<i>*FIELD TRIPS</i>	46
<i>*FINGERPRINTING POLICY (LIVE SCAN)</i>	47
FLAG CEREMONY.....	47
FOOD.....	47
GRADE REPORTING.....	47
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	48
<i>*HABITS AND ACADEMICS</i>	48
HEALTH CONCERNS.....	48
HONOR ROLL/AWARDS	49
SENIOR COMMENCEMENT	49
<i>*INAPPROPRIATE ITEMS</i>	50
<i>*INDEPENDENT STUDY</i>	51
LOST AND FOUND	53
<i>*MATERIALS DONATION PROGRAM</i>	53
MENTORS	53
<i>*PARENT SERVICE ORGANIZATION (PSO)</i>	54
PARKING LOT INCIDENCES	54
PHOTO/PUBLICITY POLICY.....	55
PHYSICAL EDUCATION EXEMPTION.....	55
PLAGIARISM.....	55
RE-ENROLLMENT OF EXISTING SCHOLARS	55
RESOLVING CONFLICTS.....	56
SCHOLAR ACTIVITIES	57
SCHOLAR GOVERNMENT.....	57
SCHOLAR DRIVERS	58
SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM	58
STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM – AERIES	59
TELEPHONE	60

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

****VOLUNTEER HOURS** 60*

APPENDIX A: A-G APPROVED COURSES 63

APPENDIX B: BOARD POLICY ON UNIFORM COMPLAINT 75

APPENDIX C: BOARD POLICY ON SCHOLAR DISCIPLINE 83

APPENDIX D: BOARD POLICY ON PRIVACY OF SCHOLAR 85

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION

This Family/Scholar Handbook is a guide to the rules and policies of John Adams Academy to be used by families to understand Academy expectations, academic model, Vision & Mission, and Core Values as they seek to make an informed choice in the education for their family. John Adams Academy is a TK-12th grade public charter school and is a school of choice. For the purpose of this handbook, the use of “parent” will refer to any parent, legal guardian, or custodian of a minor.

All procedures and guidelines in this handbook are approved policies of the Board of Directors, which may change these policies at their discretion.

ACADEMY PHILOSOPHY

Vision & Mission Statement

The John Adams Academies are restoring America’s heritage by developing servant leaders who are keepers and defenders of the principles of freedom for which our Founding Fathers pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor.

Scholars

At John Adams Academy, we refer to our enrolled pupils as scholars, not as students. A student is someone who has an obligation, normally rote memorization of something. The term scholar implies someone who is passionate about learning. A scholar is defined as someone dedicated to learning, improving their character, and discovering their genius.

“All men who have turned out worth anything have had the chief hand in their own education.”

-Sir Walter Scott

Classical Leadership Education: The education of tomorrow’s leaders determines the level of freedom, prosperity and integrity of the next generation. Leaders select the goals of a nation and the means of achieving those goals.

Leadership education trains thinkers, leaders, inventors, citizens, entrepreneurs, and statesmen. It educates individuals “how to think” and teaches them why it is important. Robert Hutchins said this type of education is “the education of free men in the knowledge and skills that are needed to remain free.”

Classically educated leaders are prepared to motivate and inspire individuals, communities, and nations to a greater good in an environment of freedom and prosperity that naturally produces the best society has to offer. This awakening is achieved through enduring principles of success. It is not accomplished simply by educating youth effectively, but rather by helping them to internalize the principles of greatness as demonstrated in the lives of notable individuals who have accomplished great things. Leadership Education presupposes that everyone is born with a unique and individual mission to fulfill. Leadership Education consists

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

of discovering, preparing for, and fulfilling this mission. It is not the role of Leadership Education to fill scholars with a pre-determined set of facts, beliefs, or processes, but to inspire them to discover their potential and unique abilities that only they can contribute to society.

Our Founding Fathers and the great leaders of history received a Leadership Education. In the twenty-first century it falls to us to choose what kind of leaders we will produce. The liberty, prosperity, integrity, and stability of our nation and even future civilizations are dependent upon the leaders of tomorrow getting a Leadership Education today. These principles and the wisdom of history are still available to all who are willing to pay the price to educate, work, and implement the timeless principles of an American Classical Leadership Education®. Those fortunate enough to receive this type of education will truly be able to make a positive difference in the world.

*Restoring America's Heritage
by Developing Servant Leaders*

Ten Core Values

Appreciation of Our National Heritage

Public and Private Virtue

Emphasis on Mentors and Classics

Scholar Empowered Learning

Fostering Creativity and Entrepreneurial Spirit

High Standards of Academic Excellence

Modeling What We Teach

Abundance Mentality

Building a Culture of Greatness

*Self-Governance, Personal Responsibility,
and Accountability*

John Adams 
ACADEMY

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

*ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic honesty is essential in developing the core values necessary to fulfill our mission of developing servant leaders. Such moral integrity is just as important as our scholars' academic development. Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating is using the knowledge or work of any other person to answer questions or complete assignments that are to represent the scholar's own knowledge or effort, i.e. copying from another's test. It is also using one's own efforts in ways prohibited by the teacher (i.e. using a book to answer questions on a closed book assignment.)

Plagiarism is representing the ideas, words, or work of another as if they were their own. This does not mean that a scholar cannot use other people's ideas or work. . Rather it means that scholars must properly give credit when using ideas, words, or work of another person. This is done by properly citing sources from which they borrow other's words, work, or ideas. This includes properly citing any photographs or images used as well. When citing sources, scholars are to follow the format required by the teacher of their class.

Written assignments are to be completed after the recommended readings. If papers are to be a summary of an individual book assigned, then the scholar must simply note at the end of their paper that their source was from a specific book. If ideas have come from any other source, or from a combination of sources, whether book, periodical, the internet, or generated from artificial intelligence technology, the scholar must properly document each source used, through the use of footnotes, endnotes, or in-text citations, whether directly quoted, or paraphrased. Scholars will include a bibliography or list of works cited as directed by the teacher.

Middle School

Failure to abide by the above-stated process will result in a failing grade for the assignment. The second incident of academic dishonesty or plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the assignment and the scholar may be asked to appear before the school board of John Adams Academy and/or may be suspended from the academy.

High School

Failure to abide by the above stated process will result in a failing grade for the assignment. The second incident of academic dishonesty or plagiarism will result in an "F" grade for the grading period and the scholar may be asked to appear before the school board of John Adams Academy and/or may be suspended from the Academy. Further, if plagiarized work is submitted in more than one class, the scholar may be asked to appear before the school board of John Adams Academy and/or may be suspended from the academy.

While scholars may be aware that they should not download papers from the internet, they may not know what constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is using someone else's ideas or words without giving credit. This means unique phrases and information not commonly known must be cited. Scholars are not to copy sentence or paragraph structure from the source. Changing a few words in a sentence or paragraph is not sufficient to avoid plagiarism. It is our goal to help

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

your scholar develop their own style of writing and have confidence in their own skills.

Strategies for scholars to avoid plagiarism include:

1. Make sure you understand the topic. Discuss it with parents, other scholars, or your mentors. It is very difficult to write about a topic you do not understand. Do not use vocabulary or terminology you cannot define.
2. Carefully read the assignment. If possible, use several sources for your research essays. Think about how you can write about the topic using some of your own ideas or personal experiences.
3. Take notes on index cards. Avoid using sentences or phrases from the source unless you intend to cite the source. For example, if you are writing about life in colonial America, you might put the heading "typical colonial house" at the top of an index card, then list important facts you want to remember: walls ___ thick, walls constructed of ___, number of rooms, etc.
4. Prepare an outline. For short papers, the outline could be simple, using keywords to remind you of information to include in the essay.
5. Do not look at your sources when you are writing.
6. Check for accidental plagiarism. Compare your essay to your source. You may have a good memory and accidentally use a phrase from the source. *Parents, this is where we ask your assistance. We can "Google" to look for online sources, but we do not know what books, in addition to the texts, your child is using at home. Please make sure the source is put away when your scholar is writing, and check for unintentional plagiarism.*
7. You may quote or paraphrase another author as long as you provide a proper citation of the source. Your teacher will teach you how to do this.

Remember that we expect scholar-level papers. Teachers become concerned when a paper has vocabulary, sentence structure, or insight that is far beyond the grade level of the writer. All scholars have mastered some writing skills but need to work on others. Your scholar's teachers acknowledge the strong points in essays and work with scholars to improve areas of weakness. This goal can be accomplished only if scholars submit work that is their own.

ACADEMY HOURS AND SCHEDULE

John Adams Academy office and teacher hours are posted on the website.

Flag ceremonies are the official start of the academic day. All scholars are expected to attend. Please schedule your morning routine to allow your scholar ample time to be on time. Flag ceremonies are an integral part of our day and set the tone for learning and becoming. Please underscore the importance of this unifying principle of John Adams Academy with your scholar. It is a moment to pause and reflect on the beautiful opportunity to educate ourselves as free people in a republic. The flag ceremony also reminds us of the sacrifices it took to hand down freedom and of our duty to causes greater than self. We also encourage parents to attend at least one ceremony a year and to be mindful of this practice at home.

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

ACCIDENTS

Parents will be notified as soon as possible in the unlikely event that their scholar is seriously injured while at the Academy or during Academy sponsored events. Whenever possible, parents will be asked to pick up their scholar for their own observation or doctor's visit. If a parent cannot be reached, the scholar will be discharged to another person specified on their contact list in our student information system. If the injury is serious, we will call 911. Parents are to utilize Aeries parent portal to make any changes to contacts or other scholar information so scholar records are current. Please ensure that you update your emergency contact information regularly.

ADDING/DROPPING COURSES (SECONDARY GRADES)

Course assignments are designed to keep scholars on track to meet graduation requirements and ensure eligibility for university admissions. Scholars are expected to remain in assigned courses throughout the entire term. Course changes must be approved by a parent and the John Adams Academy Administration. Course changes can be submitted in writing using the High School Counselors' Add/Drop form and submitted in the designated inbox or digital process.

APPOINTMENTS

Please schedule outside of school appointments for your scholars so that they do not conflict with instructional time. If an appointment does require your scholar to leave early, please send a note or email to the teacher. Please plan accordingly to ensure the teacher can be notified as early as possible.

Please come to the front desk to pick up your scholar. Scholars will not get called out of class until the parent is physically present. Allow enough time for your scholar to be paged by the receptionist.

Scholars will only be released to the parents (or others authorized on their contact list) and must be signed out in the office. Picture identification is required from the adult picking up the scholar. Please note that excessive check-outs seriously undermine learning and can disrupt the classroom environment. All check-outs are subject to review by the administration.

ARRIVAL TO AND DEPARTURE FROM CAMPUS

Please abide by the established traffic flow patterns when dropping off or picking up scholars at John Adams Academy. For the most up-to-date information regarding Driveline, drop-off or pick-up processes, please go to ParentSquare or to the website under FAMILIES.

To ensure the fastest pick up and drop off times possible:

- Please use windshield signs during elementary pick-up. (Windshield signs can be

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

found on the website under DOCUMENTS)

- Do not enter Driveline early. Please do not arrive to the pick-up line before the stated dismissal time. Cars that stack in line before classes are dismissed block traffic and can prevent access around the campus. Any vehicle stopped in a lane of traffic will be required to park in a parking space or exit the property until classes have been dismissed.
- For the safety of all scholars and drivers, only drop-off or pick-up scholars in the designated areas. Do Not drop-off or pick-up scholars in the roadway or areas not designated.
- For the safety of all scholars and pets, please leave pets at home during drop-off and pick- up.
- **Never** leave children unattended inside your vehicle for any reason or any duration of time.
- **Never** use cell phones or other mobile devices while driving on campus roads, in the drop- off lines, pick-up lines, or Academy parking lots. Use of electronic devices while driving is a distraction to the driver that increases the risk of injury to the driver and others. As an act of public virtue refrain from use of electronic devices while driving on campus.
- All parents and scholars must use designated crosswalks to access the campus from parking lots. Parents of young scholars should escort their scholars through the crosswalks.
- Please do not park in any neighbor parking lots as we wish to respect our neighbors' right to conduct their business free from interruption or intrusion. Neighbor lots are private property, and unauthorized vehicles may be towed at owner's expense.

Please help us keep all of our entire community safe by paying close attention to drop-off/pick-up guidelines. Following the procedures outlined by the Academy such as pick-up/drop-off times, Driveline routes, etc., are carefully and thoroughly planned. Disregarding or failing to abide by these processes will result in longer pick-up and drop off times.

Please note that due to the higher-than-normal volume at the beginning of each year, congestion and delays are increased during the first few weeks of school. Traffic delays reduce and flow improves after the first few weeks as families learn the system and establish patterns.

High School Drivers:

High School scholars who drive to campus are required to complete the high school driver paperwork with the school office and will receive an assigned parking space in the designated scholar parking area. Scholars who have received authorization to park on campus must park in the designated scholar parking area in their assigned space. Scholars may not go into the parking area, or access their vehicles, during school hours. Scholars are not guaranteed a parking space. Parking spaces will be assigned based on availability and program need.

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

ASSEMBLIES

Throughout the school year, a variety of assemblies are provided for scholars. Assemblies that include parents/families will have invites sent through ParentSquare.

ASSESSMENTS/TESTING

In addition to classroom assessments given throughout the year, John Adams Academy participates in the following formal assessments:

- CAASPP (CALifornia Assessment of Scholar Performance and Progress)
- CAST (CALifornia Science Test)
- CLT (Classic Learning Test – *Optional*)
- ELPAC (English Language Proficiency Assessments for California – *for English Language Learners*)
- i-Ready (*Elementary*)
- MAP (Measures of Academic Progress – *Secondary*)
- PFT (Physical Fitness Test)
- PSAT (*11th grade*)

Please watch our website for dates and times. Scholars should not be absent or leave school early during testing days.

*ATTENDANCE, CHRONIC ABSENCE, AND TRUANCY POLICY

Attendance Philosophy

At John Adams Academy we view each day as an essential learning opportunity. A significant part of each scholar's educational experience is derived from classroom participation, activities, discussion and relationships. Regular attendance is crucial for scholars to attain the maximum benefit from their John Adams Academy experience. Therefore, we expect excellent attendance of our scholars. Missing school regularly is not only detrimental to a child's learning but can also create poor learning habits. Of course, if a child is sick or has a communicable illness, he or she should stay home to rest and recover. Scholars are responsible for making up work missed during an absence and should contact their teachers for assignments. Scholars must be enrolled as full day students at John Adams Academy unless excused by their Principal for reasons such as, but not limited to, classes taken at a local college, a work release with a permit or as part of an internship approved by the Academy, etc.

Internship and Work Experience Program

The Internship and Work Experience Program is for qualifying juniors and seniors and empowers scholars to begin exploring their unique interests as they craft a vision for their

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

future. This program provides authentic, real-world mentoring experiences with professionals and community leaders helping scholars cultivate connections that support both personal growth and societal contribution. Internships may be paid or voluntary positions.

Scholars in the Internship and Work Experience Program must attend at least four periods, or at least 180 minutes per day.

Concurrent Enrollment

Concurrent enrollment allows high school scholars to take college courses for high school credit and college credit simultaneously, preparing them for a seamless transition to college or a career.

Scholars participating in dual enrollment with a college must be offered and attend 80% of the instructional time required at a school site over the course of a year.

If a school has a College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) agreement with a community college, scholars must be offered 80% of instructional minutes for the year and the scholar must attend at least 50% of the instructional time required.

ADA and Funding

As a public school, John Adams Academy receives state funding based on ADA (Average Daily Attendance). For this reason, and in accordance with state law, the school must keep detailed records of scholar attendance. Daily attendance is important for many reasons, but it also directly affects our revenue. When a scholar is absent for any reason, the school does not receive the funding for that day.

Early Dismissal

If a scholar must leave school early because of a health appointment, the teacher should be notified in advance, and upon picking up the scholar, the parent will sign out their scholar in the office. Parents are encouraged to schedule appointments during non-school hours whenever possible.

