

Chicago International Charter School

Chicago, Illinois

CICS Bucktown Campus
CICS Prairie Campus
CICS West Belden Campus

Parent-Student Handbook

School Year 2011-2012

Managed by:

Distinctive Schools™ *Commit ♦ Create ♦ Collaborate*

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Before admittance to the Chicago International Charter Schools (CICS), managed by Distinctive Schools (DS), **all parents/guardians** are required to read the following statement, read the parent/student handbook outlining school procedures and policies, and sign all contracts including the Parent/Guardian Agreement form located at the back of the handbook.

There are a number of key points to be made when discussing charter schools, and particularly those schools managed by Distinctive Schools:

1. Charter schools are funded by public taxpayer money. Thus, they are “public” schools, but fall into a special category which gives more freedom from certain rules, regulations and policies that other “traditional” public schools must follow. This freedom is granted so that some new and innovative directions may be taken and diversity in delivering education to young people encouraged. There is a price to be paid for such flexibility however, and that price is strict accountability. Unless charter schools are successful in providing a quality education to students, the Chicago Board of Education is authorized to close the school if that occurred. Such an action does not happen in the “traditional” public schools. It is because of these stringent requirements that our charter schools have policies that are strictly enforced.
2. Charter schools are schools of “**choice.**” *This is a crucial point.* There are no laws that require that students come to our schools. Parents/guardians and students **choose** our schools as opposed to some other public or private schools. Choosing our schools also means that parents/guardians and students **must understand and accept** the overall philosophy that Distinctive Schools outlines in this handbook as well as the academic program, rules, regulations and policies of the schools.
3. Schools managed by the Distinctive Schools are organized on the premise that parents/guardians have the **major responsibility** to instill discipline, respect and academic encouragement in their children. It is the joint responsibility of the parents/guardians as well as the school to encourage good character and good work habits in their children. **Likewise, it is the joint responsibility of the school and parents/guardians to support and encourage academic achievement. Responsible parents/guardians are, after all, the first educators and the single most significant element in the mix of factors that result in high academic performance. Thus, parents/guardians who enroll their child(ren) in our schools must be prepared to accept this partnership role.** Individuals unable to accept this joint partnership role and adhere to the rules, regulations and policies of DS and CICS are encouraged to seek other school options and **should not** enroll their child(ren) in our schools.

We require that parents/guardians sign the form at the end of this handbook which signifies that the policies, rules, regulations and information has been read and that both students and their parents/guardians agree to abide by them. If the forms at the end of the handbook are not signed and returned, it will be assumed that all policies and statements in this handbook are agreed upon by you. **STUDENTS WHO DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE POLICIES OF THE SCHOOLS WILL BE GIVEN CONSEQUENCES, AND IF VIOLATIONS OF OUR POLICIES, RULES AND REGULATIONS BECOME CHRONIC, STUDENTS CAN BE EXPELLED.**

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School Information

Chicago International Charter

School -Bucktown

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Chicago, IL 60647
(773) 645-3321

www.cics-bucktown.org

Chicago International Charter School -Prairie

Director: Andrew Parker
11530 S. Prairie Ave.
Chicago, IL 60628
(773) 928-0480

www.cics-prairie.org

Chicago International Charter School –

West Belden

Director: Lisa Blake
2245 N. McVicker Ave.
Chicago, IL 60639
(773) 637-9430

www.westbelden.com

Chicago International Charter School

Bucktown, Prairie, West Belden

2011-2012 School Calendar

**Every Wednesday students are dismissed at 1:50 pm unless otherwise noted. **

8				21
	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER		
	M T W T F	M T W T F		
	1 2 3 4 5	1 2		
	8 9 10 11 12	5 6 7 8 9	5 Labor Day/No School	
22	15 16 17 18 19	12 13 14 15 16	28	Professional Development Students dismissed 11:30
	22 23 24 25 26	19 20 21 22 23		
	29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30		

20			18	
	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER		
	M T W T F	M T W T F		
	3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4	2 Parent Teacher conference Students dismissed 11:30	
10	10 11 12 13 14	7 8 9 10 11	4	Professional Development Students dismissed 11:30
	17 18 19 20 21	14 15 16 17 18	11	Veteran's Day/No School
26	24 25 26 27 28	21 22 23 24 25	24-25	Thanksgiving/No School
	31	28 29 30		

17			16	
	DECEMBER	JANUARY		
	M T W T F	M T W T F		
	5 6 7 8 9	2 3 4 5 6	2-6 Winter Break/No School	
7	12 13 14 15 16	9 10 11 12 13	16	M. L. King's Birthday/No School
	19 20 21 22 23	16 17 18 19 20	20	2nd quarter ends
26-30	26 27 28 29 30	23 24 25 26 27	27	Report cards sent home
		30 31		

20			21	
	FEBRUARY	MARCH		
	M T W T F	M T W T F		
	6 7 8 9 10	1 2		
8	13 14 15 16 17	5 6 7 8 9		
	20 21 22 23 24	12 13 14 15 16		
20	27 28 29	19 20 21 22 23		
		26 27 28 29 30	28	Third Quarter Ends

