



Forest Ranch Charter School

~ elevate your education

Employment Handbook 2012/13

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK – OFFICE COPY

PLEASE READ THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK AND SUBMIT A SIGNED COPY OF THIS STATEMENT TO THE DIRECTOR.

EMPLOYEE NAME: _____

I ACKNOWLEDGE that I have received a copy of the Employee Handbook. I have read and understood the contents of the Handbook, and I agree to abide by its directions and procedures. I have been given the opportunity to ask any questions I might have about the policies in the Handbook. I understand that it is my responsibility to read and familiarize myself with the policies and procedures contained in the Handbook.

I understand that the statements contained in the Handbook are guidelines for employees concerning some of the School’s policies and benefits, and are not intended to create any contractual or other legal obligations or to alter the at-will nature of my employment with the School. In the event I do have an employment contract which expressly alters the at-will relationship, I agree to the foregoing except with reference to an at-will employment status.

I understand that except for employment at-will status, any and all policies or practices can be changed at any time by the School.

I understand that other than the Board of the School, no person has authority to enter into any agreement, express or implied, for employment for any specific period of time, or to make any agreement for employment other than at-will; only the Board has the authority to make any such agreement and then only in writing signed by the Board Chair.

Employee’s Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please sign/date, tear out, and return to the School.

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Employee’s Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please retain this copy for your records.

INTRODUCTION TO HANDBOOK

This Handbook is designed to help employees get acquainted with Forest Ranch Charter School (hereinafter referred to as the “School” or “Charter School”). It explains some of our philosophies and beliefs, and describes in general terms, some of our employment guidelines. Although this Handbook is not intended to be an exclusive or comprehensive policies and procedures manual, we hope that it will serve as a useful reference document for employees throughout their employment at the School. Employees should understand, however, that this Handbook is not intended to be a contract (express or implied), nor is it intended to otherwise create any legally enforceable obligations on the part of the School or its employees. In no way does the Handbook replace any official plan documents (e.g., health insurance, retirement plan, etc.) or insurance contracts, which will govern in all cases. This Handbook supersedes and replaces all previous personnel policies, practices, and guidelines.

Due to the fact that the School is a growing and changing organization, it reserves full discretion to add to, modify, or delete provisions of this Handbook, or the policies and procedures on which they may be based, at any time without advance notice. The School also reserves the right to interpret any of the provisions set forth in this Handbook in any manner it deems appropriate.

No individual other than the Board of Directors has the authority to enter into any employment or other agreement that modifies School policy. Any such modification *must* be in writing.

This Handbook is the property of the School, and it is intended for personal use and reference by employees of the School. Circulation of this Handbook outside of the School requires the prior written approval of the Director.

Employees must sign the acknowledgment form at the front of this Handbook, tear it out, and return it to the Director. This will provide the School with a record that each employee has received this Handbook.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Equal Employment Opportunity Is Our Policy

The School is an equal opportunity employer. It is the policy of the School to afford equal employment and advancement opportunity to all qualified individuals without regard to race, creed, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental disability, marital status, citizenship status, medical condition, or any other legally protected status. This policy extends to all employees and to all aspects of the employment relationship, including the hiring of new employees and the training, transfer, promotion, compensation and benefits of existing employees.

To comply with applicable laws ensuring equal employment opportunities to qualified individuals with a disability, the School will make reasonable accommodations for the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who is an applicant or an employee unless undue hardship would result.

Any applicant or employee who requires an accommodation in order to perform the essential functions of the

job should contact a School representative with day-to-day personnel responsibilities and request such an accommodation. The individual with the disability should specify what accommodation he or she needs to perform the job. The School then will conduct an investigation to identify the barriers that interfere with the equal opportunity of the applicant or employee to perform his or her job. The School will identify possible accommodations, if any, that will help eliminate the limitation. If the accommodation is reasonable and will not impose an undue hardship, the School will make the accommodation.

Employment At-Will

Except if stated expressly otherwise by employment contract, it is the policy of the School that all employees are considered “at-will” employees of the School. Accordingly, either the School or the employee can terminate this relationship at any time, for any reason, with or without cause, and with or without advance notice.

Nothing contained in this Handbook, employment applications, School memoranda or other materials provided to employees in connection with their employment shall require the School to have “cause” to terminate an employee or otherwise restrict the School’s right to release an employee from their at-will employment with the School. Statements of specific grounds for termination set forth in this Handbook or elsewhere are not all-inclusive and are not intended to restrict the School’s right to terminate at-will. No School representative, other than the Board of Directors or its designee, is authorized to modify this policy for any employee or to make any representations to employees or applicants concerning the terms or conditions of employment with the School that are not consistent with the School’s policy regarding “at-will” employment.

This policy shall not be modified by any statements contained in this Handbook or employee applications, School memoranda, or any other materials provided to employees in connection with their employment. Further, none of those documents whether singly or combined, or any employment practices shall create neither an express or implied contract of employment for a definite period, nor an express or implied contract concerning any terms or conditions of employment.

Whistleblower Policy

The School requires its directors, officers, employees, and volunteers to observe high standards of ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities within the School. As representatives of the School, such individuals must practice honesty and integrity in fulfilling our responsibilities and must comply with all applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of this policy is to create an ethical and open work environment, to ensure that the School has a governance and accountability structure that supports its mission, and to encourage and enable directors, officers, employees, and volunteers of the School to raise serious concerns about the occurrence of illegal or unethical actions within the School before turning to outside parties for resolution.

All directors, officers, employees, and volunteers of the School have a responsibility to report any action or suspected action taken within the School that is illegal, unethical or violates any adopted policy of the School. Anyone reporting a violation must act in good faith, without malice to the School or any individual at the School and have reasonable grounds for believing that the information shared in the report indicates that a violation has occurred. A person who makes a report does not have to prove that a violation has occurred. However, any report which the reporter has made maliciously or any report which the reporter has good reason to believe is false will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense. No one who in good faith report a violation, or who, in good faith, cooperates in the investigation of a violation shall suffer harassment, retaliation, or adverse employment

action. For more specific information, please refer to Board Policy 6090 – Whistleblowers.

Policy Prohibiting Harassment

The School is committed to providing a work and educational atmosphere that is free of unlawful harassment. The School's policy prohibits sexual harassment and harassment based upon pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, race, religion, creed, color, gender, national origin or ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, marital status, age, sexual orientation, or any other basis protected by federal, state, local law, ordinance or regulation. The School will not condone or tolerate harassment of any type by any employee, independent contractor or other person with which the School does business with. This policy applies to all employee actions and relationships, regardless of position or gender. The School will promptly and thoroughly investigate any complaint of harassment and take appropriate corrective action, if warranted.

Prohibited Unlawful Harassment

- Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory jokes or comments or slurs;
- Physical conduct including assault, unwanted touching, intentionally blocking normal movement or interfering with work because of sex, race or any other protected basis;
- Retaliation for reporting or threatening to report harassment; or
- Deferential or preferential treatment based on any of the protected classes above.

Prohibited Unlawful Sexual Harassment

In accordance with existing policy, discrimination on the basis of gender in education institutions is prohibited. All persons, regardless of the gender, are afforded equal rights and opportunities and freedom from unlawful discrimination in education programs or activities conducted by the School.

The School is committed to provide a workplace free of sexual harassment and considers such harassment to be a major offense, which may result in disciplinary action, up to, and including dismissal, of the offending employee.