For secondary scholars who drive themselves to school and are not being picked up by a parent/guardian for early dismissal, a written note shall be required for the scholar's release. T Written notice shall be provided by email sent to the school site main office. Email should derive from an email account that matches the parent guardian email address shown in Aeries. When the school site receives an email authorizing the early release of the scholar, a call may be made to the parent as a secondary verification prior to the scholar being released.

On-time Arrival

Promptness is the hallmark of many great leaders and is essential to the execution of one's daily duties. The John Adams Academy Academic day begins with flag ceremony, setting the

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

tone for the reverence and formality of the opportunity to educate ourselves. The requirement for on-time arrival is for both the beginning of the school day as well as every class period throughout the day. Scholars who disrupt class by arriving late must check in at the office. Please ensure your scholar arrives to school on time and underscore the importance of arriving to each class on time each day.

Excused Absences

As outlined in the Board policy on attendance, the Executive Director or designee is responsible for determining whether an absence is excused or unexcused. Absence from school may be excused only for health reasons, family emergencies, and justifiable personal reasons, as permitted by law.

The following are examples of excused absences:

- Illness or situations when a physician recommends a scholar miss school
- Medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic appointments which cannot be scheduled outside the school day
- Religious holidays
- Court-ordered absences
- Death in the scholar's immediate family
- To spend time with a member of the scholar's immediate family, who is an active-duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from, deployment to a combat zone or combat support position
- Attending naturalization ceremony
- Other unusual circumstances when requested in advance and approved by the Executive Director or his/her designee

Completion of Work

Scholars absent for the reasons deemed "excused" shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the absence that can be reasonably provided and, upon satisfactory completion within a reasonable period of time, shall be given full credit therefor. The mentor of the class from which a scholar is absent shall determine which tests and assignments shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the tests and assignments that the scholar missed during the absence.

Unexcused Absences/Truancy for Classroom-Based Attendance

Examples of unexcused absences include, but are not limited to the following reasons:

- "Long weekends" and vacations
- Family reunions
- Staying home to care for animals
- Moving days (change of residence)

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

- Transportation problems
- Appointments for non-essential activities
- Forgetting it was a school day

Scholars absent for reasons deemed “unexcused” may be precluded from receiving credit for assignments and tests missed during the unexcused absence.

Families who are aware in advance of a possible excused or unexcused absence are encouraged to contact the school regarding participation in a short-term independent study agreement.

Consequences for Multiple Unexcused Absences

Upon the third unexcused absence, in addition to sending written communication, the Academy will take preventative action and contact the family by telephone to determine the reasons and causes for the unexcused absences or other attendance problems.

Upon the sixth unexcused absence, in addition to sending written communication, the Academy will call the family to schedule an in-person meeting with a parent to discuss the unexcused absences and notify the parents that if four more unexcused absences occur, for a total of ten unexcused absences, the scholar will lose his or her admissions preference as a continuing scholar for the Academy for the following school year and will be considered disenrolled from the Academy.

Upon the eighth unexcused absence, in addition to sending written communication, a second in-person parent conference will be scheduled and the parent will be notified that two more unexcused absences, for a total of ten unexcused absences, will result in the scholar no longer receiving preferential admission as a continuing scholar to the Academy for the next school year and will be considered disenrolled from the Academy.

Upon the tenth unexcused absence, the scholar will be considered disenrolled from the Academy. This will result in a written notification from John Adams Academy that the scholar has been disenrolled.

Consequences for Multiple Consecutive Unexcused Absences

In cases where a scholar has enrolled but has demonstrated no positive attendance from the first day of school, upon the third day of consecutive unexcused absence, the scholar may be marked as a “no show” and considered disenrolled.

For scholars that have demonstrated at least one positive day of attendance during the school year, upon the seventh consecutive unexcused absence, the scholar will be disciplined up to and including disenrollment from the Academy.

Chronic Absenteeism

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Chronic absentee means a scholar who is absent for any reason on 10 percent or more of the school days in the school year, when the total number of days the scholar is absent is divided by the total number of days the scholar is enrolled and school was actually taught.

For purposes of this policy, chronic absentee includes a scholar who is absent for any reason from a course in which attendance is taken by period on 10 percent or more of the periods in the school year, when the total number of periods the scholar is absent is divided by the total number of periods the scholar is enrolled and school was actually taught.

Limits to Length of Excused Absences

In the case of chronic absenteeism, the Executive Director or his/her designee shall limit the length of an excused absence to the stated justification to ensure they do not extend over days the scholar could attend School. These limitations include, but are not limited, to:

Illness: Once designated as a chronic absentee, a parent, or scholar if the scholar has attained age 18, must provide a Doctor's Note for all illness-related absences. A Doctor's Note is documentation from a physician, dentist or other medical doctor indicating that the scholar must stay home from school. Only the front office is authorized to accept a Doctor's Note. If a Doctor's Note is not provided, the Executive Director or designee may consider each missed day an unexcused absence.

Other Absences Ordinarily Considered Excused: Once designated as a chronic absentee, a parent, or scholar if the scholar has attained age 18, must provide documentation to verify the validity of each absence that would ordinarily be considered "excused". If the documentation is not provided, the Executive Director or designee may consider each missed day an unexcused absence.

Consequences for Chronic Absenteeism

Unless a scholar has completed the chronic illness process or otherwise made prior arrangements with administrative leadership, privileges to participate in non-academic activities including socials, dances, athletics, walking at graduation, eligibility to run for scholar government, etc. may be withheld for chronic absenteeism. Depending on the cause of the chronic absenteeism, consequences could include disenrollment of the scholar.

In the case of chronic absenteeism, scholars absent for reasons deemed "unexcused" may be precluded from receiving credit for assignments and tests missed during the unexcused absence, and/or may not receive credit for the course if tracked under period attendance.

The Executive Director retains discretion to apply the consequences in a manner to protect and support the scholar, as the Academy strives towards ensuring all scholars attend school.

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Independent study

Please see section on *Independent Study*.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHTS

Back to School Nights, held at the beginning of the school year, feature an Academy-wide welcome followed by classroom presentations to inform parents of classroom policies and expectations. This informational evening is intended for parents only, no childcare or supervision will be provided. Please come prepared to learn about John Adams Academy and your scholar's class(es) rather than to discuss individual scholar progress.

BIRTHDAYS

John Adams Academy recognizes that your scholar's birthday is important. However, birthday celebrations, balloons, presents, birthday food/treats of any kind, etc. need to be presented to scholars at home, not at the academy, as valuable learning time is lost when classes are interrupted. Birthday party invitations must also be distributed outside of school.

CALLS

To minimize class disruptions, please do not attempt to call your scholar on his or her cell phone during academic hours. We require that scholar cell phones be turned off and put away during academic hours. (Please see section on *Electronic Devices and Cell Phones*.) In the event of an urgent matter that requires you to reach your scholar during the school day, calls should be made to the school office, not to your scholar's cell phone or other cellular device. If a scholar needs to call home, they are to come to the office to make the call, not use their personal cellular device. A scholar will not be denied a call to a parent if they come to the office to make a call.

We encourage parents to use email to communicate with teachers or administrators whenever possible. You can reach staff via ParentSquare or email. Any John Adams Academy staff member can be emailed using the following format `firstname.lastname@johnadamsacademy.org`. Leaving voicemail messages for staff members is also acceptable. The office will not interrupt classes to forward calls. Calls and emails to teachers are expected to be returned within 48 hours, whenever possible. Likewise, parents are expected to respond to teacher calls or emails within the same 48-hour return courtesy.

CLASSROOM VISITS

Parents are welcome to visit the classroom during the school year. The following guidelines will allow for visits that do not disrupt the learning environment:

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

- Please contact your scholar's teacher in advance to make arrangements for your visit.
- Arrangements for classroom visits must be made at least 24 hours in advance.
- Classroom observations do not include interaction with the teacher or the scholars.
- All visitors are required by law to sign in at the office and wear a visitor's badge while on campus.
- Please follow the same dress standards expected of scholars, namely uniform level standards, or business attire.
- If there is a matter you wish to discuss, please make an appointment with your scholar's teacher via email or phone for a conference that will occur outside of class time.
- If you would like to spend lunch with your scholar, please sign them out and take them off campus to eat. Due to space limitations and scholar safety, parents are not allowed to accompany scholars to lunch on campus or at recess unless specifically invited for a special event.
- For the safety of all, if you observe an adult on campus without a John Adams Academy visitor badge, please direct them to the office to sign in.

CLOSED CAMPUS

John Adam Academy is a closed campus. Once scholars arrive on campus, they are expected to remain on campus until the end of the day. If any scholar chooses to leave campus without parent and Academy permission, he or she will be classified as truant and will be subject to disciplinary action.

There will be times when classes may be held away from campus. The only exception to the closed campus rule is for scholars to attend these released time activities. Law enforcement may be summoned if a scholar's whereabouts are unknown.

All visitors on campus must first check in at the office to receive a visitor's badge and must have permission to be on campus. Once checked-in, all visitors must sign out at the office prior to leaving campus.

*COMMUNICATION

ParentSquare, emails from staff, and the John Adams Academy website will be the primary sources of communication with John Adams Academy families. All families are expected to provide an email address to receive Academy communication. Families who wish to receive printed materials must contact the office to request a copy. John Adams Academy will also communicate with families through recorded phone messages (all-calls) and surveys. For convenience, some news items will be posted to the website.

Main: johnadamsacademy.org

Bulletin boards on campus will be used for more specific information. *All bulletin board material*

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

must be approved by the administration prior to posting.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

John Adams Academy is creating an environment of servant leadership. Scholars are required to complete a minimum number of community service hours depending on grade level. All service through any community organization will be eligible to count toward service hours (i.e. Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, FFA, 4-H, scholar-sponsored events, etc.)

Grades K–3: No minimum number of hours apply. Scholars are encouraged to participate in at least one service project per year to create the beginning concept of servant leadership.

Grades 4-5: Minimum 5 hours per year

Grades 6-8: Minimum 10 hours per year

Grades 9-12: Minimum 20 hours per year

*COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE

The use of John Adams Academy computers, technology, or online systems is strictly limited to educational, not personal, purposes. Scholars are allowed to access John Adams Academy computers and internet on campus only when a supervising teacher is present. Scholars are expected to comply with the Technology Use Agreement at all times, including ensuring the use of the internet and other online resources through the Academy is ethical and appropriate.

Technology Use Agreement

At John Adams Academy, technology including network and internet services offers a wide variety of opportunities to further educational goals and objectives and therefore provides technology services and network access to its staff and scholars. Access to these resources and information is an educational opportunity requiring responsible use by each individual. As such, every John Adams Academy user should act in an ethical and legal manner consistent with the Academy's mission and Core Values and should conform to educationally appropriate use.

Users of John Adams Academy technology and network services should remember that the level of confidentiality on Academy-owned computers may not be the same as that expected when using their own equipment or internet services. Electronic communications (For purposes of this document, electronic communications include but are not limited to email, chat, blogs, discussion forums, social media, and instant messaging,) files and internet records may be examined for educational and administrative purposes and to verify that acceptable-use guidelines are being followed.

John Adams Academy has taken reasonable steps to ensure that technology services and network use is primarily for activities that support Academy goals and objectives. While the Academy employs internet content filtering technology in the interest of keeping harmful and inappropriate content from being accessed, internet content filtering is not a perfect science and

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

it may be possible for users of the internet to access inappropriate information. Likewise, computer security cannot be made perfect and it is possible that a determined user can make use of computer resources for inappropriate purposes.

The benefits of internet access in the form of information resources and opportunities far exceed the disadvantages. Ultimately, parent(s) and guardian(s) of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their scholar should follow. Use of the academy technology, network, and technology services is strictly limited to educational purposes.

Responsibility

As a user of John Adams Academy technology services, network and internet connections, scholars agree to:

- Use network access in an acceptable manner, follow all academy rules and regulations regarding network use, including being polite, using appropriate language, and respecting privacy of others.
- Use online time and other technology/network resources efficiently and for educational purposes only.
- Report any known misuse of technology or network services to the appropriate teacher, administrator, or the Academy office.
- Be the sole user of an issued individual network account. The scholar will protect their account by not giving out the password and will report any suspected misuse to the appropriate teacher or administrator. Scholars will be responsible for all use of their account.
- Follow all applicable copyright laws. Scholars will understand that inappropriately copying or misusing other people's work may be considered plagiarism. Likewise, any work that the scholar creates through the use of John Adams Academy technology services/network is their property. Yet, it is subject to all the guidelines of this policy.
- Assist in keeping the John Adams Academy network free from viruses or other malicious attacks by refraining from opening attachments from unknown sources, downloading and/or installing unauthorized software, and being alert to warnings.
- Apply what they have learned about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms (outside of school), and cyber bullying awareness and response.

Inappropriate technology/network/online conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Using technology or network services for illegal activities, including unauthorized installation, use, storage, or distribution of copyrighted software or materials in violation of copyright laws.
- Unauthorized installation or use of any software or hardware not belonging to, or properly licensed by the Academy. (e.g., games, applications, operating systems, shareware, computer components, and peripherals)
- Accessing, posting, submitting, publishing or displaying harmful or inappropriate matter that is threatening, obscene, disruptive or sexually explicit or that could be

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

construed as harassment or disparagement of others (cyberbullying) based on their race/ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion or political beliefs. California penal Code Section §313(a).

- Using technology or network services for private business, commercial enterprise, or for political activities.
- Use of another individual's name, user account, or password.
- Allowing another user access to their account, sharing electronic account passwords, leaving passwords available in obvious locations, or leaving signed-on- or logged-on computers unattended.
- Disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification or contact information about oneself or others when using electronic communication. Scholars are cautioned not to disclose personal information by any means to individuals on the Internet without the permission of staff members. They are urged to discuss online privacy issues with their parents or guardians. Personal information includes the scholar's name, address, telephone number, Social Security number, or other individually identifiable information.
- Reading or accessing other users' email or files.
- Attempting to interfere with other users' ability to: use technology resources, send or receive email, deleting, copying, modifying or forging other users' mail or files.
- Sending or exchanging messages that are inconsistent with the Academy or its mission and Core Values.
- Using encryption, encoding, or passwords to deliberately concealing or hiding email or files.
- Distributing electronic media or files in a manner that is likely to cause network congestion or impede the ability of other people to access and use the system (e.g. downloading extremely large files; sending/distributing mass emails or chain letters; downloading video and audio files not directly related to Academy mission or Core Values; excessive chat or instant message use for non-educational purposes.
- Intentionally uploading, downloading, or creating computer viruses.
- Attempting to vandalize, harm, tamper with, intercept, or destroy academy equipment, data, or materials including use and/or possession of hacking tools.
- Attempting to bypass, circumvent, or disable: network security, virus protection, or internet content filtering; not limited to but including use of internet anonymizers to disguise user/computer origin or content.
- Manipulating the data of any other user, the Academy, or Academy resources.
- Unauthorized access to servers, computer systems, or network equipment.
- Use or connection of any personal, non-academy equipment to the John Adams Academy network.

Scholars who violate the John Adams Academy Scholar Technology Agreement, board policy, misuse technology or network services, or violate state or federal laws may be subject to disciplinary action, loss of access privileges and/or legal action in accordance with law. The Academy technology services provider and the administration reserve the right to delete files or remove access to resources found to display or propagate inappropriate online conduct. Parents have the right to authorize or decline network/internet access for their scholar.

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Scholar Internet/Network Users

By logging on to or using any computer or technology resource on the John Adams Academy network or on Academy premises the user understands and agrees to abide by the provisions and conditions of this policy as well as with all Academy rules and regulations which may relate to usage of Academy technology and equipment, including use of the internet. User also understands that their use of the Internet and electronic communications through Academy computers and equipment is strictly limited to educational purposes, that they are not guaranteed Academy rights to privacy with respect to electronic communications or internet records, and that from time-to-time Academy Administration may review such electronic communications or internet records for general security purposes to ensure compliance with this policy.

Parent/Guardian of Scholar User

The Academy makes no warranties of any kind, either express or implied, that the functions or the services provided by or through the Academy internet connection will be error-free or without defect.

The Academy will not be responsible for any damage users may suffer, including but not limited to: loss of data, interruptions of service, or exposure to inappropriate material or people. The Academy is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through the system. The Academy will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the system.

Users or parents of users indemnify and hold the Academy harmless from any losses sustained as the result of misuse of the system by users. By allowing your scholar(s) access to and use of any computer or technology resource on the John Adams Academy network or on Academy premises, you hereby give your scholar(s) permission to use the John Adams Academy local area networks (LAN) and internet gateway, and you agree on behalf of your scholar(s) to all terms and conditions set forth in this document.

COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL EDUCATION OPT-OUT

California charter schools, including John Adams Academy, are required by law (AB-2601) to provide comprehensive sexual education and human immunodeficiency virus ("HIV") prevention education to scholars in middle school and high school. The law requires that each scholar receive this education at least twice while in school (at least once in middle school and at least once again in high school), unless the parent/guardian provides a written "Opt-Out" notice to the school.

If the parent/guardian does not opt-out, John Adams Academy makes this content available to scholars through the parent by providing an online course to be discussed at home.

Opt-Out forms are available on the website under the FAMILIES tab; NOTICES, and then

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

selecting AB 2601 NOTICES on the right-hand menu. Anyone unable to access the information or opt-out forms on the website may obtain copies of the form at the front office. Once filed, the opt-out is “evergreen” which means it will remain in effect unless revoked in writing at a future date by the parent.

Please note: If a parent seeks to "Opt-Out" more than one child, a separate "Opt-Out" form must be on file for each child.

CONFERENCES

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held twice per year. Once during the first semester for all scholars and once during the second semester for parents wishing to schedule a conference with teachers regarding their scholar’s progress. Please refer to the school calendar for dates. *(The calendar is located on the website under FAMILIES.)*

CURRICULUM

The John Adams Academy educational model is American Classical Leadership Education®. The curriculum features a traditional, well-balanced core of essential subjects. Scholars in grades TK-12 are instructed in phonics, grammar and mechanics, writing, literature, history, geography, science, foreign language, art, math, and music.

Classics

John Adams Academy offers a carefully selected curriculum that relies predominantly on primary sources: historical documents, biographies, autobiographies and classic works of literature, and avoids relying on textbooks that have been subject to over-simplification or historical revision. Scholars will read and discuss a collection of books that are both timeless and timely. Some readings may be assigned during non-school days. Lists of classics are provided by teachers and are listed on the John Adams Academy website.

Graduation Requirements

John Adams Academy graduation requirements meet or exceed the California graduation requirements, and University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) requirements for freshman admission. The chart below of graduation requirements demonstrates the Academy graduation requirements in comparison to current California, UC and CSU requirements as an example of the Academy meeting or exceeding said requirements. The Academy may amend graduation requirements during the term of the charter based on changes in California, UC or CSU requirements as well as the Academy’s identification of scholar or program need. Parents will be informed about the transferability of courses to other public high schools and the eligibility of courses to meet college entrance requirements via methods including, but not limited to, the Family/Scholar Handbook, family orientations, parent/school conferences, Academy website and information available at the main office.

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

If changes are made that increase the requirements for graduation, any scholar currently enrolled in high school would be subject to the previous requirements as advertised when they enrolled. The more stringent requirements would apply to any scholars newly enrolling in a high school grade level following the change.

Scholars graduating from John Adams Academy will complete a minimum of 240 credit hours. All scholars must complete each of the following Capstone Requirements with a passing grade (C- or higher) to be eligible for graduation:

- Thesis
- Speech
- Project

Scholars must earn a grade of C- or higher for satisfactory completion of all academic courses, Scholars who earn a grade of D+ or lower will be required to repeat the course to earn credit. Scholars who have been absent for any reason from 10% or more of the class during the time for which they were enrolled are deemed chronic absentees (see attendance policy above). In the case of chronic absenteeism, scholars absent for reasons deemed “unexcused” may be precluded from receiving credit for assignments and tests missed during the unexcused absence, and/or may not receive credit for the course if tracked under period attendance.

	John Adams Academy Graduation Requirements	California Graduation Requirements	University of California (UC) Requirements for Freshman Admissions	California State University (CSU) Requirements for Freshman Admissions
History/Social Science (A)	50 Units [1] , including 30 units Western Civilization; 10 units U.S. History; 5 units American Government and 5 units Economics	6 semesters (30 Units) , including 2 semesters (10 units) of U.S. History and geography; 2 semesters (10 units) of world history, culture, and geography; 1 semester (5 units) of American government and civics, and 1 semester (5 units) of economics.	4 semesters (20 Units) , including 2 semesters (10 units) U.S. history or 1 semester (5 units) of U.S. history and 1 semester (5 units) of civics or American government; and 2 semesters (10 units) of world history, cultures, and geography.	4 semesters (20 Units) , including 2 semesters (10 units) of U.S. history or U.S. history and government and 2 semesters (10 units) of other approved social science.
Philosophy	10 Units Moral and Political Philosophy	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Personal Finance	5 Units [2]	1 Semester (5 Units)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
English (B)	40 units	6 semesters (30 Units)	8 semesters (40 Units) of approved courses.	8 semesters (40 Units) of approved courses.

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Mathematics (C)	30 Units [3] , including Algebra I and Geometry	4 semesters (20 Units) , including Algebra I.	6 semesters (30 Units) , including algebra, geometry, and intermediate algebra. 8 semesters recommended.	6 semesters (30 Units) , 40 Units recommended, including algebra, intermediate algebra and geometry.
Science (D)	30 Units [4] , 10 Units Biology, 10 Units from either Chemistry or Physics, 10 Units from any additional science.	4 semesters (20 Units) , including biological and physical sciences.	4 semesters, (20 Units) with lab required, chosen from biology, chemistry, and physics. 6 semesters recommended.	4 semesters (20 Units) , including 2 semesters of biological and 2 semesters of physical science with lab.
Foreign Language (E)	20 Units [5] in same language required.	2 semesters (10 Units) of either visual and performing arts, foreign language, or career technical education.	4 semesters (20 Units) in same language required. 6 semesters recommended.	4 semesters (20 Units) in same language required.
Visual /Performing Arts (F)	10 Units of visual or performing arts	2 semesters (10 Units) of either visual and performing arts, foreign language, or career technical education.	2 semesters (10 Units) of visual and performing arts chosen from the following: dance, drama/theater, music, or visual art.	2 semesters (10 Units) of visual and performing arts chosen from the following: dance, drama/theater, music, or visual art.
Physical Education	Offered, but not a core class and not required for graduation	4 semesters (20 Units)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Electives (G)	45 Units (9.5 semesters)	Not Applicable	2 semesters (10 Units)	2 semesters (10 Units)
Exams	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	SAT or ACT with Writing.	SAT or ACT
Additional Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis • Speech • Project 	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Total Credits	240 Unit Credits (48 semesters) (Grades below C- will not be awarded credit, save for the 10 Unit exception listed above.)	130 Unit Credits (26 semesters)	150 Unit Credits (30 semesters) 14 semesters must be completed in the last two years of high school	150 Unit Credits (30 semesters)

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Please note: Scholars must be enrolled as full day students at John Adams Academy unless excused by their Principal for reasons such as, but not limited to, classes taken at a local college, a work release with a permit or as part of an internship approved by the Academy, etc.

[1] Scholars must complete all JAA Humanities curriculum courses to graduate, even if they transfer from another institution (unless it is shown as transfer credit – from another classical school – covers the same Great Book content). The requirement for Western Civilization 3 begins with the class of 2028.

[2] Beginning with the class of 2030-31.

[3] The Algebra 1 and/or Geometry requirement may be met by successfully completing a course that meets or exceeds the rigor of the content standards of Algebra 1 and/or Geometry. Courses meeting the Algebra 1 and/or Geometry requirement may be transferred from middle school if the course is A-G approved or it can be demonstrated that the course content qualifies as high school level content. Beginning with the graduating class of 2028, scholars must complete a minimum of 30 Units of mathematics while in High School even if the mathematics requirements for graduation were completed in middle school.

[4] Beginning with the class of 2028.

[5] One year of language may be transferred from middle school if the course is A-G approved. Courses meeting the Foreign Language requirement may be transferred from middle school if the course is A-G approved or it can be demonstrated that the course content qualifies as high school level content. American Sign Language is deemed a foreign language for purposes of meeting the foreign language graduation requirement. Scholars must complete 10 units of foreign language while in high school even if Foreign Language requirements for graduation were completed in middle school.

Board approved: December 11, 2025

Credit Recovery

When 9th-12th grade scholars fail a required course for graduation (earn a grade of D+ or lower), they must retake the course. Upon retaking the course the scholar will receive the new grade earned with a notation on the transcript that the course was repeated. In certain circumstances the teacher of record may allow a scholar who received a grade below a C- to participate in credit recovery to improve the grade received for that course without having to retake the entire course. Credit recovery courses to retake the course or to complete missing work within the existing course may be offered either online or in-person. Successful completion in a credit recovery class of work assigned by the teacher of record will result in a change of the scholar's failing grade to C-. In order to earn a grade higher than C-, the scholar must retake the course in it's entirety.

DANCE POLICY

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

1. Doors close one half hour after the dance begins. No in/out privileges. All scholars must remain in the designated event location at all times. No exceptions.
2. Dances at John Adams Academy are for scholars in regular attendance at John Adams Academy. Scholars who have 10 or more unexcused absences will not be admitted.
3. Scholars who have been suspended, on or off campus within the current semester, or are expelled, are not permitted at dances.
4. Scholars with a current grade of F in any class or more than one D will not be allowed to attend.
5. Scholars/guests must immediately leave campus or be picked up when exiting from the dance. Scholars/guests not leaving or picked up within 30 minutes may lose future dance privileges.
6. Scholars/guests must display a current year scholar body I.D. (or a valid driver's license) to be admitted. No exceptions.
7. Dance Conduct:
 - a. Scholars/guests shall dance in an appropriate manner. Unsafe, lewd, or vulgar dancing is not permitted. This includes freak dancing, crowd surfing, slam dancing, grinding, and moshing.
 - b. Scholars/guests are expected to face their partner while dancing.
8. Smoking, drinking, possessing, or having consumed drugs or alcohol is not permitted. Anyone suspected of being under the influence will be evaluated and removed from the dance if found to be under the influence. Both parents and law enforcement will be called in such cases, and scholar(s) will be suspended for five days. Scholar may also be recommended to the Board of Trustees for expulsion. Any scholar/guest under the influence of alcohol or drugs at any school dance will not be allowed to attend the next school dance.
9. Scholars/guests shall dress appropriately according to the theme of the dance. The Academy dress code will be enforced. Scholars/guests who violate any of these rules will be removed from the dance.
10. In addition to the disciplinary actions already stated, repeated violations of any rule above may not only exclude a scholar/guest from future dances, but may result in cancelling of dances completely.
11. Administrators reserve the right to deny entrance to any scholar not complying with established rules.
12. All scholars who drive to campus for the dance will be asked to park in designated areas, as directed by leadership or chaperones. Scholars/guests will be escorted to their vehicles should they decide to leave the dance early, must leave immediately, and will not be granted re-entry to the dance.
13. While the uniform is not required, scholars are expected to adhere to the same minimum standards as the daily uniform. Modesty will be expected: no bare skin or midriff, no low cut or revealing clothing, and shorts will not be allowed. Dresses must have a minimum of two (2) inch-wide strap and dresses and skirts must touch the knee.

DISCIPLINE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Pursuant to the Board Policy on Scholar Discipline (*see* Appendix C), the following are

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

procedures and guidelines for scholar behavior and discipline.

The Academy is committed to optimizing learning for all scholars. John Adams Academy scholars are expected to act as scholars: to respect themselves and others, including Academy faculty and staff, other scholars, other adults, and property. These procedures provide guidance and direction of acceptable behavior in order to develop a scholar's own sense of self-discipline, rather than create a menagerie of rules to follow.

The goals of discipline at John Adams Academy are:

1. To maintain a highly effective learning environment where scholars focus on gaining knowledge with minimal distraction.
2. To utilize the discipline process as an opportunity for scholars to learn about themselves and others, and to provide them with character education and lessons.
3. To reinforce the Academy's commitment to treating all scholars with fairness, respect, and equality.

The goal of discipline is to provide a learning opportunity for the scholar in order to implement a positive change in behavior. Meetings between administration and scholars on matters of behavior shall include discussions of the Core Values and notification to the scholar's parent of the scholar's visit to the office. Administration may call for a parent conference. The included goals of a parent conference with administration are:

1. To exchange accurate information about the scholar.
2. To determine how the parent-academy partnership can best work together to lead the scholar to reform his/her behavior.

Teachers will have the authority to implement discipline in their classrooms that is consistent with the John Adams Academy discipline goals. Teachers will utilize the administration to implement discipline whenever appropriate and most especially when disciplinary action by the teacher would take away from maintaining an effective learning environment in the classroom.

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any scholar. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of or willfully causing the infliction of physical pain on a scholar. For purposes of the policy, corporal punishment does not include an employee's use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect the employee, scholars, staff or other persons or to prevent damage to Academy property.

John Adams Academy desires to educate all scholars who enter our academy, expecting nothing less than the best from each one. If a scholar commits a major disruption or infraction (or a series of minor infractions) the teacher may issue a referral to the office. Referrals/detentions are cumulative throughout the school year.

The John Adams Academy staff shall enforce disciplinary rules and procedures fairly and consistently among all scholars. Bullying is prohibited against any scholar, staff

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

member, or volunteer for any reason. Bullying means any written, verbal, or non-verbal expression/physical or electronic act/gesture or a pattern thereof, that is intended to coerce, intimidate, or cause any physical, mental, or emotional harm to any scholar. Bullying is prohibited on academy property, at academy-sanctioned events, when scholars are being transported to or from the academy or at academy-sanctioned events, and off-campus when it is reasonably foreseeable that the bullying conduct may cause a substantial disruption in the educational mission of the academy or interfere with the ability of other academy scholars to learn or be secure. Scholars who engage in bullying will be subject to discipline according to the policies discussed herein.

John Adams Academy's Scholar Guidelines for Behavior Scholars will:

1. Learning requires scholars to be polite and attentive.
2. Attend school consistently, be on time, and take responsibility for promptly making up any work missed when absent. Each scholar will bear the responsibility for his or her own conduct. Each scholar will respect the Academy's atmosphere of learning by attending class and being prepared and punctual.
3. Follow all reasonable requests made by adults on the premises with a positive attitude, and show respect for self, others and property. Each scholar is expected to cooperate with and respect all faculty and staff, and any other individuals working or volunteering at the academy. Scholars are expected to communicate in an acceptable tone of voice using an acceptable choice of words.
4. Follow lunchroom, playground, field trip, commons area, and individual classroom rules. Each scholar is expected to follow the Academy's rules when participating in academy-related events.
5. Adhere to the dress code.
6. Not use threats or intimidation against any other person.
7. Respect the health and safety of others, safety rules, and not use tobacco, alcohol, or other illegal substances.
8. Be dismissed by the teacher, not the bell or the clock.
9. Not leave campus without signing out in the main office.
10. Not use electronic devices (audio players, ear phones, Air pods, radios, pagers, cell phones, smart watches, tablets, games consoles, etc.). Such items will be confiscated. Acceptability of other devices is at the discretion of teachers and administration. (*Refer to electronic device policy*)

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

11. Scholars will not bring anything to the academy that could be used to cause harm or that is illegal.
12. Adhere to the John Adams Academy Anti-Bullying Statement
13. If a scholar does misbehave, the consequences for the infraction will be immediate, relevant and effective.