Sexual harassment consist of sexual advances, request for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when: (1) submission of the conduct is either made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; (2) an employment decision is based upon an individual's acceptance or rejection of that conduct; (3) that conduct interferes with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

It is also unlawful to retaliate in any way against an employee who has articulated a good faith concern about sexual harassment against him or her against another individual.

All supervisors of staff will receive sexual harassment training within six (6) months of their assumption of a supervisory position and will receive further training once every two (2) years thereafter. All staff will receive sexual harassment training and/or instruction concerning sexual harassment in the workplace as required by law.

Each employee has the responsibility to maintain a workplace free from any form of sexual harassment. Consequently, should any individual, in particular those with supervisory responsibilities, become aware of any conduct that may constitute sexual harassment or other prohibited behavior, immediate action should be taken to address such conduct. Employees and students are expected to act in a positive and professional manner and to

contribute to a productive School environment that is free from harassing or disruptive activity. Any employee who believes they have been sexually harassed or has witnessed sexual harassment is encouraged to immediately report such harassment to the Administrator. Please refer to Board Policy 3040 – Uniform Complaint Policy and Procedures for forms and instructions on reporting harassment.

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

- Physical assaults of a sexual nature, such as:
 - Rape, sexual battery, molestation or attempts to commit these assaults and
 - Intentional physical conduct that is sexual in nature, such as touching, pinching, patting, grabbing, brushing against another’s body, or poking another’s body.
- Unwanted sexual advances, propositions or other sexual comments, such as:
 - Sexually oriented gestures, notices, remarks, jokes, or comments about a person’s sexuality or sexual experience.
 - Preferential treatment or promises of preferential treatment to an employee for submitting to sexual conduct, including soliciting or attempting to solicit any employee to engage in sexual activity for compensation or reward or deferential treatment for rejecting sexual conduct.
 - Subjecting or threats of subjecting an employee to unwelcome sexual attention or conduct or intentionally making performance of the employee’s job more difficult because of the employee’s sex.
- Sexual or discriminatory displays or publications anywhere at the workplace by employees, such as:
 - Displaying pictures, cartoons, posters, calendars, graffiti, objections, promotional materials, reading materials, or other materials that are sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic or bringing to work or possessing any such material to read, display or view at work.
 - Reading publicly or otherwise publicizing in the work environment materials that are in any way sexually revealing, sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic; and
 - Displaying signs or other materials purporting to segregate an employee by sex in an area of the workplace (other than restrooms or similar rooms).

The illustrations of harassment and sexual harassment above are not to be construed as an all-inclusive list of prohibited acts under this policy.

Complainants and witnesses under these policies will be protected from further harassment and will not be retaliated against in any aspect of their employment due to their participation, filing of a complaint or reporting sexual harassment.

The School will investigate complaints promptly and provide a written report of the investigation and decision as soon as practicable. The investigation will be handled in as confidential a manner as possible consistent with a full, fair, and proper investigation.

While in most situations a personal relationship is a private matter, these relationships are not appropriate in a professional setting, particularly where one of the parties has management or supervisory responsibilities.

Child Neglect and Abuse Reporting

Any employee who knows or reasonably suspects a child has been the victim of child abuse shall report the instance to a child protective agency. Child abuse is broadly defined as “a physical injury that is inflicted by other than accidental means on a child by another person.” School employees are required to report an instance of child abuse when the employee has a “reasonable suspicion” that child abuse has occurred. Reasonable suspicion arises when the facts surrounding the incident or suspicion could cause another person in the same situation to suspect child abuse.

Child abuse should be reported immediately by phone to a child protective agency. The phone call is to be followed by a written report within thirty-six (36) hours. There is no duty for the reporter to contact the child’s parents. In fact, if a child is released to a peace officer or a child protective agency agent, the reporter shall not notify the parent as required in other instances of removal.

Confidential Information

All information relating to students including, schools attended, addresses, contact numbers, and progress information is confidential information, and may not be shared with unauthorized parties. All records concerning special education pupils shall be kept strictly confidential and maintained in separate files.

Drug Free Workplace

The School shall comply with all Federal and State regulations regarding drug use while on the job. Our board policy covers all employees who are violators of any one of the following prohibitions:

1. Use, possession, offer for sale, or being under the influence of illegal drugs during working hours, including lunch and break periods, or in the presence of pupils.
2. Use, possession, offer for sale, or being under the influence of illegal drugs on School property at any time.

Engaging in any of the activities above shall be considered a violation of School policy.

Work Schedule

Business hours are normally 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The regular workday schedule for non-exempt employees is 8 hours; the regular workweek schedule is forty (40) hours. Exempt employees are

also generally expected to be present during business hours and to commit whatever additional time is necessary to satisfactorily complete all job requirements.

Meal Periods

Non-exempt employees are provided with at least a 30-minute meal period, to be taken approximately in the middle of the workday. The Director should be aware of and approve scheduled meal and rest periods.

You are expected to observe your assigned working hours and the time allowed for meal and rest periods. Do not leave the premises during your rest period and do not take more than ten (10) minutes for each rest period. You may leave the premises during the meal period.

Attendance and Tardiness

If you find it necessary to be absent or late, you are expected to telephone the Office Manager as soon as possible but no later than one-half hour after the start of the workday. If you are a teacher, you are also responsible to arrange for a qualified substitute to be approved by the Director. If you are absent from work longer than one day, you are expected to keep the Office Manager sufficiently informed of your situation.

Time Cards/Records

By law, the School is obligated to keep accurate records of the time worked by non-exempt employees. Such employees shall be required to utilize the School's time card system.

Non-exempt employees must accurately clock in and out of their shifts as this is the only way the payroll department knows how many hours each employee has worked and how much each employee is owed. The time card indicates when the employee arrived and when the employee departed. All non-exempt employees must clock in and out for arrival and departure, along with lunch and for absences like doctor or dentist appointments. All employees are required to keep the office advised of their departures from and returns to the school premises during the workday.

Non-exempt employees are solely responsible for ensuring accurate information on their time cards and remembering to record time worked. If an employee forgets to mark their time card or makes an error on the time card, the employee must contact the Director to make the correction and such correction must be initialed by both the employee and the Director.

No one may record hours worked on another's time card. Any employee, who tampers with his/her own time card, or another employee's time card, may be subjected to disciplinary action, up to and including release from at-will employment with the School.

Salaried employees who perform stipend work must fill out a time card to guarantee payment for this extra work. Time cards must be turned in to and approved by the Director by the 20th day of each month. Payroll checks

will be issued by the last weekday of each month. If you observe any error in your check, please report it immediately to your supervisor.

Certification and Licensure

The School's core academic teachers are required to hold a current California Commission on Teacher Credentialing certificate, permit, or other document equivalent to that which a teacher in other public schools would be required to hold.

Clerical, Other Staff, Substitutes, and Consultants

The School's clerical and non-teaching staff, substitutes, and consultants will demonstrate the abilities necessary to effectively carry out their responsibilities as further specified in applicable job specifications.

Academic Freedom

Teachers must be free to think and to express ideas, free to select and employ materials and methods of instruction within the School's curriculum framework, free from undue pressures of authority, and free to act within his/her professional group. Such freedom should be used judiciously and prudently to the end that it is in concert with established community standards and promotes the free exercise of intelligence and student learning.