Scholars possess the right of privacy as well as freedom from unreasonable search and seizure as guaranteed by the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. This individual right, however, is balanced by the academy's responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all its scholars, and to ensure compliance with Academy rules. Academy employees (usually administrators) may conduct searches of property or persons when they have reason to suspect that the health, safety, or welfare of scholars or staff may be endangered, or that an Academy policy has been violated. Items not allowed by John Adams Academy may be confiscated. Items that can be returned will be made available for pick-up by the parent.

John Adams Academy is not responsible for loss, theft, or breakage of items brought to the Academy.

Fines may be levied on parents for vandalism or theft committed by their scholars. Fines may also be levied for lost or damaged academy property. Scholars and parents may also be required to be involved in the maintenance or repair of damaged property.

In evaluating consequences, teachers and the administration will determine if the act is a first time, a repeated, or habitual offense.

Group Punishment

The whole class will never be punished for the misdeeds of individual scholar(s). This includes loss of recess or other group activities/privileges.

Discipline During Recess (Grades TK - 6)

A pupil shall not be denied recess by a member of the school's staff unless the pupil's participation poses an immediate threat to the physical safety of the pupil or to the physical safety of one or more of the pupil's peers.

Discretion

At no time will a scholar's disciplinary record be discussed with another scholar or parent. However, other scholars or parents may be consulted regarding an incident in an attempt to discern truth.

Detention

Guardians will be notified if their scholar is required to attend detention. Detention will

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

be served on campus, and is generally held after school hours.

Community Service

Instead of disciplinary action, the administration may require a scholar to perform community service on school grounds during non-school hours. Community service may include, but is not limited to, work performed on school grounds in the areas of outdoor beautification, campus betterment, and teacher or peer assistance programs. (See Education Code 48900.6)

Saturday School

Four (4) office referrals/detentions require Saturday School. Saturday School will be held from 8:00am - 12:00pm on campus. Scholars assigned to Saturday school will not be able to participate in athletics, extra-curricular activities or field trips, or be eligible for any John Adams Academy awards for the remainder of the semester Any infraction following Saturday School may result in further disciplinary action. Dates will be determined as assigned. **Attendance in an assigned Saturday School is required. Failure to attend Saturday School may result in suspension.**

Administrators may accelerate a scholar's progress through the above list based on seriousness or disruptiveness and scholar defiance.

Other Means of Correction

When appropriate, John Adams Academy will consider other means of correction besides suspension or expulsion including, but not limited to, use of parent conferences, community service, and counselor referrals.

Suspension

An administrator or designee has the authority to suspend scholars as appropriate.

The duration of a suspension depends on the severity or frequency of the infraction. All suspensions will require a parent conference with administration. A Remedial Scholar Discipline

Plan will be created during this conference. The conference will occur before the scholar is readmitted to class. The administration may require the parent to attend a full day of class with the scholar upon return.

Suspended scholars will not be on the honor roll for that quarter. Scholars may be suspended for reasons other than receiving repeated office referrals. Such suspensions may render a scholar ineligible for field trips and other activities.

Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion of Scholars

A scholar may be suspended or expelled for prohibited misconduct if the act is:

1. Related to Academy activity,

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

2. Academy attendance occurring at the Academy or at another other school, or
3. An Academy sponsored event.

A scholar may be suspended or expelled for acts that are enumerated below and related to Academy activity or attendance that occur at any time, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

1. While on Academy grounds;
2. While going to or coming from the Academy;
3. During the lunch period, whether on or off the Academy campus; or
4. During, going to, or coming from an Academy-sponsored activity.

Enumerated Offenses

Scholars may be suspended or expelled for any of the following acts when it is determined the scholar:

1. Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.
2. Willfully used force of violence on another, except self-defense.
3. Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object.
4. Unlawfully possessed, used, sold or otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance, as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind. This section does not prohibit the use of his or her own prescription products by a scholar as dispensed by the Academy staff.
5. Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid substance or material and represented same as controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant.
6. Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
7. Caused or attempted to cause damage to Academy property or private property.
8. Stole or attempted to steal Academy property or private property.
9. Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including but not limited to cigars, cigarettes, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, electronic/vapor cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets and betel.
10. Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
11. Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code 11014.5.
12. Disrupted Academy activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, other Academy officials, or other Academy personnel engaged in the performance of their duties.
13. Knowingly received stolen Academy property or private property.

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

14. Possessed an imitation firearm, i.e.: a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.
15. Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal code 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a or 289, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code 243.4.
16. Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a scholar who is a complaining witness or witness in an Academy disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that scholar from being a witness and/or retaliating against that scholar for being a witness.
17. Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold prescription drugs.
18. Engaged in, or attempted to engage in hazing. For the purposes of this subdivision, "hazing" means a method of initiation or pre-initiation into a scholar organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective scholar.
19. Made terrorist threats against Academy officials and/or Academy property. For purposes of this section, "terroristic threat" shall include any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death, bodily injury to another person, or property damage in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in fear for his or her own safety or for his or her immediate family's safety, or for the protection of Academy property, or the personal property of the person threatened or his or her immediate family.
20. Committed sexual harassment, as defined in Education Code Section 212.5. For the purposes of this section, the conduct described in Section 212.5 must be considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the individual's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. This section shall apply to scholars in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
21. Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause or participated in an act of hate violence, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 233 of the Education Code. This section shall apply to scholars in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
22. Intentionally harassed, threatened or intimidated a scholar or group of scholars to the extent of having the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting class work, creating substantial disorder and invading scholar rights by creating an intimidating or hostile environment. This section shall apply to scholars

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.

Alternatives to suspension or expulsion may first be attempted with scholars who are truant, tardy, or otherwise absent from assigned Academy activities.

Suspension Procedure

Suspensions shall be initiated according to the following procedures:

1. **Conference:** Suspension shall be preceded, if possible, by a conference conducted by the administration with the scholar and his or her parent and, whenever practical, the teacher, supervisor or Academy employee who referred the scholar to the Administration Office. The conference may be omitted if the administration determines that an emergency situation exists. An emergency situation involves a clear and present danger to the lives, safety or health of scholars or Academy personnel. If a scholar is suspended without this conference, both the parent and scholar shall be notified of the scholar's right to return to Academy for the purpose of a conference. At the conference, the scholar shall be informed of the reason for the disciplinary action and the evidence against him or her and shall be given the opportunity to present his or her version and evidence in his or her defense. This conference shall be held within two Academy days, unless the scholar waives this right or is physically unable to attend for any reason including, but not limited to, incarceration or hospitalization. No penalties may be imposed on a scholar for failure of the scholar's parent or guardian to attend a conference with Academy officials. Reinstatement of the suspended scholar shall not be contingent upon attendance by the scholar's parent or guardian at the conference.
2. **Notice to Parents:** At the time of suspension, the administration shall make a reasonable effort to contact the parent by telephone or in person. Whenever a scholar is suspended, the parent shall be notified in writing of the suspension and the date of return following suspension. This notice shall state the specific offense committed by the scholar. In addition, the notice may also state the date and time when the scholar may return to the Academy. If Academy officials wish to ask the parent to confer regarding matters pertinent to the suspension, the notice may request that the parent respond to such requests without delay.
3. **Suspension Time Limits/Recommendation for Expulsion:** (Suspensions, when not including a recommendation for expulsion, shall not exceed five (5) consecutive Academy days per suspension.) Upon a recommendation of expulsion by the administration, the scholar and the scholar's guardian or representative will be invited to a conference to determine if the suspension for the scholar should be extended pending an expulsion hearing. This determination will be made by the administration upon either of the following determinations:
 - The scholar's presence will be disruptive to the education process; or
 - The scholar poses a threat or danger to others.

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Upon either determination, the scholar's suspension will be extended pending the results of an expulsion hearing.

Authority to Expel

A scholar may be expelled either by the John Adams Academy Board of Directors following a hearing before it or by the John Adams Academy Board of Directors upon the recommendation of an Administrative Panel to be assigned by the Superintendent or designee as needed. The Administrative Panel may recommend expulsion of any scholar found to have committed an expellable offense.

Special Procedures will be followed for the Consideration of Suspension and Expulsion of Scholars with Disabilities. (Please see charter petition for complete details regarding specific expulsion policies. In the case of expulsion, the parents will be mailed information regarding the policies' details and procedure.)

***DRESS CODE/UNIFORM POLICY**

The John Adams Academy Uniform and Dress Code is an integral part of our Culture of Greatness. Based on the principles of modesty, cleanliness and professionalism, it is designed to elevate a scholar's focus, create unity among the scholar body, and remove distractions from the learning environment. Scholars are always accountable for maintaining proper dress and grooming standards. As scholars dress each morning, their uniform should be a reminder that they are a part of John Adams Academy, that they are taking on the distinctive role of scholar, and are preparing to become servant leaders.

John Adams Academy is committed to a standard of dress that is appropriate in a school committed to high standards of excellence. The strictly enforced uniform policy frees the faculty and scholars to address the serious business of teaching and learning. Scholars should be noticed for their academic progress and success, not their appearance, clothing, or accessories.

JAA uniform apparel may be purchased through
www.johnadamsacademy.org/uniform

On Campus

While on campus, the dress code/uniform policy applies.

Off Campus

John Adams Academy Scholars are expected to wear the approved uniform for all off-campus Academy events or activities, unless specific permission has been granted.

Spirit Days

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Throughout the year, on designated Spirit Days, scholars will be allowed to dress according to instructions given for the day. Scholars will be expected to dress in acceptable and modest attire conducive to learning and maintaining a respectful school culture. Scholars who do not adhere to the instructions given may lose Spirit Day privileges in the future.

Examples of inappropriate dress include, but are not limited to: visible underwear, boxers, thongs or bra straps; exposed midriff or cleavage, strapless tops or tank tops; pajamas; pointed metal, chains, sharp or studded jewelry; and lettering, aside from John Adams Academy logo; or bare socks or feet. Swimming trunks and bathing suits, when appropriate for an Academy approved activity or event, will be modest, fit properly and cover the midriff for female scholars.

Academy-Sponsored Dances

While the uniform is not required, scholars are expected to adhere to the same minimum standard and coverage as the daily uniform. Modesty will be expected: no bare skin through clothing, no sheer or midriff, no low-cut or revealing clothing, and shorts will not be allowed. Dresses must have a minimum of two (2) inch-wide strap and dresses, skirts and skorts must touch the knee.

Compliance

Dress code violations will be addressed by staff and/or administration. Any scholar who arrives at school in nonconforming clothes will be provided with a clean, loaner uniform for the day, and may have their parents contacted for violation of this policy. Parents may also be contacted to bring in proper uniform clothing if the dress code violation cannot be resolved on campus (*e.g.*, if scholar refuses to wear a policy-compliant loaner uniform provided by John Adams Academy or to correct items of appearance such as addressing a disruptive hairstyle). Any further dress code issues will be brought up on an individual basis, keeping in mind the goal of creating an environment of learning. Habitual unexcused non-compliance may result in mandatory parent conference with administration. No scholar will be assigned any disciplinary, academic, or other penalty for failure to purchase a uniform. However, scholars may face disciplinary actions as John Adams Academy provides support regarding uniforms as described herein.

Since John Adams Academy is a school of choice and no one is mandated to attend, scholars and parents who refuse to comply with the uniform policy should consider whether John Adams Academy is the appropriate school for them. Scholars are expected to live the Academy's 10th Core Value of self-governance, personal responsibility, and accountability. John Adams Academy reserves the right to interpret the appropriateness of scholar dress and grooming.

Provision of Uniforms/Uniform Store

A uniform-compliant John Adams Academy logo embroidered polo shirt (red, white, or navy) and one uniform slack, skirt or skort (as required for secondary scholars) will be made available

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

to each newly admitted John Adams Academy scholar. Donations to help offset the costs of the uniforms for new scholars are welcome, appreciated, and voluntary. (www.johnadamsacademy.org/uniform). The uniform store maintains a complete line of approved uniform polo shirts, uniform-style slacks, skirts and skorts. Scholars should make every effort to secure these uniform items from the uniform store. Any scholar who needs assistance with identifying or obtaining compliant uniform clothing, has size issues, or other concerns related to acquiring uniforms should contact the school office, or Principal directly.

OFFICIAL UNIFORM:

The following items are included in the official uniform.

Shirts/Blouses

Approved John Adams Academy logo polo or blouse from the uniform store. Shirts must fit properly so they are not too tight, revealing or baggy.

Slacks - Secondary

Approved John Adams Academy khaki or navy slacks from the uniform store. Slacks must fit properly so they are not too tight, revealing or baggy.

Pants - Elementary

Solid navy or khaki uniform-style pants (*see e.g.*, the uniform store). Pants must be plain with no ornamentation or designs. Pants must be clean and in good repair and fit appropriately (*i.e.*, no baggy, oversized, or tight fitting pants). Capri-length, or cargos with pockets, sweatpants, jeans/denim, skinny pants, corduroy, Lycra/Spandex are not permitted. Belts, if worn, must be black.

Skorts - Secondary

Approved John Adams Academy skorts – navy, khaki, and Hamilton plaid from the uniform store.

Skorts must fit properly so they are not too tight or revealing.

Skirts are not allowed in secondary.

Skirts, Skorts, Dresses, and Jumpers - Elementary

Must be long enough to reach the knee. Bohemian-style or maxi skirts are not permitted. Must be in good repair and appropriately fitting, *i.e.* not tight fitting.

Skirts/Skorts (TK-6th): solid navy or khaki uniform style skirts, plain without any ornamentation, designs or cargo pockets. Hamilton plaid skirts or skorts from the uniform store are also permitted.

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Dresses (TK-2nd): Only logo embroidered dresses from the uniform store allowed for TK- 2nd grade scholars.

Jumpers (TK-3rd): Only Hamilton plaid jumpers from the uniform store allowed for TK-3rd grade scholars.

Leggings/Tights

Solid red, white, navy or black in good repair, without designs or ornamentation and may only be worn under uniform skirts or skorts. Leggings may not be worn as pants or slacks.

Shoes

Shoes should be solid black – no patterns (e.g., logos, stripes, etc.), neon colors, jewels/embellishment, lights or white toes (Converse-style). Plain, solid black athletic or dress shoes are allowed. Closed or open toed sandals with back support are allowed as weather permits. Shoelaces must be black and tied at all times. No boots, slippers, clogs, Heelys, cowboy boots or any other inappropriate shoe. Rain boots may be worn outside during rainy weather, but must be removed prior to entering the classroom.

Socks

Solid red, white, navy or black in good repair, without designs or ornamentation (Also applies to tights and leggings.)

Hairstyles, Grooming, Accessories

Must be conservative, no unnatural colors or patterns (dyed hair tips, streaks), spikes, or drastic cuts, including, but not limited to mohawks. Hairstyles should not cover the eyes or face.

All scholars shall not have multiple piercings or body piercings, extreme or excessive jewelry, spiked jewelry or chains.

Boys: Clean-shaven with no facial hair; No piercings.

Girls: One pair of conservative earrings allowed. Make-up must be conservative. Girl's conservative hair accessories are allowed in red, white and navy.

Hats, hoods or sunglasses are not to be worn inside at any time.

Inclement Weather

Long Sleeve Tops: To stay warm in colder weather, scholars may wear a solid red, white

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

or navy (no visible logo) long-sleeve undergarment (*e.g.*, turtleneck or athletic) under their John Adams Academy polo uniform shirt.

Also, solid red, white, navy or black tights or long underwear may be worn under uniform slacks, skirts or skorts for colder conditions.

See www.johnadamsacademy.org/uniform for uniform store. Any scholar who needs assistance with identifying or obtaining compliant uniform clothing, has size issues, or other concerns related to acquiring uniforms should contact the school office or Principal directly.

OPTIONAL ITEMS:

Shorts - TK-6th Boys and Girls: Only

7th-12th Boys and Girls: Not permitted

Knee-length, uniform-style, solid navy or khaki shorts. No cargo shorts. (*see uniform store*).

John Adams Academy Blazer - High School Scholars: Only

TK-8th Boys and Girls: Not permitted

JAA Professional dress must be worn as a complete set comprised of an official JAA Blazer, oxford-style shirt and neck tie. All items may be purchased through the JAA uniform store.

Outerwear

Inside of Academy buildings/classroom (*Applies to jackets, sweaters, vests, sweatshirts, hats, etc.*):

Outerwear is not considered part of the official uniform. For colder conditions, see "Inclement Weather" above in the official uniform section. Only outerwear purchased from the uniform store or other Board approved vendor with the John Adams Academy logo may be worn inside the building or during class (see website) and should only be worn when necessary (*e.g.*, during cold conditions where the official uniform is insufficient). In the unusual event of extreme cold temperature for which an approved undergarment or approved outerwear is insufficient, allowances will be made for non-uniform jackets worn by scholars on such dates.

Outside of Academy buildings/classroom it is strongly encouraged that scholars wear approved John Adams Academy outerwear purchased through Board approved vendor. Otherwise, scholars must use the following guidelines:

Outerwear must be solid red, white, navy, or black and free from pictures, logos,

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

lettering, or designs (except for John Adams Academy logo). Must be worn properly, not inside out.

Beanies must be solid red, navy, black, or white and must be free from pictures, logos, lettering, or designs (except for John Adams Academy logo). Beanies, hats and hoods are not to be worn indoors (unless in the unusual event of extreme cold temperature as determined by John Adams Academy).

P.E./Physical Fitness Uniform (7th-12th grade):

Dressing for PE is an option for secondary scholars, but is not required. If a scholar chooses to exercise this option, please refer to your PE teacher. P.E. shoes should be an athletic shoe with support. Non-black athletic shoes are acceptable only during P.E. or physical mentor courses. Black-soled shoes are not allowed in the MPR or on any gymnasium floor. Scholars who require accommodations (e.g., religious, medical, etc.) from this uniform policy should make such requests with their administration.

***ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND CELL PHONES**

Electronic devices (i.e. cell phones, iPods, earphones, music players, handheld games, smart watches etc.) may not be used during the school day, including breaks and/or lunch times; allowing for personal interaction and relationship building throughout the day. All devices are expected to be left at home or, at a minimum, turned off and put away out of sight.

Violation of this rule will result in the confiscation of the item, which will be released only to a parent. Any electronic devices not picked up by parents by the last day of school will be donated to a charitable organization of the administration's choice.

***EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

John Adams Academy adheres to a Standard Response Protocol drafted specifically for the needs of the Academy in conjunction with law enforcement officials and the Fire Marshall. Representatives of the parent community are also consulted with for feedback on topics particular to scholar safety. John Adams Academy executes the Standard Response Protocol as detailed in the Board Approved safety plan. Academy staff and scholars conduct drills as per the safety plan throughout the year. A publicly viewable version of the safety plan is available on the Academy website.

Parent Responsibilities Before and During Emergency Events

John Adams Academy uses a notification system called ParentSquare to communicate with parents and staff, regarding emergency situations, attendance, school events and other important information impacting you and your child. ParentSquare allows us to send voice messages to your family's home, work or cell phones, and also contact you through text

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

messaging.

It is the parent / guardian responsibility to ensure that all contact information is complete and up to date. It is also the parent / guardian responsibility to ensure emergency contacts are listed in Aeries in the event that the parent cannot be reached. You may update guardian and emergency contact information through your Aeries Parent Portal or at the school site.

In the event of an Academy emergency, all persons on campus are mandated to follow the Academy's campus safety plan and to follow the directions of the Academy's Administration and staff. In the event that there is an emergency, parents should remember that schools are among the safest places in the community.

- **DO NOT** telephone the school site or Academy leadership. Telephone lines may be needed for emergency communication.
- **DO NOT** come to the school site until directed to do so by Academy leadership. Roads must be kept clear for emergency responders.
- **DO** discuss with your children the need for them to follow the directions of any school personnel during safety drills as well as in times of an emergency.
- **DO** Read all communication from the Academy in a timely manner.

Should scholars need to be picked-up from school following an emergency, it is imperative that all guardians show their full cooperation when coming to campus to pick-up their child. In order to keep all children safe, we ask that all guardians coming to campus to pick-up their child adhere to the following policies and procedures:

- Scholars will be released only to guardians/emergency contacts identified on the school emergency card, which is required to be filled out by guardians as part of the Enrollment Packet
- A picture identification will be required to pick-up any scholar from campus. All guardians should consider the following criteria when authorizing another person to pick up their child:
 - They are 18 years of age.
 - They are usually home during the day, or can leave work easily.
 - They are known to the child.
 - They are both aware of, and able to assume this responsibility.

The process of signing-out a scholar during a grave emergency may take time. We ask that all guardians maintain the integrity of the procedure by waiting patiently and out of the way of the flow of human and/or automobile traffic.

***FIELD TRIPS**

Scholars may attend Academy-sponsored field trips throughout the year and summer. Permission slips must be signed by a parent and returned to Academy teacher by the deadline. No exceptions will be made. All standard rules for proper behavior will be expected and enforced on field trips. All transportation, vehicles and drivers must be Academy-approved;

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

scholars may not drive themselves unless their parent gives written permission to do so on the appropriate paperwork. All field trip drivers and chaperones (or anyone going on or meeting up during the field trip), prior to the field trip, must be fingerprinted and have the appropriate levels of insurance, as determined by our liability insurance coverage, which is board approved. Parents or guardians driving their own scholar must also have fingerprint clearance prior to the field trip. Siblings will not be allowed to accompany scholars or chaperones on Academy-sponsored field trips. We ask that fingerprint clearance and all such documentation be completed by October 1st of each year.

All drivers must comply with the State of California traffic safety laws regarding the transportation of children. Car seats/booster seats must be used for the transportation of all scholars who are covered by current California Car Seat Safety Law. There must also be a seat belt for each scholar.

***FINGERPRINTING POLICY (LIVE SCAN)**

The safety of our scholars at John Adams Academy is our first priority. All volunteers who drive or attend school-sponsored field trips must be fingerprinted and cleared, **including parents who only drive their own child. When on campus volunteering, volunteers must be fingerprinted when working with scholars and unsupervised by staff.** Fingerprinting is only required once from each volunteer and is maintained by the Human Resources Office. If volunteering in a position or role that requires fingerprinting, clearance from Human Resources is required prior to being allowed to volunteer.

FLAG CEREMONY

Development of servant leaders is key to our mission and understanding of how we will preserve freedom and our republic. Essential to this is time to reflect, revere and appreciate our national heritage. The flag ceremony at John Adams Academy marks the beginning of the school day and is an essential part of our academic day. This is the one moment each day where we come together as a community to pause and contemplate our duties, responsibilities and our own personal mission.

FOOD

See "School Meal Program" section.

GRADE REPORTING

Parents will be informed of scholar's academic performance through report cards delivered regularly throughout the year.

Parents are also expected to monitor scholar progress and attendance using the online student information system (Aeries Parent Portal). All parents will be issued an Aeries Parent Portal login and password for their scholars at the beginning of the academic year, along with instructions for accessing their scholar's information. Please contact the office if you need

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

assistance in logging into the Aeries Parent Portal.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Please see section on *Curriculum*.

*HABITS AND ACADEMICS

Good academic habits and daily routines are part of the John Adams Academy program. Please provide a good morning routine to allow scholars to come prepared and ready to learn. Likewise, in the afternoon, set aside ample study time, reading time, and family time to create a classical education foundation.

HEALTH CONCERNS

Food Allergies

Food allergies can be life threatening. The risk of accidental exposure to foods can be minimized in the school setting if parents, scholars, staff, and doctors work together to create a safe environment for food allergic scholars. If your child has severe food allergies, please contact the office so that we can confidentially inform necessary personnel.

Illness

Please follow these guidelines and doctor's recommendations regarding school attendance with possible illness:

Fever: When your scholar has had a fever, his/her temperature should be normal (98.6+/-) for 24 hours before returning to the Academy. For example, if your scholar's fever ends in the evening, he or she should remain home rather than returning to the Academy the following morning.

Vomiting and Diarrhea: If your scholar vomits or has diarrhea during the night, do not send them to the Academy the next day. Scholars should be vomit/diarrhea-free for 24 hours before returning to the Academy. Scholars should not come to class until bowel movements have been of normal consistency for 24 hours.

Colds: As long as there is no fever or discomfort, the scholar may come to class. Please instruct your child on proper use of tissues for coughing, sneezing, and nose blowing. Scholars should also be instructed on proper hand washing (do not rely on hand sanitizers). Research shows that more colds are spread by contaminated hands and objects than by airborne droplets. If cold symptoms are more severe please keep your scholar home, i.e. thick, greenish nasal discharge, frequent coughing which may disrupt the classroom environment, etc..

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Other: Conditions such as lice, scabies, impetigo, pinworms, conjunctivitis (pink eye), ringworm, etc. must be properly treated and must be non-contagious before the scholar returns to class. In the case of lice, all nits (eggs) must be removed from the hair. Any sore that is oozing must be covered properly. In all cases, let your doctor's advice be your guide.

Medication

Medication, prescription or non-prescription (including aspirin, Tylenol, cough syrup, cough drops, etc.) will only be dispensed to scholars or allowed on the Academy site after a completed and signed medication form is on file in the office. (The *Medication Administration Form* can be found on the website under DOCUMENTS) If a physician requires a scholar to take a portion of a tablet, pill, etc., the parent is responsible for dividing medication into the correct dosage. Any scholar caught taking or dispensing medication is subject to punishment, suspension, and/or expulsion.

HONOR ROLL/AWARDS

Scholars will be honored for excellence in academics and for exhibiting Core Values at periodic award ceremonies.

SENIOR COMMENCEMENT

Participation in Senior Graduation Activities

Seniors failing a required course for graduation, with a grade of D+ (69% or lower), and/or seniors with an incomplete credit recovery course, 30 days prior to the graduation date, will forfeit participation in graduation and senior activities (e.g. school coordinated senior trip, senior awards, and graduation ceremony) until credit units are met and grades are brought up to passing. Seniors will not receive their diploma until all graduation requirements have been met.

John and Abigail Adams Award

The John and Abigail Adams Award is the highest honor the school can bestow on a member of the graduating class. The award is presented for exemplary dedication to servant leadership and the Ten Core Values. Servant leadership requires more than excellent academics; it requires one to be filled with public and private virtue, and a transcending of self to serve family and country. Indeed, servant leadership requires the possession and consistent application of all Ten Core Values, as exhibited by both John and Abigail Adams.

Each year the school will choose two members of the senior class to receive this award, recipients of the John and Abigail Adams Award will be publicly recognized during

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

commencement ceremonies.

Valedictorian & Salutatorian

A Valedictorian and Salutatorian will also be recognized at graduation. Recipients of these awards will be the two scholars possessing respectively the highest and second highest total grade point averages, of the entire graduating class, at the posting of the third quarter grades. Scholars should make every effort to maintain the highest level of performance throughout their academic career understanding that whoever has the highest and second highest total grade point averages at this snapshot in time will be selected, regardless of any change in final grade status following entries at the end of the school year. However, for the remainder of the year, recipients of the Valedictorian and Salutatorian awards must remain in good attendance and behavioral standing, pass all classes (70% or greater), complete all Capstone requirements with passing grades, and obtain all credit units needed for graduation.

Scholar Commencement Speakers

Administration will select a scholar, or scholars, from among the senior commencement awards recipients to speak at the commencement ceremonies.

***INAPPROPRIATE ITEMS**

Scholars should keep all valuables, expensive items, and unnecessary money at home. Dangerous objects or illegal articles must remain off campus. The following list provides examples of inappropriate items, however, it is not exhaustive:

- Aerosol cans
- Drugs/drug paraphernalia (including, but not limited to, prescription, over the counter and illegal drugs)
- Electronic games
- Fireworks
- Flammable objects/fluids
- Weapons
- Gum/candy
- Lighters/matches
- Pagers/cell phones/smart watches
- Personal toys/knives
- iPods/MP3 players/radios/earphones/other such devices
- Laser pointers
- Skateboards
- Rollerblades/skates
- Shoes with retractable wheels (Heelys)

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

The Academy reserves the right to search any property that is brought on campus.

***INDEPENDENT STUDY**

Independent Study is conducted solely for the educational benefit of the scholars attending John Adams Academy as a means to encourage daily engagement in school work even during times of extended absence.

Parents are to give at least seven (7) school days' notice of a request for Independent Study.

It is important for parents to understand the amount of time and effort required by the Academy office and teaching staff to compile curriculum for independent study agreements. Submitting requests with less than seven (7) school days' notice creates a burden for staff in their effort to assist parents and scholars.

In an extenuating circumstance (i.e. a serious illness, injury or family emergency), with proper approval, administration will work with the parent to implement an Independent Study program in an expedited manner with less than seven (7) school days' notice.

Independent Study Requiring Approval From the Principal.

Scholars who will be absent a *minimum of one (1)* school day up to a *maximum of twenty (20) consecutive* school days may be eligible to participate in Independent Study.

Independent Study allows a scholar to remain current in his/her studies and the Academy to retain a portion of its Average Daily Attendance (ADA) funding.

Independent Study requests for more than twenty (20) consecutive days, may be allowed on a case-by-case basis with approval by the Principal.

Requesting Independent Study

To request Independent Study please complete an *Independent Study Request* Form and submit it to the office at least seven (7) school days in advance for approval. (*Independent Study Request* forms can be located on the website.)

Independent Study will not be granted during:

- The first three weeks of school,
- The last three weeks of the academic year, or
- The final two weeks of each grading period (quarter).

We understand that emergencies may arise and will do our best to accommodate reasonable requests for Independent Study within these timeframes with approval by the Principal..

Independent Study Procedure

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

ALL INDEPENDENT STUDY FORMS AND WORK MUST BE TURNED IN TO THE OFFICE BY THE PARENT OR SCHOLAR. Do not turn in independent study forms or completed work to the teacher.

Step 1: Obtain Independent Study Request Form

Forms can be found at the John Adams Academy website under the FAMILIES tab. Forms can also be obtained from the Academy office.

Step 2: Complete and Turn in Form

The front page of the Independent Study form must be filled out, signed by the scholar and parent/guardian, and turned in to the office--not the teacher.

Step 3: Approval of Independent Study

The office staff will process paperwork and obtain administrative approval of the independent study request. If approved, staff will submit the agreement to the scholar's teacher(s)/advisor and obtain the assigned work for the scholar to take with them during their absence.

Step 4: Pick Up Assigned Classwork

Parent **and** scholar will need to come to the office at the end of the day before scholar is to leave on Independent Study to sign the "Independent Study Master Agreement" and to pick up scholar's Independent Study packet. The school attendance clerk will note the days of the scheduled absences from school, inform teachers, and will not call home during the period that the scholar is out for independent study.

Step 5: Complete the Assigned Work

The scholar completes their assigned work/learning during the days they are out on Independent Study. Work is to be done while on Independent Study, not after they return to school.

Step 6: Turn in Completed Work

On the first day of their return to school, the parent/scholar must return the Independent Study Agreement with attached work to the office. The completed work will be stamped received and provided to the Attendance Clerk.

The Attendance Clerk will record receipt of the work for the ISP and will forward the completed work to the classroom teacher for grading and to determine the total amount of days attendance the scholar will receive for the work. The attendance clerk will then record the days earned in the scholar's attendance record.

Failure to turn in the completed work to the office is a breach of the Independent Study Master Agreement signed by the parent and scholar. Failure to turn in the completed work to the office will result in the scholar being marked absent for all the days they were to be on Independent Study. Scholars will not receive credit for work not submitted and may be unable to make up those assignments, which may result in failing grades. This also results in the Academy losing out on ADA funding that would have been received if

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

the scholar completed their independent study assignments.

LOST AND FOUND

Parents are encouraged to label all clothing items, lunch boxes and personal items with scholar's first and last names. Lost items will be kept on campus for a reasonable amount of time and if not claimed, will be donated to a charitable organization. Every effort will be made to return all lost items whose owner can be identified.