Academic freedom is not an absolute. It must be exercised within the basic ethical responsibilities of the teaching profession and consistent with applicable law. Those responsibilities include:

- An understanding of our democratic traditions and methods.
- A concern for the welfare, growth, maturity and development of children.
- The use of accepted scholastic methods.
- Application of good taste and judgment in selecting and employing materials and methods of instruction.

Use of E-Mail, Voicemail and Internet Access

The School will permit employees to use its electronic mail, voicemail systems and Internet access subject to the following:

1. Minimal personal use as long as it does not interfere with timely job performance and is consistent with law and appropriate protocols.
2. The E-mail system and Internet access is not to be used in any way that may be disruptive, offensive to others, or harmful to morale. For example, sexually explicit images, ethnic slurs, racial epithets, or anything else that may be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based on their race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, religious beliefs or political beliefs may not be displayed or transmitted.
3. Employees should not attempt to gain access to another employee's personal file of E-mail or a voicemail message without the latter's express permission.
4. School staff will not enter an employee's personal E-mail files or voicemail unless there is a business need to do so. The School retains a copy of all passwords; passwords unknown to the School may not be used. System security features, including passwords and delete functions, do not neutralize the School's ability to access any message at any time. Employees must be aware that the possibility of such access always exists.

Personal Business

The School's facilities for handling mail and telephone calls are designed to accommodate School business. Please have your personal mail directed to your home address and limit personal telephone calls to an absolute minimum. Long distance toll calls may not be made from the School's telephone system. If you need to make a personal call it should be made on a personal calling card or cell phone. Do not use School material, time or equipment for personal projects.

Conflict of Interest

All employees must avoid situations involving actual or potential conflict of interest. An employee involved in any relationships or situations which may constitute a conflict of interest should immediately and fully disclose the relevant circumstances to the Director, or the Board of Directors, for a determination about whether a potential or actual conflict exists. If an actual or potential conflict is determined, the School may take whatever corrective action appears appropriate according to the circumstances. Failure to disclose facts shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

Personal Appearance/Standards of Dress for Faculty Members

The Board of Directors believes that teachers serve as role models. They should therefore maintain professional standards of dress and grooming. Just as overall attitude and instructional competency contribute to a productive learning environment, so do appropriate dress and grooming.

The Board of Directors encourages staff, during school hours, to wear clothing that will add dignity to the educational profession, will present an image consistent with their job responsibilities, and will not interfere with the learning process. Accordingly, all staff shall adhere to the following standards of dress:

- 1) Clothing and jewelry must be safe and appropriate to the educational environment. All clothing must be clean and in good repair. Slits or tears in pants or other articles of clothing are not permitted except for modest slits in women's dresses or skirts that are no higher than three inches above the knee. For safety purposes, earrings must not dangle more than one inch below the ear.
- 2) Head coverings, including hats of any kind, except those worn for religious or safety reasons, are not to be worn inside school buildings including assemblies, classrooms, labs and offices. Hats may be worn outside for sun protection (Cal. Ed. Code § 35183.5). All hats are to be removed upon entering school buildings. For exceptions to this policy, prior approval must be granted by the Director.
- 3) Slacks and shorts are to be worn on the waist with no portion of an undergarment showing. Shorts should be modest in length and should be no higher than three inches above the knee.
- 4) Skirts and dresses should be no higher than three inches above the knee.
- 5) All tops must be appropriate to the work environment, and should be clean, neat, and provide proper coverage.
- 6) Clothing or jewelry with logos that depict and/or promote gangs (as defined in Cal. Ed. Code § 35183), drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, violence, illegal activities, profanity, or obscenity are not permitted.
- 7) Appropriate shoes must be worn at all times.

Smoking

All School buildings and facilities are non-smoking facilities.

THE WORKPLACE

Health and Safety Policy

The School is committed to providing and maintaining a healthy and safe work environment for all employees. Accordingly, the School has instituted an Injury and Illness Prevention Program designed to protect the health and safety of all personnel. The Injury and Illness Prevention Program is kept by the Office Manager and is available for your review.

You are required to know and comply with the School's General Safety Rules and to follow safe and healthy work practices at all times. You are required to report immediately to your supervisor any potential health or safety hazards, and all injuries or accidents.

In compliance with Proposition 65, the School will inform employees of any known exposure to a chemical known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity.

TB Testing

No person shall be employed by the School unless the employee has submitted proof of an examination within the last four (4) years that the employee is free of active tuberculosis. This examination shall consist of an X-ray of the lungs or an approved intradermal tuberculin test which if positive shall be followed by an X-ray of the lungs. Thereafter all employees shall be required to undergo the foregoing examination at least once every four (4) years, excepting “food handlers” who shall be examined annually. After such examination each employee shall cause to be on file a certificate with the School from the examining physician showing the employee was examined and found free from active tuberculosis.

The examination is a condition of employment and the cost shall be born by the employee except at initial hire. The School will pay for an initial skin test through the Butte County Health Department at the time of hiring for regular employees. If an employee wishes to be tested elsewhere or requires X-ray testing any expense in excess of what the cost would be from Butte County Health Department shall be borne by the employee.

Persons wishing to be on the School’s list of substitute employees will need to have a current tuberculin test on file. The initial cost of the testing will be borne by the prospective substitute employee. Should the School call in the employee for substitute work the cost of the test will be reimbursed at the time of the first paycheck paid to the substitute employee. The School will only reimburse up to the cost of having the test performed through the Butte County Health Department.

Criminal Background Checks

It is the policy of the School to require fingerprinting and background checks (Live Scan) for its employees consistent with legal requirements. The School will pay for an initial Live Scan through one of the School’s approved providers for new regular employees. If an employee wished to be tested elsewhere any expense in excess of the cost from an approved provider shall be borne by the employee.

Persons wishing to be on the School’s list of substitute employees will need to have a current Live Scan on file. The initial cost of the Live Scan will be borne by the prospective substitute employee. Should the School call in the employee for substitute work the cost of the Live Scan will be reimbursed at the time of the first paycheck paid to the substitute employee. The School will only reimburse up to the cost of having the test performed by an approved provider.

The School may, on a case-by-case basis, require an entity providing school site services to certify that the entity’s employees comply with the requirements for fingerprinting, unless the School determines that the employees of the entity will have limited contact with pupils. In determining whether a contract employee will have limited contact with pupils, the School must consider all relevant circumstances, including factors such as the length of time the contractors will be on school grounds, whether pupils will be in proximity with the site where the contractors will be working, and whether the contractors will be working by themselves or with others. If the School makes this determination, the School shall take appropriate steps to protect the safety of any pupils

that may come in contact with these employees. If a School requires an entity to comply with the fingerprinting requirements, the entity is required to comply with this section.

Security Protocols

The School has developed guidelines to help maintain a secure workplace. Be aware of unknown persons loitering in parking areas, walkways, entrances and exits and service areas. Employees shall report any suspicious persons or activities to security personnel or their supervisor. Secure your desk or office at the end of the day. When called away from your work area for an extended length of time, do not leave valuable or personal articles around your workstation that may be accessible. The security of facilities as well as the welfare of our employees depends upon the alertness and sensitivity of every individual to potential security risks. You should immediately notify your supervisor when keys are missing or if security access codes or passes have been breached.

Occupational Safety

The School is committed to the safety of its employees, vendors, contractors and the public and to providing a clear safety goal for management.

The prevention of accidents is the responsibility of every School supervisor. It is also the duty of all employees to accept and promote the established safety regulations and procedures. Every effort will be made to provide adequate safety training. If an employee is ever in doubt how to perform a job or task safely, assistance should be requested. Unsafe conditions must be reported immediately.