*MATERIALS DONATION PROGRAM

At John Adams Academy we are creating an environment where our scholar's education is a priority for our community of parents, staff & the community at large. One way our parents demonstrate their scholar-centered commitment is by promoting our core values throughout the academy.

The \$100 supply contribution per scholar speaks to the heart of our Abundance Mentality by infusing this core value into our classrooms in a very tangible way. Through this program we provide the necessary resources to ensure that each classroom and every scholar has the supplies, materials and educational resources to be successful. *Donations received through this program pay for classroom supplies, such as paper, pencils and pens, gluesticks, Keep Books, facial tissue, construction paper, paint, etc. for scholars throughout the entire year.* In addition to meeting individual scholar needs, the program also provides resources for classroom enhancement materials and state mandated supplies, such as pencils for STAR testing.

In the current fiscal climate, individual financial hardship is a reality and state funding does not fully cover the costs of education, especially charter schools who must use funding for building costs and maintenance. We are asking parents to contribute a \$100 per scholar supply contribution (a tax-deductible donation) in lieu of purchasing school supplies for their individual scholar. Donations may be made online through the website.

Donating \$100 per scholar all at once may be difficult for some families. For those who know how important this contribution is but find it a hardship, please contact our Business Office to make financial arrangements. Members of the Business Office can be consulted by phone at (916) 780-6800, or by email at finance@johnadamsacademy.org.

All donations to the Academy are non-refundable.

MENTORS

A classical education involves more than just the best teachers, books, and study materials. It requires the active, patient, inspiring, demanding mentorship of well-educated adults who look for the best in each scholar. Plato needed Socrates, Thoreau needed Emerson, and Thomas Jefferson needed George Wythe.

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

The John Adams Academy mentoring program is an integral part of our classical leadership education, supporting and facilitating the discovery, development and realization of each scholar's unique mission in life. All John Adams Academy scholars in grades TK-12 participate in the mentoring program.

Scholars are expected to:

- Demonstrate respect for the mentors
- Complete all assignments as assigned by the mentor
- Attend all mentor course sessions unless ill, out of town, or other excused absence
- Put forth their best effort in all mentor courses

Mentoring meetings will typically take place on campus unless a mentor has made prior arrangements including obtaining permission, securing transportation for each scholar and notifying administration in advance.

***PARENT SERVICE ORGANIZATION (PSO)**

The Parent Service Organization (PSO) at John Adams Academy is truly unique. From planning events, to supporting scholars and staff, to acting as advisory committees, the PSO is made up of specialized teams, each with a specific area of focus. The PSO is designed to be the avenue for parent involvement. Parents of John Adams Academy scholars are encouraged to model servant leadership through our PSO by serving on one or more committees.

The PSO provides:

1. Opportunity for parents to serve the academy and scholars by strengthening ties between families, staff and community members and assisting with school activities.
2. Support for programs and activities important to the education and/or welfare of the scholars and staff at John Adams Academy.
3. A forum to foster communication between teachers, parents, and the administration of John Adams Academy.

PSO news and announcements can always be found on ParentSquare or our website under FAMILIES. Please visit our PSO pages to learn about the committees and to choose a place to serve.

PARKING LOT INCIDENTS

In the case of any automobile accident on Academy property, the local authorities should be contacted to take a report. If the accident is deemed to be minor enough as to not contact law enforcement, please remember that it is the responsibility of the drivers involved to exchange relevant information and to take pictures if necessary. John Adams Academy will not investigate, mediate, or intervene in any traffic accident unless it directly affects Academy property, or the safety and well being of scholars, families or staff. Drivers should conduct themselves in a manner that reflects and models our Vision & Mission and Core Values. If Academy property is damaged, please report it to the office.

PHOTO/PUBLICITY POLICY

Photographs and video can enhance education and Academy culture and it is our policy to use such material in this way. Photographs of scholars may be used at any time for educational, promotional, or non-commercial purposes. Parents may choose to opt their scholar out of the photograph privileges. Opting out will mean the scholar's photo is not included in Academy publications, with the exception of the John Adams Academy Yearbook. Parents may additionally opt their scholar out from the yearbook. Some performance-based electives require the allowance of photographs and/or video for the scholar to participate in a performance.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION EXEMPTION

Physical activity is an important aspect in a scholar's life. If a scholar is participating in heavy activity outside of their academic day, a physical education exemption may be accepted. If a scholar requests an exemption from PE, please contact the office.

PLAGIARISM

Please see section on *Academic Honesty and Plagiarism*

RE-ENROLLMENT OF EXISTING SCHOLARS

Scholars who are currently enrolled and attending a John Adams Academy are guaranteed admission the following school year and do not need to "reapply". However, returning scholars are required to complete the re-enrollment process to confirm ongoing attendance.

Failure to complete the re-enrollment process leaves the Academy without critical information to plan for the next year and may result in the scholar losing their seat for the upcoming year. As part of re-enrollment parents are to update contact information in Aeries to ensure all information is accurate and up to date.

Deadline for Re-Enrollment

The opportunity for re-enrollment takes place in the spring. Current families will be notified via ParentSquare of the re-enrollment window and procedure to re-enroll their scholar(s).

Scholars Not Returning

If it is known that a scholar will not be attending John Adams Academy for the following school year, the parent is requested to go to the website under FAMILIES and complete the *Withdraw a Scholar* form. Parents should use the last day of school as the scholar's last day.

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Questions regarding enrollment can be directed to admissions@johnadamsacademy.org

RESOLVING CONFLICTS

Occasionally a disagreement or concern may arise about particular Academy or classroom procedures or the actions of Academy staff. We will follow Board of Trustees policy or applicable Ed Code when determinations are needed. All parties are expected to comport themselves in accordance with the Ten Core Values and to seek amicable resolution of conflicts in order to avoid escalation. In addressing any disagreements with the Academy, staff or other parents, parties should, as noted by Dr. Stephen Covey, “seek first to understand, then be understood.”

The following guidelines apply to the resolutions of classroom or Academy disagreements:

- Classroom concerns should first be brought to the attention of the scholar’s teacher. Most problems can be resolved in a parent-teacher conference.
- Comments toward your scholar’s teacher should be kept positive, especially in front of the scholars.
- If resolution of the matter is not accomplished by working with the teacher, please make an appointment with administration.
- Any Academy issues should be brought to the attention of the John Adams Academy Administration.

The following guidelines apply to complaints concerning Academy employees:

Persons with a complaint about an Academy employee should never engage in gossip or post the information on social media as that inhibits resolution of the complaint, creates further problems and can be injurious.

Every effort should be made to resolve complaints regarding Academy employees at the earliest possible stage. Any person who has a complaint about an Academy employee shall be encouraged to resolve the matter informally through direct communication with the employee whenever possible.

If a complainant is unable or unwilling to resolve the complaint directly with the employee, the complainant may submit a written complaint to the **Principal** or other immediate supervisor of the employee. Complaints related to a **Principal** shall be initially filed in writing with the **Superintendent**. Complaints related to a **Superintendent** or **Academy Director** shall be initially filed in writing with the **Executive Director**. Complaints related to the **Executive Director** shall be initially filed in writing with the **Chairman** of the John Adams Academy Board. A written complaint shall include:

1. The full name of the employee involved,
2. A brief but specific summary of the complaint and the facts surrounding it;
3. And a description of any prior attempts to discuss the complaint with the employee and the failure to resolve the matter.

To promote prompt and fair resolution of the complaint, the following procedures shall govern

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

the resolution of complaints against Academy employees:

1. When a written complaint is received, the employee who is the subject of the complaint shall be notified.
2. The immediate supervisor of the employee shall investigate and attempt to resolve the complaint to the satisfaction of the parties involved. The investigation may include interviews of the employee, complainant, or witnesses as necessary and/or a review any documentation relevant to the complaint.
3. Both the complainant and employee shall be notified in writing of the final decision regarding the resolution of the complaint.
4. If the immediate supervisor's decision does not resolve the concern the complainant may forward their concern through the appropriate chain of command.
5. If the complaint is ultimately appealed to the Board, the Executive Director or designee shall submit to the Board the following information:
 - a. The full name of each employee involved
 - b. A brief but specific summary of the complaint and the facts surrounding it, sufficient to inform the Board and the parties as to the precise nature of the complaint and to allow the parties to prepare a response
 - c. A copy of the signed original complaint
 - d. A summary of the action taken by the Executive Director or designee and the reasons that the problem has not been resolved
6. Staff responsible for investigating complaints shall attempt to resolve the complaint to the satisfaction of the parties involved as soon as possible.

See Appendix B for the *Board Policy on Uniform Complaint Procedures*.

SCHOLAR ACTIVITIES

John Adams Academy sanctioned activities held outside the classroom are considered an extension of the Academy. Therefore all standards of dress and behavior apply, unless specifically exempted to accommodate special activities. Uniform dress will be required for all activities held during or immediately following Academic hours. No scholar will be allowed in dances, sports events, or other activities, when not in compliance with the dress code.

Sporting Events: Respect for the away team members and fans is required. John Adams Academy discipline policies remain in effect at home or away games.

Dance Policy: We encourage participation from scholars outside of John Adams Academy provided they meet the requirements for guests. Non-John Adams Academy scholars must obtain permission to attend dances by completing an *Application for Guest at Scholar Activity* form.

Other Activities: To participate in any activity a scholar must have attended Academy class(es) on the day of the event.

SCHOLAR GOVERNMENT

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Self-Governance is a mindset and skill John Adams Academy scholars practice when they volunteer to participate in Scholar Government. Scholars are provided several leadership opportunities to choose from including, but not limited to, participating as a Senator or Representative in Scholar Congress, or running for office on the Scholar Cabinet (Scholar Body President, Vice-President, Secretary). To run and hold a seat of office, scholars must maintain a required minimum 3.0 G.P.A. and must continually strive to be an example of the Core Values. If a scholar falls below the required G.P.A. at any quarter grading period or is not an excellent example of the Core Values, the scholar will need to step down from office until his/her academics improve, or possibly be removed from office.

Scholar Government activities are sponsored by a faculty member and are supervised by administration.

SCHOLAR DRIVERS

All scholars who wish to drive to the academy must follow the Scholar Driving Policy. Scholars are allowed to drive to the academy as a matter of privilege, not of right. A scholar who is in violation of the driving policy may lose his/her parking privileges and have the vehicle towed at the owner's expense.

Scholars must:

- Be a licensed driver;
- All State vehicle and traffic laws must be obeyed at all times
 - Violations of any law may result in Law Enforcement action and/or an academy sanction.
- Once on campus, scholars cannot return to their vehicle until they are released at the end of the day.

John Adams Academy retains authority to conduct routine patrols of the scholar parking lot and to inspect the exteriors of scholar automobiles on academy property.

- The interiors of scholar vehicles may be inspected whenever an academy authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal or unauthorized materials are inside.
- Such patrols and inspections may be conducted without notice, without a scholar's consent, and without a search warrant.

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM

John Adams Academy participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP). Each day school is in session, scholars have an opportunity to receive and consume a nutritionally balanced meal.

John Adams Academy uses Linq Connect (Formally known as Titan School Solutions) to manage scholar's meal accounts and for reporting purposes. Families can access Linq Connect

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

by going to <https://linqconnect.com/> .

Applications for Free and Reduced meal pricing are always available for families to fill out during the year to receive benefits, if qualified. Applications can be completed online by accessing Linq Connect's main page at the address above, on the website, or by visiting the front desk. Families are encouraged to complete a meal application at the beginning of each school year and at any time during the year if circumstances change.

John Adams Academy does not prepare meals on site, but has an offsite central kitchen that provides meals each day. There is a pre-order system, available to all families, so that meals are available for scholars who wish to participate in the School Meal Program. More information on the program and pre-ordering can be found on the website. Pre-order links are located on ParentSquare in the SCHOOL MEAL SERVICE group.

Scholars may eat only at designated times and in designated areas of the campus to help maintain our academy facilities. Scholars are required to clean up after themselves and consequences may be given if this rule is not followed.

Please note the following regarding food on campus:

Lunch: If you do not wish to participate in our lunch program, please provide a nutrition sack lunch for your scholar.

Snacks: Teachers may provide a time for snacks during the day. Healthy snacks are encouraged for the development of mind and body during the school day. Candy and soda may distract from the learning process and are best kept at home.

Gum: Gum is not allowed on campus. Scholars found chewing gum will be asked to remove it immediately. Repeated violations will result in consequences for the scholar.

Drinks: Only water is allowed on campus. Drinks are meant to hydrate and refresh and should not include soda, sugary drinks, coffee or caffeinated energy drinks. (i.e. Monster, Rockstar, etc.) Water will be provided on campus through hallway or classroom drinking fountains. The Academy does not supply water bottles or paper cups.

No Sharing of Food Items: Due to increases in food allergies and the possibility of other scholars having a food allergy not known to your scholar, no sharing of food during lunch or snack times is allowed.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM – AERIES

Aeries is the school-wide student information system (SIS) where information regarding enrolled scholars is stored. The Aeries SIS provides parents the ability to view scholar's grades,

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

attendance and contact information via the Aeries Parent Portal located under the FAMILIES tab on the website or by visiting parents.johnadamsacademy.org. All parents have access to their scholar's information in Aeries via their own personal account.

TELEPHONE

The office telephone is to be used only with permission. To limit office phone calls and classroom disruptions please communicate with your scholar(s) regarding transportation or special arrangements prior to dropping them off at the Academy. Please make sure your scholar has his/her lunch, homework, backpack, etc. before drop-off, as forgotten items brought to the office will not be delivered during instructional time.

*VOLUNTEER HOURS

John Adams Academy asks each family to donate a minimum of 40 hours per year to the Academy in the form of service. To fully understand the details of this service request, it is important to first understand the purpose behind it. The policies and action put forward by John Adams Academy are designed to reinforce the Core Values in an effort to more fully enrich the education of each scholar.

The most foundational skill upon which all others are built is the understanding, development and application of the attribute of virtue. The Founding Fathers understood that two types of virtue are necessary for great leaders and statesmen; private virtue and public virtue.

The Founding Fathers defined private virtue as honesty, integrity and character, in both public trusts and in one's personal life; and public virtue as voluntarily sacrificing personal comfort or benefits for the good of the nation or community. All true greatness comes from doing the right thing when completely alone and serving without thought of recognition or remuneration.

Through the actions of each John Adams Academy family engaging in service, many of the core principles are modeled and reinforced with the scholar. As they perform service with their children, parents demonstrate their role as the primary and fundamental teachers by exemplifying public and private virtue. This pattern fosters creativity in identifying ways to serve, models what we teach, and helps to create abundance within the John Adams Academy community. It is only through the active participation of all of our families being dedicated to these core values that we will be able to build a culture of greatness.

It is in this spirit with understanding of these Core Values that John Adams Academy requests its families to provide 40 hours of service each school year.

Because we recognize that the hours a parent can contribute are limited for all parents, regardless of how many scholars they have, this 40 hour minimum contribution does not increase with additional family members attending John Adams Academy.

For example: If the Jefferson family has one scholar at John Adams Academy, the minimum

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

volunteer contribution from their adult family members would be 40 hours. The same 40 hour contribution would apply to the adult family members of the Washington family who has four scholars at the Academy.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers can contribute hours at a variety of times and in several ways, such as:

- Weekdays on campus (monitoring drop-off/ pick-up, assisting in a classroom, completing office administrative work, supervising in the health room, etc.),
- Weeknights on campus (evening school maintenance or volunteering at events),
- Weekends on campus (monthly campus work parties),
- Throughout the year on and off campus.
- We also count the time you spend reading and discussing classics with your scholar

Finding Opportunities to Volunteer

There are several ways to find volunteer opportunities:

ParentSquare: Check for academy-wide opportunities, and volunteer needs.

Classroom: Communicate with your scholar's teacher to determine needs and arrange times.