It is the policy of the School that accident prevention shall be considered of primary importance in all phases of operation and administration. The School's management is required to provide safe and healthy working conditions for all employees and to establish and require the use of safe practices at all times.

Failure to comply with or enforce School safety and health rules, practices and procedures could result in disciplinary action up to and including possible termination.

Accident/Incident Reporting

It is the duty of every employee to immediately or as soon as is practical report any accident or injury occurring during work or on School premises so that arrangements can be made for medical or first aid treatment, as well as for investigation and follow-up purposes.

Reporting Fires and Emergencies

It is the duty of every employee to know how to report fires and other emergencies quickly and accurately. Employees should report any such emergency by calling management. In addition, all employees should know the local emergency numbers such as 911.

EMPLOYEE WAGES AND BENEFITS

Payroll Withholdings

As required by law, the School shall withhold Federal Income Tax, State Income Tax, Social Security (FICA) and State Disability Insurance from each employee's pay as follows:

1. Federal Income Tax Withholding: The amount varies with the number of exemptions the employee claims and the gross pay amount.
2. State Income Tax Withholding: The same factors which apply to federal withholdings apply to state withholdings.
3. Social Security (FICA): The Federal Insurance Contribution Act requires that a certain percentage of employee earnings be deducted and forwarded to the federal government, together with an amount contributed by the School. Social Security withholding does not apply to STRS members.
4. State Disability Insurance (SDI): This state fund is used to provide benefits to those out of work because of illness or disability.

Every deduction from your paycheck is explained on your check voucher. If you do not understand the deductions, ask the Business Manager to explain them to you.

You may change the number of withholding allowances you wish to claim for Federal Income Tax purposes at any time by filling out a new W-4 form and submitting it to the Business Manager. The office maintains a supply of these forms.

All Federal, State, and Social Security taxes will be automatically deducted from paychecks. Federal Withholding Tax deduction is determined by the employee's W-4 form. The W-4 form should be completed upon hire and it is the employee's responsibility to report any changes in filing status to the Director and to fill out a new W-4 form.

At the end of the calendar year, a "withholding statement" (W-2) will be prepared and forwarded to each employee for use in connection with preparation of income tax returns. The W-2 shows Social Security information, taxes withheld and total wages.

Expense Reimbursements

The School will reimburse employees for any reasonably necessary School materials or for travel expenses incurred while on assignments away from the normal work location. All material purchases must have the Director's approval and all travel must have advance approval by the Director for reimbursement purposes. Any such expenses must also be within the parameters of the School's policy regarding such expenditures (please refer to Board Policy 7020 – Expense Reimbursement). Expenses shall be reimbursed by the end of each month when a reimbursement request is turned in to and approved by the Director by the 20th of the month.

Continuing Education

Exempt employees are encouraged to continue growing and learning professionally year round. During the summer months when classes are not in session the School will reimburse up to \$1,000 for Open University classes successfully completed which benefit the personal growth of the employee and their usefulness to the School.

Prior to enrollment employees should verify with the Director that the suggested class is appropriate for reimbursable continuing education. To request reimbursement, submit an expense sheet with Director pre-approval along with attached proof of successful completion and proof of cost.

Overtime Pay

Whether an employee is exempt from or subject to overtime pay will be determined on a case-by-case basis and will be indicated in the employee's job description. Generally, teachers and administrators are exempt. Non-exempt employees may be required to work beyond the regularly scheduled workday or workweek as necessary. Only actual hours worked in a given workday or workweek can apply in calculating overtime for non-exempt employees. The School will attempt to distribute overtime evenly and accommodate individual schedules. All overtime work must be previously authorized by the Director. The School provides compensation for all overtime hours worked by non-exempt employees in accordance with state and federal law as follows:

For employees subject to overtime, all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in one workday or forty (40) hours in one workweek shall be treated as overtime. Compensation for hours in excess of forty (40) for the workweek or in excess of eight (8) and not more than twelve (12) for the workday, and for the first eight (8) hours on the seventh consecutive day in one workweek, shall be paid at a rate of one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. Compensation for hours in excess of twelve (12) in one workday and an excess of eight (8) on the seventh consecutive workday of the workweek shall be paid at double the regular rate of pay.

Exempt employees may have to work hours beyond their normal schedules as work demands require. No overtime compensation will be paid to these exempt employees.

Paydays

Paydays are scheduled on the last weekday of each month. If you observe any error in your check, please report it immediately to the Director.

Wage Attachments and Garnishments

Under normal circumstances, the School will not assist creditors in the collection of personal debts from its employees. However, creditors may resort to certain legal procedures such as garnishments, levies or judgments that require the School, by law, to withhold part of your earnings in their favor.

You are strongly encouraged to avoid such wage attachments and garnishments. If the School is presented a second garnishment request concerning you, the Director will discuss the situation with you.

Medical Benefits

The School currently offers group medical insurance. Eligible employees are defined by the group plan as those assigned a regular work schedule of 30 hours per week or more. The Board will investigate the addition of dental, vision, and life insurance as the budget allows.

Retirement Benefits

California State Teachers Retirement System

The School contributes to CalSTRS, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, public employee retirement system defined benefit pension plan administered by CalSTRS. The plan provides retirement, disability, and survivor benefits to beneficiaries. Benefit provisions are established by state statute.

Active plan members are required to contribute 8.0% of their salary. The required employer contribution rate is currently 8.25%. This benefit is instead of Social Security. The contribution requirements of the plan members are established by state statute.

California Public Employees Retirement System

The School contributes to the School Employer Pool under CalPERS, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, public retirement system defined benefit pension plan administered by CalPERS. The plan provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Benefit provisions are established by state statute.

Active plan members are required to contribute 7.0% of their salary, and the School is required to contribute an actuarially determined rate. The actuarial methods and assumptions used for determining the rate are those adopted by the CalPERS Board of Administration. The current employer contribution rate is 10.923%. This benefit is in addition to Social Security.

PERSONNEL EVALUATION AND RECORD KEEPING

Employee Reviews and Evaluations

Each employee will receive periodic performance reviews conducted by his or her supervisor. Performance evaluations will be conducted at least annually. The frequency of performance evaluations may vary depending upon length of service, job position, past performance, changes in job duties, or recurring performance problems.

Your performance evaluation may review factors such as the quality and quantity of the work you perform, your knowledge of the job, your initiative, your work attitude, and your attitude toward others. Performance evaluations are intended to make you aware of your progress, areas for improvement, and objectives or goals for future work performance. Favorable performance evaluations do not guarantee increases in salary or promotions. Salary increases and promotions are solely within the discretion of the School and depend upon many factors in addition to performance. After the review, you will be required to sign the evaluation report simply to acknowledge that it has been presented to you, that you have discussed it with your supervisor, and that you are aware of its contents.

Your salary and your potential for advancement may be based largely upon your job performance. On a periodic basis, your supervisor will review your job performance with you in order to establish goals for future performance and to discuss your current performance. The School's evaluation system, or failure to evaluate, in no way alters the at-will employment relationship.

Personnel Files and Record Keeping Protocols

At the time of your employment, a personnel file is established for you. Please keep the Office Manager advised of changes that should be reflected in your personnel file. Such changes include: change in address, telephone number, marital status, number of dependents and person(s) to notify in case of emergency. Prompt notification of these changes is essential and will enable the School to contact you should the change affect your other records.

You have the right to inspect certain documents in your personnel file, as provided by law, in the presence of a School representative, at a mutually convenient time. No copies of documents in your file may be made with the exception of documents you have previously signed. You may add your comments to any disputed item in the file. The School will restrict disclosure of your personnel file to authorized individuals within the School. A request for information contained in the personnel file must be directed to your supervisor. Only the Director is authorized to release information about current or former employees. Disclosure of information to outside sources will be limited. However, the School will cooperate with requests from authorized law enforcement or local, state or federal agencies conducting official investigations or as otherwise legally required.

HOLIDAYS, VACATIONS AND LEAVES

Holidays

The following holidays may change, but will generally be included in our school calendar:

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
- President's Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Veteran's Day
- Thanksgiving
- Friday after Thanksgiving
- Day before Christmas
- Christmas Day

Religious Holidays - Recognized religious holidays may be taken off by an employee whose religion requires observance of the particular day. Employees must request the day off in advance by written notice to the Director. The employee will be paid if the religious holiday is taken as an earned personal leave day. The employee will not be paid if the religious holiday is taken as an unpaid leave of absence day.

Non-exempt employees are paid for days worked. The School does not pay holiday or vacation pay for non exempt employees.

Personal Leave

Personal leave days may be used for sickness or other personal days off required by the employee. Full-time employees receive paid personal leave as set forth in their job descriptions. Personal leave will accrue from year to year except as described below for teachers only.

Teachers receiving personal leave time may choose to accrue time not used at year-end as sick leave or may be paid out for personal leave not used during the current fiscal year at the rate of one days substitute pay per seven (7) hours of personal leave time. Leave accrued from prior years shall not be paid out but, at the end of your service to FRCS, may transfer to another district or be used to increase retirement service credit in the STRS and PERS systems.

Written notice must be given to the Business Manager prior to June 20th of each year should a teacher wish to receive a pay out of their personal time. A check for the unused personal leave from the current fiscal year will be issued along with the June paycheck. If notice is not given to the Business Manager personal leave will be accrued and no longer available for pay out.

If you are absent longer than 3 days due to illness, satisfactory medical evidence of your illness and/or medical certification of your fitness to return to work, shall be required before the School honors any sick pay

requests. Once an employee has exhausted personal leave, the employee may continue on an unpaid medical leave, if eligible under applicable medical leave law, depending upon the facts and circumstances of the employee's basis for leave beyond accrued sick leave.

Unpaid Leave of Absence

The School recognizes that special situations may arise where an employee must leave his or her job temporarily. At its discretion, the School may grant employees leaves of absence. Any unpaid leave of absence must be approved in advance by the School.

The granting of a leave of absence always presumes the employee will return to active work by a designated date or within a specific period.

If you are currently covered, medical, and dental coverage will remain in force during a medical or worker's compensation leave of absence, provided you pay the appropriate premiums. Whether you are required to pay your own premiums will depend upon the length of your leave of absence. During a family/medical leave, your medical benefits will remain in force provided you pay the appropriate premiums. Benefits are terminated the day any other type of leave begins. If an employee fails to return from a leave and is subsequently terminated, the employee is entitled to all earned but unused vacation pay, provided that the vacation pay was earned prior to the commencement of leave. No paid leave time is accrued during any type of unpaid leave of absence.

Unpaid Family Care and Medical Leave

This policy explains how the School complies with the federal Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA") and the California Family Rights Act ("CFRA"), both of which require the School to permit each eligible employee to take up to 12 workweeks of FMLA leave in any 12-month period for the birth/adoption of a child, the employee's own serious illness or to care for certain family members who have a serious illness. For purposes of this policy, all leave taken under FMLA or CFRA will be referred to as "FMLA leave."

- Employee Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for FMLA leave, the employee must have been employed by the School for the last 12 months and must have worked at least 1,250 hours during the 12-month period immediately preceding commencement of the FMLA leave.

- Events That May Entitle an Employee to FMLA Leave

The 12-week FMLA allowance includes any time taken (with or without pay) for any of the following reasons:

1. To care for the employee's newborn child or a child placed with the employee for adoption or foster care. Leaves for this purpose must conclude 12 months after the birth, adoption, or placement. If both parents are employed by the School, they will be entitled to a combined total of 12 weeks of leave for this purpose.

2. Because of the employee's own serious health condition (including a serious health condition resulting from an on-the-job illness or injury) that makes the employee unable to perform any one or more of the essential functions of his or her job (other than a disability caused by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, which is covered by the School's separate pregnancy disability policy).
3. To care for a spouse, domestic partner, child, or parent with a serious health condition or military service-related injury.
4. For any "qualifying exigency" because the employee is the spouse, son, daughter, or parent of an individual on active military duty, or an individual notified of an impending call or order to active duty, in the Armed Forces.
5. A "serious health condition" is an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves: (1) inpatient care (i.e., an overnight stay) in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility, including any period of incapacity or any subsequent treatment in connection with such inpatient care; or (2) continuing treatment by a health care provider.

- Amount of FMLA Leave Which May Be Taken

1. FMLA leave can be taken in one or more periods, but may not exceed twelve (12) workweeks total for any purpose in any 12-month period, as described below, for any one, or combination of the above-described situations. "Twelve workweeks" means the equivalent of twelve of the employee's normally scheduled workweeks. For a full-time employee who works five eight-hour days per week, "twelve workweeks" means sixty (60) working and/or paid eight (8) hour days.
2. An employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kind of a covered Armed Forces member shall be entitled to a total of twenty-six (26) workweeks of FMLA leave during a twelve (12) month period to care for the Armed Forced member.
3. The "12 month period" in which twelve (12) weeks of FMLA leave may be taken is the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the commencement of any FMLA Leave.
4. If a holiday falls within a week taken as FMLA leave, the week is nevertheless counted as a week of FMLA leave. If, however, the School's business activity has temporarily ceased for some reason and employees are generally not expected to report for work for one or more weeks, such as the Winter Break, Spring Break, or Summer Vacation, the days the School's activities have ceased do not count against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement.

- Pay during FMLA Leave

1. An employee on FMLA leave because of his or her own serious health condition must use all personal leave time at the beginning of any otherwise unpaid FMLA leave period.
2. An employee on FMLA leave for child care or to care for a spouse, domestic partner, parent, or child with a serious health condition may use any or all personal leave at the beginning of any otherwise unpaid FMLA leave.
3. All other FMLA leaves are unpaid leaves.

4. The receipt of personal leave pay or State Disability Insurance benefits will not extend the length of the FMLA leave.

- Health Benefits

The provisions of the School's various employee benefit plans govern continuing eligibility during FMLA leave, and these provisions may change from time to time. The health benefits of employees on FMLA leave will be paid by the School during the leave at the same level and under the same conditions as coverage would have been provided if the employee had been continuously employed during the leave period. When a request for FMLA leave is granted, the School will give the employee written confirmation of the arrangements made for the payment of insurance premiums during the leave period.

The School may recover the health benefit costs paid on behalf of an employee during his/her FMLA leave if:

1. The employee fails to return from leave after the period of leave to which the employee is entitled has expired. An employee is deemed to have "failed to return from leave" if he/she works less than thirty (30) days after returning from FMLA leave; and
2. The employee's failure to return from leave is for a reason other than the continuation, recurrence, or onset of a serious health condition that entitles the employee to FMLA leave, or other circumstances beyond the control of the employee.