Urgent Needs: Emails will go out to families when an urgent need for volunteers occurs. Contact the front desk with any questions.

Meetings: Participation in school meetings count towards volunteer hours. Examples of meetings to attend include, but are not limited to, monthly general PSO meetings, Junto discussion groups, special meetings organized by school administration, or guest speakers invited by the academy to speak to parents.

Surveys: Parents may be asked to complete a survey so that they may be contacted regarding specific expertise related needs.

Volunteer Project Ideas: If you have an area of expertise and would like to contribute products or services through a volunteer project, please contact info@johnadamsacademy.org in advance to coordinate your project. (For example, constructing something for the academy, designing software, etc.)

Tracking Volunteer Hours

To receive credit for volunteer service hours, volunteers must track hours contributed on their ParentSquare account. It is recommended that all families keep a copy of their submitted volunteer hours for their own record.

Meeting Volunteer Needs

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Because volunteers are needed throughout the year and community building is a continuous process, volunteer hour contributions are best divided evenly between the Fall and Spring semesters. This best meets the ongoing needs of our community while helping to prevent front loading or end-of-year need when activities run high.

Did you know...

- Contributing only 1 hour per week from the first week of school through to the last, will total approx. 38 hours of volunteer contribution.
- Volunteering at each monthly Saturday morning work party (4 hours per month x 9 months) adds up to 36 hours of volunteer contribution.

Remember, through these volunteer hours the John Adams Academy community is building a culture of greatness and modeling our abundance mentality as we serve our scholars and community. Families can keep contributing to John Adams Academy scholars and community even after the 40 hour request has been reached.

Volunteering with Preschoolers

While we appreciate the commitment and willingness of John Adams Academy families who have young children, bringing young children with you while volunteering can distract from instruction and poses a safety hazard. Please know that John Adams Academy cannot assume liability in these situations. Therefore, John Adams Academy asks that parents do not bring along children or babies when serving. There are many other ways parents can volunteer their time if arranging for childcare is not possible.

Family Member Delegates

For your convenience, family volunteer hours can be contributed by a parent, grandparent or other adult family member. Contributions performed by scholars during school hours do not count as family volunteer contribution hours.

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

APPENDIX A: A-G APPROVED COURSES

For the most up-to-date listing see:

[https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist - /list/details/4261/](https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist-/list/details/4261/)

History / Social Science ("a")

Two units (equivalent to two years) of history/social science required, including: one year of world history, cultures and historical geography and one year of U.S. history; or one-half year of U.S. history and one-half year of civics or American government.

Title/Discipline	Transcript Abbreviation(s)	Course Details
American Government Adopted from: Civics / American Government	American Gov	Classroom-based Half Year
AP United States History Adopted from: The College Board Advanced Placement Program U.S. History	US History AP	UC Honors Classroom-based Full Year
History of War Adopted from: World History / Cultures / Historical Geography	History of War	Classroom-based Full Year

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Honors American Government	Honors Am Gov	UC Honors
Adopted from:		Classroom-based
U.S. History		Half Year
Honors United States History	Honors US History	UC Honors
Adopted from:		Classroom-based
U.S. History		Full Year
Political Philosophy Honors	Pol Phil Hon	UC Honors
Adopted from:		Classroom-based
U.S. History		Full Year
United States History	US history	Classroom-based
Adopted from:		Full Year
U.S. History		
Western Civilization I	West. Civ. I	Classroom-based
Adopted from:		Full Year
World History / Cultures / Historical Geography		

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Western Civilization I Honors 9	West Civ I (honors)	Classroom-based
Adopted from:		Full Year
World History / Cultures / Historical Geography		
Western Civilization II Honors 10	West Civ 2 (honors)	UC Honors
Adopted from:		Classroom-based
World History / Cultures / Historical Geography		
Western Civilization II(non-honors)	West Civ II	Classroom-based
Adopted from:		Full Year
World History / Cultures / Historical Geography		

English ("b")

Four units (equivalent to four years) of college preparatory English composition and literature required, integrating extensive reading, frequent writing, and practice listening and speaking with different audiences. Students may only use 1 year of ESL/ELD English.

Title/Discipline	Transcript Abbreviation(s)	Course Details
AP English Language and Composition	AP Engl Lang	UC Honors

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Adopted from: The College Board Advanced Placement Program English		Classroom-based Full Year
English 10	ELA 10	Classroom-based Full Year
Adopted from: English		Full Year
English 11	ELA 11	Classroom-based Full Year
Adopted from: English		Full Year
English 12	ELA 12	Classroom-based Full Year
Adopted from: English		Full Year
English 9	ELA 9	Classroom-based Full Year
Adopted from: English		Full Year
English Composition	Composition	Classroom-based Full Year
Adopted from:		Full Year

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

English		
Honors English 10	Honors ELA 10	UC Honors
Adopted from:		Classroom-based
English		Full Year
Honors English 11	Honors ELA 11	UC Honors
Adopted from:		Classroom-based
English		Full Year
Honors English 12	Honors ELA 12	UC Honors
Adopted from:		Classroom-based
English		Full Year

Mathematics ("c")

Three units (equivalent to three years) of college-preparatory mathematics (four units are strongly recommended), including or integrating topics covered in elementary algebra, advanced algebra, and two-and three-dimensional geometry.

Title/Discipline	Transcript Abbreviation(s)	Course Details
Algebra 1	Alg 1	Classroom-based

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Adopted from: Algebra I		Full Year
Algebra 2	ALG2	Classroom-based
Adopted from: Algebra II		Full Year
AP Calculus AB	AP Calculus	UC Honors
Adopted from: The College Board Advanced Placement Program		Classroom-based
Calculus		Full Year
Geometry	Geo	Classroom-based
Adopted from: Geometry		Full Year
Honors Geometry	Honors Geometry	Classroom-based
Adopted from: Geometry		Full Year
Honors Precalculus	Honors Precalc	UC Honors
Adopted from: 		Classroom-based

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Advanced Mathematics	Full Year
Statistics and Probability	Classroom-based
Stats	
Adopted from:	Full Year
Statistics	

Laboratory Science ("d")

Two units (equivalent to two years) of laboratory science are required (three units are strongly recommended), providing fundamental knowledge in two of the following: biology, chemistry, or physics. A yearlong interdisciplinary, **or** integrated, **or** earth and space science course can meet one year of this requirement.

Title/Discipline	Transcript Abbreviation(s)	Course Details
AP Chemistry	AP Chem	UC Honors
Adopted from: The College Board Advanced Placement Program		Classroom-based
Chemistry		Full Year
Biology 1A	Bio 1A	Classroom-based
Adopted from:		Full Year
Biology / Life Sciences		
Honors Chemistry	Honors Chem	UC Honors

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Adopted from:	Classroom-based
Chemistry	Full Year
Honors Human anatomy and Physiology	Honors Anatomy UC Honors
Adopted from:	Classroom-based
Biology / Life Sciences	Full Year
Honors Physics	Hon. Physics UC Honors
Adopted from:	Classroom-based
Physics	Full Year

Language Other than English ("e")

Two units (equivalent to two years, or through the second level of high school instruction) of the same language other than English (three units recommended). LOTE levels are defined by the number of years of high school instruction; e.g. LOTE 1= 1 yr.; LOTE 2 = 2 years, etc.

Title/Discipline	Transcript Abbreviation(s)	Course Details
Latin 1	LAT 1	Classroom-based
Adopted from:		Full Year
LOTE Level 1		

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Latin 2	LAT 2	Classroom-based
Adopted from:		Full Year
LOTE Level 2		
Latin 3	LAT 3	Classroom-based
Adopted from:		Full Year
LOTE Level 3		
Spanish 1	Spanish 1	Classroom-based
Adopted from:		Full Year
LOTE Level 1		
Spanish 2	Spanish 2	Classroom-based
Adopted from:		Full Year
LOTE Level 2		
Spanish 3	Spanish 3	Classroom-based
Adopted from:		Full Year
LOTE Level 3		

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Visual & Performing Arts ("f")

One unit (equivalent to one year) required, chosen from one of the following categories: dance, music, theater, interdisciplinary arts, or visual arts (e.g., painting, web/graphic design, film/video, inter/multimedia arts). Two one-semester courses from the same discipline is also acceptable.

Title/Discipline	Transcript Abbreviation(s)	Course Details
Advanced Art Adopted from: Visual Arts	Adv Art	Classroom-based Full Year
Advanced Vocal Ensemble Adopted from: Music	Advanced Vocal	Classroom-based Full Year
Choir Adopted from: Music	Choir	Classroom-based Full Year
Drama 1 Adopted from: Theater	Drama 1	Classroom-based Full Year

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Visual Arts 1	Art 1	Classroom-based
Adopted from:		Full Year
Visual Arts		

College-Preparatory Elective ("g")

One unit (equivalent to one year) chosen from the "a-f" courses beyond those used to satisfy the requirements of the "a-f" subjects, or courses that have been approved solely in the elective area.

Title/Discipline	Transcript Abbreviation(s)	Course Details
Earth Science	Earth Science	Classroom-based
Adopted from:		Full Year
Laboratory Science – Physical Sciences		
Economics	Econ.	Classroom-based
Adopted from:		Half Year
History / Social Science		
Honors Economics	Honors Econ	UC Honors
Adopted from:		Classroom-based

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

History / Social Science	Half Year
Political Philosophy	Political Philosophy
Adopted from:	Classroom-based
History / Social Science	Full Year
Senior Capstone	Senior Capstone
Adopted from:	Classroom-based
Interdisciplinary	Full Year
Yearbook	Yearbook
Adopted from:	Classroom-based
Interdisciplinary	Full Year

APPENDIX B: BOARD POLICY ON UNIFORM COMPLAINT

PROCEDURES

Uniform Complaint Procedures

Some matters lie within the Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) scope. Federal and state laws and regulations specify which programs and issues do. Not all complaints are within the scope of the UCP, even if they involve alleged violations of law. Charter schools which receive federal funds are subject to the UCP or where specified in statute. The Academy UCP shall apply only to those complaints that fall within the scope of the UCP and are applicable to charter schools.

Complaints Under the UCP

A complaint under the Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) is a written and signed statement by an individual, public agency, or organization alleging a violation of federal or state laws governing certain educational programs. Anonymous (unsigned) complaints shall be accepted and considered when required by law.

The Executive Director or designee shall utilize the procedures listed below to comply with the Uniform Complaint Procedures consistent with local, state and federal laws and regulations as applicable to charter schools.

This complaint procedure is adopted to provide a uniform system of complaint processing for the following types of complaints:

- Complaints of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or against any protected group, including actual or perceived discrimination, on the basis of the actual or perceived characteristics of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnic group identification, gender expression, gender identity, gender, , genetic information, nationality, national origin, race or ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, or on the basis of a person’s association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics in any JAA school program or activity.
- Complaints of violations of state or federal law and regulations governing the following programs including but not limited to: After School Education and Safety Programs, Consolidated Categorical Aid Programs, Child Nutrition Programs, Foster and Homeless Youth Services, Migrant Education, Career Technical and Technical Education Training Programs, Every Scholar Succeeds Act Programs, and Special Education Programs.
- A complaint may also be filed alleging that a pupil enrolled in a public school was required to pay a pupil fee for participation in an educational activity as those terms are defined below.
 - “Educational activity” means an activity offered by a school, school district,

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

charter school or county office of education that constitutes an integral fundamental part of elementary and secondary education, including, but not limited to, curricular and extracurricular activities.

- “Pupil fee” means a fee, deposit or other charge imposed on pupils, or a pupil’s parents or guardians, in violation of Section 49011 of the Education Code and Section 5 of Article IX of the California Constitution, which require educational activities to be provided free of charge to all pupils without regard to their families’ ability or willingness to pay fees or request special waivers, as provided for in *Hartzell v. Connell* (1984) 35 Cal.3d 899.
 - Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to prohibit solicitation of voluntary donations of funds or property, voluntary participation in fundraising activities, or school districts, school, and other entities from providing pupils prizes or other recognition for voluntarily participating in fundraising activities.
- Complaints of noncompliance with the requirements governing the Local Control Funding Formula or Sections 47606.5 and 47607.3 of the Education Code, as applicable.
 - Complaints of noncompliance with the requirements of Education Code Section 222 regarding the rights of lactating pupils on a school campus.

If the JAA school finds merit in a complaint, or if the Executive Director finds merit in an appeal, JAA shall provide a remedy to the affected pupil(s).

JAA acknowledges and respects every individual’s rights to privacy. In investigating complaints, the confidentiality of the parties involved and the integrity of the process shall be protected. As appropriate, the Compliance Officer or his or her designee may keep the identity of a complainant confidential to the extent that the investigation of the complaint is not obstructed, or as otherwise permitted by law.

JAA prohibits any form of retaliation against any complainant in the complaint process, including but not limited to a complainant’s filing of a complaint or the reporting of instances of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying. Such participation shall not in any way affect the status, grades or work assignments of the complainant.

Bottom of Form

Designation of staff member responsible for receiving, investigating and resolving complaints

The Governing Board of John Adams Academies Inc. designates the individual(s) identified below as the employee(s) responsible for coordinating John Adams Academies Inc.’s response to complaints. The individual(s) also serve as the compliance officer(s) specified as the responsible employee to handle complaints regarding unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying).

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Joseph Benson Executive Director
1 Sierra Gate Plaza, Roseville, CA 95768
916-780-6800
Joseph.benson@johnadamsacademy.org

The compliance officer listed above who receives a complaint may designate another representative of John Adams Academies, Inc. to serve as the compliance officer to investigate and resolve the complaint. The compliance officer shall promptly notify the complainant and respondent, if applicable, if another compliance officer is assigned to the complaint.

In no instance shall a compliance officer be assigned to a complaint in which he/she has a bias or conflict of interest that would prohibit him/her from fairly investigating or resolving the complaint. Any complaint against a compliance officer or that raises a concern about the compliance officer's ability to investigate the complaint fairly and without bias shall be filed with the Executive Director or designee who shall determine how the complaint will be investigated.

The Executive Director or designee shall ensure that employees assigned to investigate complaints are knowledgeable about the laws and programs at issue in the complaints for which they are responsible. Assigned employees may have access to legal counsel as determined by the Executive Director or designee.

The compliance officer or, if necessary, any appropriate administrator shall determine whether interim measures are necessary during and pending the result of an investigation. If interim measures are determined to be necessary, the compliance officer or the administrator shall consult with the Executive Director, the Executive Director's designee, or, if appropriate, the Principal, to implement one or more interim measures. The interim measures shall remain in place until the compliance officer determines that they are no longer necessary or until John Adams Academies, Inc. issues its final written decision, whichever occurs first.

Notifications

The Executive Director or designee shall annually provide written notification of John Adams Academies Inc.'s UCP to employees, scholars, parents/guardians. Information regarding the UCP will be provided to other interested parties upon request.

John Adams Academies Inc.'s UCP shall be available in all JAA schools' main offices and JAA's Home Office. The Executive Director shall make copies of the uniform complaint procedures available free of charge.

The notification shall:

1. Identify the person(s), position(s), or unit(s) responsible for receiving complaints;
2. Include information about complaints that may be related to pupil fees, pursuant to the requirements of Education Code section 49010 *et seq.*;

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

3. Include information about complaints related to the Local Control and Accountability Plan, Annual Updates, or other Plan compliance requirements, pursuant to Education Code section 52075.
4. Advise the complainant of any civil law remedies that may be available to him/her under state or federal discrimination laws, if applicable;
5. Advise the complainant of the appeal process, including the complainant's right to take a complaint directly to the CDE or to pursue remedies before civil courts or other public agencies; and
6. Include statements that:
 - a. JAA is primarily responsible to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing education programs;
 - b. The complaint review shall be completed within 60 calendar days from the date of receipt of the complaint unless the complainant agrees in writing to an extension of the timeline;
 - c. A complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying must be filed not later than six months from the date it occurred or six months from the date the complainant first obtains knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying;
 - d. The complainant has a right to appeal the decision to the CDE by filing a written appeal within 15 calendar days of receiving the decision;
 - e. The appeal to the CDE must include a copy of the complaint filed with JAA and a copy of the decision; and
 - f. Copies of JAA's uniform complaint procedures are available free of charge.