- Seniority

An employee on FMLA leave remains an employee and the leave will not constitute a break in service. An employee who returns from FMLA leave will return with the same seniority he/she had when the leave commenced.

- Medical Certifications

1. An employee requesting FMLA leave because of his/her own or a relative's serious health condition must provide medical certification from the appropriate health care provider on a form supplied by the School. Failure to provide the required certification in a timely manner (within fifteen (15) days of the leave request) may result in denial of the leave request until such certification is provided.
2. If the School has reason to doubt the medical certification supporting a leave because of the employee's own serious health condition, the School may request a second opinion by a health care provider of its choice (paid for by the School). If the second opinion differs from the first one, the School will pay for a third, mutually agreeable, health care provider to provide a final and binding opinion.
3. Recertifications are required if leave is sought after expiration of the time estimated by the health care provider. Failure to submit required recertifications can result in termination of the leave.

- Procedures for Requesting and Scheduling FMLA Leave

1. An employee should request FMLA leave by completing a Request for Leave form and submitting it to the Director. An employee asking for a Request for Leave form will be given a copy of the School's then-current FMLA leave policy.

2. Employees should provide not less than thirty (30) days notice or such shorter notice as is practicable, for foreseeable childbirth, placement, or any planned medical treatment for the employee or his/her spouse, domestic partner, child, or parent. Failure to provide such notice is grounds for denial of a leave request, except if the need for FMLA leave was an emergency or was otherwise unforeseeable.
3. Where possible, employees must make a reasonable effort to schedule foreseeable planned medical treatments so as not to unduly disrupt the School's operations.
4. If FMLA leave is taken because of the employee's own serious health condition or the serious health condition of the employee's spouse, domestic partner, parent or child, the leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule when medically necessary, as determined by the health care provider of the person with the serious health condition.
5. If FMLA leave is taken because of the birth of the employee's child or the placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care, the minimum duration of leave is two (2) weeks, except that the School will grant a request for FMLA leave for this purpose of at least one day but less than two (2) weeks' duration on any two (2) occasions.
6. If an employee needs intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment for the employee or a family member, the employee may be transferred temporarily to an available alternative position for which he or she is qualified that has equivalent pay and benefits and that better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the employee's regular position.
7. In most cases, the School will respond to an FMLA leave request within two (2) days of acquiring knowledge that the leave is being taken for an FMLA-qualifying reason and, in any event, within ten (10) days of receiving the request. If an FMLA leave request is granted, the School will notify the employee in writing that the leave will be counted against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement. This notice will explain the employee's obligations and the consequences of failing to satisfy them.

- Return to Work

1. Upon timely return at the expiration of the FMLA leave period, an employee (other than a "key" employee whose reinstatement would cause serious and grievous injury to the School's operations) is entitled to the same or a comparable position with the same or similar duties and virtually identical pay, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment unless the same position and any comparable position(s) have ceased to exist because of legitimate business reasons unrelated to the employee's FMLA leave.
2. When a request for FMLA leave is granted to an employee (other than a "key" employee), the School will give the employee a written guarantee of reinstatement at the termination of the leave (with the limitations explained above).
3. Before an employee will be permitted to return from FMLA leave taken because of his or her own serious health condition, the employee must obtain a certification from his or her health care provider that he or she is able to resume work.

4. If an employee can return to work with limitations, the School will evaluate those limitations and, if possible, will accommodate the employee as required by law. If accommodation cannot be made, the employee will be medically separated from the School.

- **Limitations on Reinstatement**

1. The School may refuse to reinstate a “key” employee if the refusal is necessary to prevent substantial and grievous injury to the School’s operations. A “key” employee is an exempt salaried employee who is among the highest paid 10% of the School’s employees within seventy-five (75) miles of the employee’s worksite.
2. A “key” employee will be advised in writing at the time of a request for, or if earlier, at the time of commencement of, FMLA leave, that he/she qualifies as a “key” employee and the potential consequences with respect to reinstatement and maintenance of health benefits if the School determines that substantial and grievous injury to the School’s operations will result if the employee is reinstated from FMLA leave. At the time it determines that refusal is necessary, the School will notify the “key” employee in writing (by certified mail) of its intent to refuse reinstatement and will explain the basis for finding that the employee’s reinstatement would cause the School to suffer substantial and grievous injury. If the School realizes after the leave has commenced that refusal of reinstatement is necessary, it will give the employee at least ten (10) days to return to work following the notice of its intent to refuse reinstatement.

- **Employment during Leave**

An employee on FMLA leave may not accept employment with any other employer without the School’s written permission. An employee who accepts such employment will be deemed to have resigned from employment at the School.

Unpaid Pregnancy Disability Leave

This policy explains how the School complies with the California Pregnancy Disability Act, which requires the School to give each female employee an unpaid leave of absence of up to four (4) months, as needed, for the period(s) of time a woman is actually disabled by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

- **Employee Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible for pregnancy disability leave, the employee must be disabled by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition and must provide appropriate medical certification concerning the disability.

- **Events That May Entitle an Employee to Pregnancy Disability Leave**

The four-month pregnancy disability leave allowance includes any time taken (with or without pay) for any of the following reasons:

1. The employee is unable to work at all or is unable to perform any one or more of the essential functions of her job without undue risk to herself, the successful completion of her pregnancy, or to other persons because of pregnancy or childbirth, or because of any medically recognized

physical or mental condition that is related to pregnancy or childbirth (including severe morning sickness); or

2. The employee needs to take time off for prenatal care.

- Duration of Pregnancy Disability Leave

Pregnancy disability leave may be taken in one or more periods, but not to exceed four months total. "Four months" means the number of days the employee would normally work within four months. For a full-time employee who works five eight hour days per week, four months means 88 working and/or paid eight hour days of leave entitlement based on an average of 22 working days per month for four months.

Pregnancy disability leave does not count against the leave which may be available as Family Care and Medical Leave.

- Pay during Pregnancy Disability Leave

1. An employee on pregnancy disability leave must use all accrued paid sick leave and may use any or all accrued vacation time at the beginning of any otherwise unpaid leave period.

2. The receipt of vacation pay, sick leave pay, or state disability insurance benefits will not extend the length of pregnancy disability leave.

3. Vacation pay and sick pay accrues during any period of unpaid pregnancy disability leave only until the end of the month in which the unpaid leave began.

- Health Benefits

The provisions of the School's various employee benefit plans govern continued eligibility during pregnancy disability leave and these provisions may change from time to time. When a request for pregnancy disability leave is granted, the School will give the employee written confirmation of the arrangements made for the payment of insurance premiums during the leave period.

- Seniority

An employee on pregnancy disability leave remains an employee of the School and a leave will not constitute a break in service. When an employee returns from pregnancy disability leave, she will return with the same seniority she had when the leave commenced.

- Medical Certifications

1. An employee requesting a pregnancy disability leave must provide medical certification from her healthcare provider on a form supplied by the School. Failure to provide the required certification in a timely manner (within fifteen (15) days of the leave request) may result in a denial of the leave request until such certification is provided.

2. Recertifications are required if leave is sought after expiration of the time estimated by the healthcare provider. Failure to submit required recertifications can result in termination of the leave.

- Requesting and Scheduling Pregnancy Disability Leave
 1. An employee should request pregnancy disability leave by completing a Request for Leave form and submitting it to the Director. An employee asking for a Request for Leave form will be referred to the School's then current pregnancy disability leave policy.
 2. Employee should provide not less than thirty (30) days or as short of notice as is practicable, if the need for the leave is foreseeable. Failure to provide such notice is grounds for denial of the leave request, except if the need for pregnancy disability leave was an emergency and was otherwise unforeseeable.
 3. Where possible, employees must make a reasonable effort to schedule foreseeable planned medical treatments so as not to unduly disrupt the School's operations.
 4. Pregnancy disability leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule when medically advisable, as determined by the employee's healthcare provider.
 5. If an employee needs intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the employee may be transferred temporarily to an available alternative position for which he or she is qualified that has equivalent pay and benefits that better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the employee's regular position.
 6. In most cases, the School will respond to a pregnancy disability leave request within two (2) days of acquiring knowledge that the leave qualifies as pregnancy disability and, in any event, within ten (10) days of receiving the request. If a pregnancy disability leave request is granted, the School will notify the employee in writing and leave will be counted against the employee's pregnancy disability leave entitlement. This notice will explain the employee's obligations and the consequences of failing to satisfy them.

- Return to Work
 1. Upon timely return at the expiration of the pregnancy disability leave period, an employee is entitled to the same position unless the employee would not otherwise have been employed in the same position (at the time reinstatement is requested). If the employee is not reinstated to the same position, she must be reinstated to a comparable position unless there is no comparable position available, but filling that position with the returning employee would substantially undermine the School's ability to operate the business safely and efficiently. A "comparable" position is a position that involves the same or similar duties and responsibilities and is virtually identical to the employee's original position in terms of pay, benefits, and working conditions.
 2. When a request for pregnancy disability leave is granted to an employee, the School will give the employee a written guarantee of reinstatement at the end of the leave (with the limitations explained above).
 3. Before an employee will be permitted to return from a pregnancy disability leave of three days or more, the employee must obtain a certification from her healthcare provider that she is able to resume work.
 4. If the employee can return to work with limitations, the School will evaluate those limitations and, if possible, will accommodate the employee as required by law. If accommodation cannot be made, the employee will be medically separated from the School.

- Employment during Leave

An employee on pregnancy disability leave may not accept employment with any other employer without the School's written permission. An employee who accepts such employment will be deemed to have resigned from employment.

Workers' Compensation

All School personnel are covered by worker's compensation insurance. Employees are required to report any accidents and/or injuries occurring on the job to the Office Manager immediately so that the required reports, located in the School's IIPP binder, can be completed.

The School, in accordance with State law, provides insurance coverage for employees in case of work-related injuries. The workers' compensation benefits provided to injured employees may include:

- Medical care;
- Cash benefits, tax-free to replace lost wages; and
- Vocational rehabilitation to help qualified injured employees return to suitable employment.

To ensure you receive any worker's compensation benefits to which you may be entitled, you will need to:

- Immediately report any work-related injury to your supervisor;
- Seek medical treatment and follow-up care if required;
- Complete a written Employee's Claim Form (DWC Form 1) and return it to your supervisor; and
- Provide the School with a certification from your health care provider regarding the need for worker's compensation disability leave as well as your eventual ability to return to work from the leave.

It is the School's policy that when there is a job-related injury, the first priority is to insure that the injured employee receives appropriate medical attention. The School, with the help of its insurance carrier, has selected medical centers to meet this need. Each medical center was selected for its ability to meet anticipated needs with high quality medical service and a location that is convenient to the School's operation.

- If an employee is injured on the job, he/she is to go or be taken to the approved medical center for treatment. If injuries are such that they require the use of emergency medical systems (EMS) such as an ambulance, the choice by the EMS personnel for the most appropriate medical center or hospital for treatment will be recognized as an approved center.
- All accidents and injuries must be reported to the employee's supervisor and to the individual responsible for reporting to the School's insurance carrier. Failure by an employee to report a

work-related injury by the end of his/her shift could result in loss of insurance coverage for the employee. An employee may choose to be treated by his/her personal physician at his/her own expense, but he/she is still required to go to the School's approved medical center for evaluation. All job-related injuries must be reported to the appropriate State Worker's Compensation Bureau and the insurance carrier.

- When there is a job-related injury that results in lost time, the employee must have a medical release from the School's approved medical facility before returning to work.
- Any time there is a job-related injury, the School's policy requires drug/alcohol testing along with any medical treatment provided to the employee.

Military and Military Spousal Leave of Absence

The School shall grant a military leave of absence to any employee who must be absent from work due to service in the uniformed services in accordance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act of 1994 ("USERRA"). All employees requesting military leave must provide advance written notice of the need for such leave, unless prevented from doing so by military necessity or if providing notice would be impossible or unreasonable.

If military leave is for thirty (30) or fewer days, the Charter School shall continue the employee's health benefits. For service of more than thirty (30) days, employee shall be permitted to continue their health benefits at their option through COBRA. Employees are entitled to use accrued vacation or paid time off as wage replacement during time served, provided such vacation/paid time off accrued prior to the leave.

The School will reinstate those employees returning from military leave to their same position or one of comparable seniority, status, and pay if they have a certificate of satisfactory completion of service and apply within ninety (90) days after release from active duty or within such extended period, if any, as required by law. Exceptions to this policy will occur wherever necessary to comply with applicable laws.

The School shall grant up to ten (10) days of unpaid leave to employees who work more than twenty (20) hours per week and who are spouses of deployed military servicemen and servicewomen. The leave may be taken when the military spouse is on leave from deployment during a time of military conflict. To be eligible for leave, an employee must provide the Charter School with (1) notice of intention to take military spousal leave within two (2) business days of receiving official notice that the employee's military spouse will be on leave from deployment, and (2) documentation certifying that the employee's military spouse will be on leave from deployment during the time that the employee requests leave.

Bereavement Leave

Employees who have worked with the School for more than 3 months will be allowed up to 3 unpaid consecutive working days off to arrange and attend the funeral of an immediate family member. For purposes of this policy, an employee's immediate family member is defined to include a current spouse, father, mother, sister, brother, children, current parent-in-law, grandparents, and grandchildren.

Organ Donor Leave

If you volunteer to donate an organ you may take up to thirty (30) days paid leave per year for this process or up to five (5) days paid leave for the donation of bone marrow.

You must give as much notice as is practicable and must provide certification of the medical necessity of the procedure. You will be required to use up to two (2) weeks of any accrued paid leave for organ donations and up to five (5) days accrued paid leave for bone marrow donation. This leave does not run concurrently with FMLA/CFRA.

You may take this leave incrementally, as medically necessary, or all at one time. All health benefits shall be maintained during this leave to the extent they exist at the time of the leave. This leave shall not be considered a break in service and the employee shall continue to accrue paid time off and other benefits as if they had continued working. The employee shall be required to pay any portion of their benefits they are currently paying.

An employee shall not have any greater rights during this leave than if he or she had been actively working during this time by will be reinstated to their same job or equivalent job prior to the leave. No employee shall be discriminated or retaliated against for taking an organ donations or bone marrow donation leave.

Jury and Witness Duty

The School will provide employees time off to serve as required by law, on a jury or grand jury if the employee provides reasonable advance notice. The School will also provide employees with time off to: 1) appear in court or other judicial proceeding as a witness to comply with a valid subpoena or other court order, or 2) obtain any relief including a temporary restraining order, to help ensure the health, safety, or welfare of a domestic violence victim or his or her child.