Procedures

The following procedures shall be used to address all complaints which allege that the JAA has violated federal or state laws or regulations governing educational programs. All complaints shall be investigated and resolved within 60 calendar days of JAA's receipt of the complaint.

The Compliance Officer shall maintain a record of each complaint and subsequent related actions, in compliance with California Code of Regulations, Title 5, sections 4631 and 4633.

All parties involved in allegations shall be notified when a complaint is filed, when a complaint meeting or hearing is scheduled, and when a decision or ruling is made.

Step 1: Filing a Complaint

Any individual, public agency, or organization may file a written complaint of alleged noncompliance by JAA.

A complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying may be filed by a person who alleges that he or she personally suffered unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, or by a person who believes that an individual or any specific class of individuals has been subjected to unlawful discrimination, harassment,

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

intimidation or bullying. Such a complaint shall be initiated no later than six (6) months from the date when the alleged unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying occurred, or six (6) months from the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Upon written request by the complainant, the Compliance Officer may choose to extend the filing period for up to 90 calendar days.

Pupil fee complaints shall be filed no later than one (1) year from the date the alleged violation occurred and may be presented to the Principal.

The complaint shall be presented to the Compliance Officer who shall maintain a log of complaints received, providing each with a code number and date stamp. Pupil fee complaints presented to a Principal shall be immediately forwarded to the Compliance Officer within an indication of the date received.

Complaints related to pupil fees for participation in educational activities may be filed anonymously if the complaint provides evidence or information leading to evidence to support an allegation of noncompliance with the requirements of Education Code section 49010 et seq. (pupil fees). Complaints related to Local Control and Accountability Plan compliance may also be filed anonymously if the complaint provides evidence or information leading to evidence to support an allegation of noncompliance with the requirements of Education Code section 52075.

If a complainant is unable to prepare a written complaint due to conditions such as disability or illiteracy, the complainant can receive assistance from JAA staff.

Step 2: Mediation

Within ten (10) operating days of receiving the complaint, the Compliance Officer may informally discuss with the complainant the possibility of using mediation. If the complainant agrees to mediation, the Compliance Officer shall make arrangements for this process.

Before initiating the mediation of an unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying complaint, the Compliance Officer shall ensure that all parties agree to make the mediator a party to related confidential information.

If the mediation process does not resolve the problem within the parameters of law, the Compliance Officer shall proceed with his/her investigation of the complaint.

The use of mediation shall not extend the JAA's timelines for investigating and resolving the complaint unless the complainant agrees in writing to such an extension of time.

Step 3: Investigation of Complaint

The Compliance Officer is encouraged to hold an investigative meeting within five (5) days of receiving the complaint or an unsuccessful attempt to mediate the complaint. This

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

meeting shall provide the complainant with the opportunity to repeat the complaint orally.

The complainant and/or his or her representative shall have an opportunity to present the complaint and evidence, or information leading to evidence, to support the allegations in the complaint.

Refusal by the complainant to provide JAA's Compliance Officer with documents or other evidence related to the allegations in the complaint, or otherwise fail or refuse to cooperate or obstruct the investigation may result in dismissal of complaint because of a lack of evidence to support the allegation.

JAA's refusal to provide the Compliance Officer with access to records and/or other information related to the allegation in the complaint, or its failure or refusal to cooperate in the investigation or its engagement in any other obstruction of the investigation, may result in a finding, based on evidence collected, that a violation has occurred and may result in the imposition of a remedy in favor of the complainant.

Step 4: Response

The Compliance Officer shall prepare and send to the complainant a written report of the investigation and decision, as described in Step #5 below, within sixty (60) days of JAA's receipt of the complaint, unless extended by written agreement with the complainant.

JAA's Board may consider the matter at its next regular Board meeting or at a special Board meeting convened in order to meet the 60 calendar day total time limit within which the complaint must be answered. The Board may also decide not to hear the complaint, in which case the Compliance Officer's decision shall be final.

If the Board hears the complaint, the Compliance Officer shall send the Board's decision to the complainant within 60 calendar days of receipt of the complaint or within the time period that has been specified in a written agreement with the complainant.

Step 5: Final Written Decision

JAA's decision shall be in writing and sent to the complainant. JAA's decision shall be written in English and, when required by law, in the complainant's primary language.

The decision shall include:

1. The finding(s) of fact based on the evidence gathered;
2. The conclusion(s) of law;
3. Disposition of the complaint;
4. Rationale for such disposition;
5. Corrective action, if any are warranted;
6. For unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying complaints arising under state law, notice that the complainant must wait until sixty (60) days have

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

elapsed from the filing of an appeal with the CDE before pursuing civil remedies.

7. For unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying complaints arising under federal law such complaint may be made at any time to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights.

In addition, any decision on a complaint of discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying based on state law shall include a notice that the complainant must wait until 60 calendar days have elapsed from the filing of an appeal with the CDE before pursuing civil law remedies.

If a scholar or employee is disciplined as a result of the complaint, the decision shall simply state that effective action was taken and that the scholar or employee was informed of JAA's expectations. The report shall give no further information as to the nature of the disciplinary action.

If a complaint alleging noncompliance with the laws regarding Local Control and Accountability Plans or scholar fees, deposits and other charges is found to have merit, JAA shall provide a remedy to all affected scholars and parents/guardians, which, where applicable, shall include reasonable efforts to ensure full reimbursement to them.

Appeal

If dissatisfied with JAA's decision, the complainant may appeal to the CDE by filing a written appeal within 15 calendar days of receiving the JAA's final decision. The appeal shall specify the basis for the appeal and whether the findings of facts are incorrect and/or the law has been misapplied. The appeal shall be accompanied by a copy of the locally filed complaint and a copy of JAA's final decision.

Appeals of JAA decisions regarding discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying allegations, as well as findings regarding provision of accommodations to lactating scholars should be sent to:

California Department of
Education Education Equity
UCP Appeals Office 1430 N
Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Appeals of JAA decisions regarding educational program complaints or pupil fees should be sent to:

California Department of Education
Categorical Programs Complaints Management
Office 1430 N Street, Suite 6408
Sacramento, CA 95814

Appeals of JAA decisions regarding LCAP should be sent to:

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

California Department of
Education Local Agency
Systems Support Office 1430 N
Street, Suite 6400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Appeals of JAA decisions regarding special education compliance should be sent to:

California Department of
Education Procedural Safeguards
Referral Service 1430 N Street,
Suite 2401
Sacramento, CA 95814

Upon notification by the CDE that the complainant has appealed JAA's decision, the Executive Director or designee shall forward the following documents to the CDE:

1. A copy of the original complaint.
2. A copy of the decision.
3. A summary of the nature and extent of the investigation conducted by JAA, if not covered by the decision.
4. A copy of the investigation file, including but not limited to all notes, interviews, and documents submitted by all parties and gathered by the investigator.
5. A report of any action taken to resolve the complaint.
6. A copy of JAA's complaint procedures.
7. Other relevant information requested by the CDE.

The CDE may directly intervene in the complaint without waiting for action by JAA when one of the conditions listed in Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Section 4650 exists, including cases in which JAA has not taken action within sixty (60) days of the date the complaint was filed with JAA. A direct complaint to CDE must identify the basis for direct filing of the complaint, which must include clear and convincing evidence that supports such a basis.

Civil Law Remedies

A complainant may pursue available civil law remedies outside of JAA's complaint procedures. Complainants may seek assistance from mediation centers or public/private interest attorneys. Civil law remedies that may be imposed by a court include, but are not limited to, injunctions and restraining orders. For complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on state law, a complainant shall wait until sixty (60) calendar days have elapsed from the filing of an appeal with the CDE before pursuing civil law remedies. The moratorium does not apply to injunctive relief and is applicable only if JAA has appropriately, and in a timely manner, apprised the complainant of his/her right to file a complaint in accordance with 5 CCR 4622.

APPENDIX C: BOARD POLICY ON SCHOLAR DISCIPLINE

John Adams Academies, Inc. (JAA) is committed to optimizing learning for all scholars. John Adams Academy scholars are expected to act as scholars: to respect themselves, the academy faculty, others, and property. Discipline policies and procedures should provide guidance and direction of acceptable behavior in order to develop a scholar's own sense of self-discipline, rather than create a menagerie of rules to follow.

The goals of discipline at John Adams Academy are:

1. To maintain a highly effective learning environment where scholars focus on gaining knowledge with minimal distraction.
2. To utilize the discipline process as an opportunity for scholars to learn about themselves and others, and to provide them with character education and lessons.
3. To reinforce JAA's commitment to treating all scholars with fairness, respect, and equality.

Administration

Administration is to be guided by the principle that any meeting between a scholar and administrator is to provide a learning opportunity for the scholar in order to implement a positive change in behavior. Meetings between administration and scholars on matters of behavior shall include discussions of the Core Values and in most cases include notification to the Scholar's parent of the Scholar's visit to the office.

The primary goal of the choice of consequences by administration is to require the scholar to take responsibility for the infraction. By modeling the Core Values and consistently treating scholars and their families with respect and professionalism, administrators are an extremely valuable and accessible part of a scholar's character development education at John Adams Academy.

The included goals of a parent conference with administration are:

1. To exchange accurate information about the scholar.
2. To determine how the parent-academy partnership can best work together to lead the scholar to reform his/her behavior.

Teachers

Teachers will have the authority to implement discipline procedures in their classrooms that are consistent with the John Adams Academy discipline goals. Teachers will utilize the administration to implement discipline whenever

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

appropriate and most especially

when disciplinary action by the teacher would take away from maintaining an effective learning environment in the classroom.

Executive Director

The Executive Director or designee shall develop processes and strategies for addressing behavioral expectations that foster and support a positive culture reflective of the Core Values.

In addition, the Executive Director or designee's processes and strategies shall be aligned with the Charter and reflect the goals outlined by the Governing Board.

The Executive Director or designee shall establish disciplinary measures to be used by administration and staff to enforce behavioral expectations. In the event that disciplinary measures involve suspension or expulsion, involuntary removal, disenrollment, dismissal or termination, the Executive Director or designee will ensure that the discipline policy is aligned with the Suspension and Expulsion Policy as outlined in the Charter (Element J) and the adopted Board Policy on Suspensions & Expulsions and state law.

The Executive Director or designee shall report on a regular basis to the JAA Board regarding the frequency and categories of discipline required at the Academy including suspension and expulsion rates, and the effectiveness of utilized discipline strategies.

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any scholar. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of or willfully causing the infliction of physical pain on a scholar. For purposes of the Policy, corporal punishment does not include an employee's use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect the employee, scholars, staff or other persons or to prevent damage to JAA property

JAA's staff shall enforce disciplinary rules and procedures fairly and consistently among all scholars. The Discipline Policy and its Procedures will be printed and distributed as part of the Scholar Handbook and will clearly describe discipline expectations.

APPENDIX D: BOARD POLICY ON PRIVACY OF SCHOLAR INFORMATION (FERPA)

Purpose

The Governing Board believes that personal information concerning John Adams Academy Scholars and their families should be kept private in accordance with local, state and federal law applicable to charter schools. This constitutes the Annual Notification of FERPA Rights for all John Adams Academy charter schools.

The Executive Director or designee shall develop processes and procedures for protecting information concerning scholars and their families and shall consider input from parents/guardians regarding the application of this policy.

Collection of Personal Information for Marketing Purposes

The Board prohibits staff from administering or distributing to scholars survey instruments that are designed for the purpose of collecting personal information for marketing or for selling that information.

Requirements regarding the collection of personal information for marketing or sale to scholars shall not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from scholars for the purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, scholars or educational institutions, such as the following: (20 USC 1232h)

- College or other postsecondary education recruitment or military recruitment
- Book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products
- Curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary and secondary schools
- Tests and assessments to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about scholars (or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments) and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments
- The sale by scholars of products or services to raise funds for school-related or education-related activities
- Scholar recognition programs

Directory Information

Scholar directories shall not be created or disseminated without prior approval by the Executive Director.

Access to Scholar Records

Parents shall have the right to inspect and review the education records of their children. If any material or document in the education record of a scholar includes information on more than one scholar, the parents of one of such scholars shall have the right to inspect and review only such part of such material or document as relates to such scholar or to be informed of the specific information contained in such part of such material. Parents or

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

eligible scholars should submit to the Principal or designee a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible scholar of the time and place where the records may be inspected. The school shall establish appropriate procedures for the granting of a request by parents for access to the education records of their children within a reasonable period of time, but in no case more than forty-five days after the request has been made.

Right to Request Amendment of Scholar Education Records

Parents of scholars who are or have been in attendance at a John Adams Academies, Inc. school are to be provided an opportunity to challenge the content of such scholar's education records, in order to insure that the records are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of scholars, and to provide an opportunity for the correction or deletion of any such inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise inappropriate data contained therein and to insert into such records a written explanation of the parents respecting the content of such records.

Please note that this right to request an amendment to scholar records does not allow families to challenge subjective educational decisions (e.g., grading of an essay). Any such requests should be directed in writing to the **Principal, Superintendent, or Executive Director**.

Right to Provide Written Consent Before Certain Disclosures

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school Board of Directors. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the school who performs an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of personally identifiable information (PII) from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

Note that John Adams Academy will not release information to third parties for immigration- enforcement purposes, except as required by law or court order.

U.S. Department of Education

Parents have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by John Adams Academy to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland
Avenue, SW
Washington, DC
20202

Potential Disclosure of Information

FERPA permits the disclosure of PII from student's education records, without consent of the parent or eligible student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in §99.31 of the FERPA regulations. John Adams Academy charter schools may disclose PII from the education records of a scholar without obtaining prior written consent of the parents or the eligible student:

1. To other school officials, including teachers, within the educational agency or institution whom the school has determined to have legitimate educational interests. This includes contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the school has outsourced institutional services or functions. (§99.31(a)(1).)
2. To officials of another school, school system, or institution of postsecondary education where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer, subject to the requirements of §99.34. (§99.31(a)(2).)
3. To authorized representatives of the U. S. Comptroller General, the U. S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or State and local educational authorities, such as the State educational agency in the parent or eligible student's State. (§§99.31(a)(3) and 99.35.)
4. In connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary to determine eligibility for the aid, determine the amount of the aid, determine the conditions of the aid, or enforce the terms and conditions of the aid. (§99.31(a)(4).)
5. To State and local officials or authorities to whom information is specifically allowed to be reported or disclosed by a State statute that concerns the juvenile justice system and the system's ability to effectively serve, prior to adjudication, the student whose records were released, subject to § 99.38. (§ 99.31(a)(5).)
6. To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school, in order to: (a) develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; (b) administer student aid programs; or (c) improve instruction, if applicable requirements are met. (§ 99.31(a)(6).)
7. To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions. (§99.31(a)(7).)
8. To parents of an eligible student if the student is a dependent for IRS tax

FAMILY/SCHOLAR HANDBOOK

purposes. (§99.31(a)(8).)

9. To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. (§99.31(a)(9).)
10. To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency, subject to §99.36. (§99.31(a)(10).)
11. To an agency caseworker or other representative of a State or local child welfare agency or tribal organization who is authorized to access a student's case plan when such agency or organization is legally responsible, in accordance with State or tribal law, for the care and protection of the student in foster care placement. (20 U.S.C. § 1232g(b)(1)(L).)
12. To the Secretary of Agriculture or authorized representatives of the Food and Nutrition Service for purposes of conducting program monitoring, evaluations, and performance measurements of programs authorized under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act or the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, under certain conditions. (20 U.S.C. § 1232g(b)(1)(K).)

John Adams Academy will not release information to third parties for immigration-enforcement purposes, except as required by law or court order.