Voting Time Off

Employees whose work schedule would prevent them from voting before or after work on Election Day may request time off to vote. If possible, employees should make their request at least two days in advance of the election. Up to two hours of paid time off will be provided, at the beginning or the end of the employee's regular shift, whichever will allow the most free time for voting and the least time off work.

Returning From Leave of Absence

Employees cannot return from a medical leave of absence without first providing a sufficient doctor's return to work authorization.

When business considerations require, the job of an employee on leave may be filled by a temporary or

regular replacement. An employee should give the Director thirty (30) days notice before returning from leave. Whenever the School is notified of an employee's intent to return from a leave, the School will attempt to place the employee in his former position or in a comparable position with regard to salary and other terms and conditions for which the employee is qualified. However, re-employment cannot always be guaranteed. If you need further information regarding Leaves of Absence, be sure to consult the Director.

DISCIPLINE AND TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

Rules of Conduct

The following conduct is prohibited and will not be tolerated by the School. This list of prohibited conduct is illustrative only and applies to all employees of the School; other types of conduct that threaten security, personal safety, employee welfare and the School's operations also may be prohibited. Further, the specification of this list of conduct in no way alters the at-will employment relationship as to at-will employees of the School. If an employee is working under a contract with the School which grants procedural rights prior to termination, the procedural terms in the contract shall apply.

1. Insubordination - refusing to perform a task or duty assigned or act in accordance with instructions provided by an employee's manager or proper authority.
2. Inefficiency - including deliberate restriction of output, carelessness or unnecessary wastes of time or material, neglect of job, duties or responsibilities.
3. Unauthorized soliciting, collecting of contributions, distribution of literature, written or printed matter is strictly prohibited on School property by non-employees and by employees. This rule does not cover periods of time when employees are off their jobs, such as lunch periods and break times. However, employees properly off their jobs are prohibited from such activity with other employees who are performing their work tasks.
4. Damaging, defacing, unauthorized removal, destruction or theft of another employee's property or of School property.
5. Fighting or instigating a fight on School premises.
6. Violations of the drug and alcohol policy.
7. Using or possessing firearms, weapons or explosives of any kind on School premises.
8. Gambling on School premises.
9. Tampering with or falsifying any report or record including, but not limited to, personnel, absentee, sickness or production reports or records, specifically including applications for employment and time cards.
10. Recording the clock card, when applicable, of another employee or permitting or arranging for another employee to record your clock card.
11. Use of profane, abusive or threatening language in conversations with other employees and/or intimidating or interfering with other employees.
12. Conducting personal business during business hours and/or unauthorized use of telephone lines for personal calls.
13. Excessive absenteeism or tardiness excused or unexcused.
14. Posting any notices on School premises without prior written approval of management, unless posting is on a School bulletin board designated for employee postings.

15. Immoral or indecent conduct.
16. Conviction of a criminal act.
17. Engaging in sabotage or espionage (industrial or otherwise)
18. Violations of the sexual harassment policy.
19. Failure to report a job-related accident to the employee's manager or failure to take or follow prescribed tests, procedures or treatment.
20. Sleeping during work hours.
21. Release of confidential information without authorization.
22. Any other conduct detrimental to other employees or the School's interests or its efficient operations.
23. Refusal to speak to supervisors or other employees.
24. Dishonesty.

For employees who possess an employment contract which provides for other than at-will employment, the procedures and process for termination during the contract shall be specified in the contract.

Off-Duty Conduct

While the School does not seek to interfere with the off-duty and personal conduct of its employees, certain types of off-duty conduct may interfere with the School's legitimate business interests. For this reason, employees are expected to conduct their personal affairs in a manner that does not adversely affect the School or its own integrity, reputation, or credibility. Illegal or immoral off-duty conduct by an employee that adversely affects the School's legitimate business interests or the employee's ability to perform his or her work will not be tolerated.

While employed by the School, employees are expected to devote their energies to their jobs with the School. For this reason, second jobs are strongly discouraged for our full-time employees. The following types of additional employment elsewhere are strictly prohibited:

- Additional employment that conflicts with an employee's work schedule, duties, and responsibilities at our School.
- Additional employment that creates a conflict of interest or is incompatible with the employee's position with our School.
- Additional employment that impairs or has a detrimental effect on the employee's work performance with our School.
- Additional employment that requires the employee to conduct work or related activities on the School's property during the employer's working hours or using our School's facilities and/or equipment; and
- Additional employment that directly or indirectly competes with the business or the interests of our School.

Employees who wish to engage in additional employment that may create a real or apparent conflict of

interest must submit a written request to the School explaining the details of the additional employment. If the additional employment is authorized, the School assumes no responsibility for it. The School shall not provide workers' compensation coverage or any other benefit for injuries occurring from or arising out of additional employment. Authorization to engage in additional employment can be revoked at any time.

Non-Disclosure of Personnel Information

Reasons for involuntary terminations are privileged information and are treated confidentially. Anyone disclosing such information inappropriately is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment. Inquiries regarding an employee who has been terminated should be referred to the Director.

Resignation

Employees are free to resign without repercussion or retaliation. The School prefers at least two weeks advance notice from a resigning employee. However, the School may ask an employee to leave immediately. Any unpaid compensation, excluding personal leave benefits, shall be paid to the employee as soon as possible as required under the law.

Termination of Employment

Should it become necessary for you to terminate your at-will employment with the School, please notify the Director regarding your intention as far in advance as possible. At least two (2) weeks notice is expected whenever possible.

When you terminate your at-will employment, you will be entitled to all earned but unused vacation pay. If you are participating in the medical and/or dental plan, you will be provided information on your rights under COBRA.

Salary In the Event of Termination

In the event of termination of employment prior to the end of an employment contract, the employee shall be entitled only to the prorated salary earned through the last date of actual service.

INTERNAL COMPLAINT REVIEW

Complaints regarding allegations of harassment or discrimination should be made pursuant to the specific policies addressing those issues. The purpose of this "Internal Complaint Review Policy" is to afford all employees of the School the opportunity to seek internal resolution of their work-related concerns. All employees have free access to their immediate supervisors or to other School supervisors of their choice to informally

express their work-related concerns. For the complete School policy please refer to Board Policy 3040 – Uniform Complaint Policy and Procedures.

Filing of Complaint

If complaints cannot be resolved informally, employees may file a written complaint with the Office Manager as soon as possible after the events that give rise to the employee's work-related concerns. The written complaint should set forth in detail the basis for the employee's complaint.

Investigation

An objective and timely investigation of all complaints, which cannot be resolved informally, will be undertaken. This includes meeting separately with the employee and with others who either are named in the complaint or who may have knowledge of the facts set forth in the complaint.

The School will attempt to treat all internal complaints and their investigation as confidential, recognizing, however, that in the course of investigating and resolving internal complaints some dissemination of information to others may be necessary or appropriate.

Upon completion of the investigation, the Office Manager shall report the finding(s) to the employee in writing.

Non-Retaliation

If an employee has filed a complaint in good faith, the employee will not be disciplined or otherwise penalized for logging the complaint. If an employee believes that he or she is being retaliated against for logging a complaint, the employee should immediately notify the Office Manager.

AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

This Employee Handbook contains the employment policies and practices of the School in effect at the time of publication.

The School reserves the right to amend, delete or otherwise modify this Handbook at any time provided that such modifications are in writing and duly approved by the employer.

Any written changes to the Handbook will be distributed to all employees. No oral statements can in any way alter the provisions of this Handbook.