16			22	
	APRIL	MAY		
	M T W T F	M T W T F		
	2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4		
2-6	9 10 11 12 13	7 8 9 10 11	9	Professional Development Students dismissed 11:30
11	16 17 18 19 20	14 15 16 17 18	28	Memorial Day/No School
13	23 24 25 26 27	21 22 23 24 25		
	30	23 29 30 31		

11			
	JUNE	JULY	
	M T W T F	M T W T F	
	4 5 6 7 8	2 3 4 5 6	
8	11 12 13 14 15	9 10 11 12 13	
15	18 19 20 21 22	16 17 18 19 20	
	25 26 27 28 29	23 24 25 26 27	
		30 31	

Total # of School Days:

192

◇ 11:30 Dismissal Day

■ No School

■ End of quarter

School Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:00 am – 3:30 pm
Wednesday 8:00 am – 1:50 pm

Enrollment

Entrance Requirements

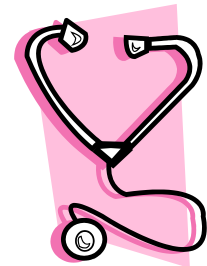
To enter kindergarten, a child must be 5 years of age on or before September 1st of the current school year.

Health Service Information

Health Services

The classroom teacher refers students to the Health Office whenever symptoms indicate the possibility of illness, injury and/or pain. Minor injuries are treated at school.

Each child is required to have an Emergency Contact form on file. This form requires the names and phone numbers of 3 responsible persons being 18 years or older that can be contacted in case the parent/guardian cannot be reached.



Health Concerns

Parents/guardians **must keep their child home** if the child has any of the following illnesses:

- Head lice
- Fever of 100 degrees or higher
- Vomiting
- Acute cold
- Sore throat
- Earache
- Swollen glands
- Severe cough
- Inflamed or red eyes
- Listlessness, weakness, drowsiness and/or flushed skin
- Headache
- A rash or skin eruptions of unknown origin

Children who become ill during the school day will be required to go home – as soon as possible. It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to either pick up their child or make

arrangements for a person listed on their student's emergency list to pick up their child. This **MUST** be done in a timely manner.

If a child is sick at home or is sent home from school for an illness, they are NOT to return to school until they are free of fever and/or symptoms for a FULL 24 hour period.

Parents/guardians are asked to contact the school regarding any problems concerning their child's health, medications or communicable diseases.

If activities are to be limited after a serious illness or accident, a statement from a physician is required. The statement must indicate the length of time the limitation must be in place.

Children cannot be left in the classroom during recess without a teacher present. **All** children who attend school are expected to participate in recess. If a child is too sick to go outdoors for fresh air and exercise, the child should be kept at home. Exceptions will be made upon written request from a physician.

Medication

Medications will be given during school hours only if medically necessary to maintain a student's health.

Before medications can be given out at school, parents/guardians and the child's physician must complete the required forms. These forms can be obtained from the school nurse's office.

No medications will be given at school except for those which have been prescribed by a physician and which are needed to maintain the child in school. Any medication that is taken at school **must** be brought to the nurse's office in a container appropriately labeled by the pharmacy. This label must include the child's name, the prescribing physician's name, the name of the medication with directions (how to administer, dose and frequency), and the pharmacy phone number.

If the student needs to take medication at school, the parent/guardian should bring the medication to school and not send it with their child. The parent/guardian is also responsible for picking up their child's medication if it has been discontinued. If the medication is not picked up in a timely manner, the medication will be thrown away. All medications that have not been picked up at the end of the school year will be thrown away.

Students cannot carry any type of medicines, pills, or inhalers unless the nurse has a note from the physician to carry these item(s) during the school day. The prescription for the medicine(s) must be on file with the nurse's office which states that the child needs to keep the medicine with them during the school day.

Please indicate on the back side of the Emergency Contact form if your child is taking any medications on a regular basis at home.

Medical Requirements

All children entering kindergarten (or 1st grade if the child did not attend kindergarten) and students entering 6th grade **MUST** comply with the physical examination and immunization requirements of the state of Illinois. This documentation needs to be on file no later than October 15th of the current school year or the student will be excluded from school.

Any student who enrolls in school for the first time must also present a physical examination report and record of their immunizations, regardless of the grade they are entering. **These students are required to have a physical examination and a record of their immunizations on file no later than the first day of school.**

All Illinois school children in kindergarten, 2nd and 6th grades are required to have an oral health examination (a dental exam). A licensed dentist must perform the examination and he/she must sign the dental form to document the exam. **Each child must present proof of the examination by a dentist prior to May 15th of the current year. The examination must have occurred within the last eighteen months.** Please contact the school nurse at your child's school if you have any questions regarding this requirement.

All students entering kindergarten shall have an eye examination by a licensed physician or licensed optometrist by October 15th of the current school year.

A cumulative health record is kept for every student. In case of a transfer, the child's health record is sent to the new school.

Attendance

Student Absences

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to call the school before 8:00 am if their child will be absent that day, and send with their child a follow-up note when the child returns to school. If the child is absent and the parent/guardian has not called the school, a staff member of the school will make a reasonable attempt to contact the parent/guardian by phone. **An absence without reason is considered truancy.**

If it is known that a child will be absent for an extended period of time, the parent/guardian should state this information at the time of their 1st call. The parent need not call again if the child is absent during the reported amount of time. If, however, the time is extended, the parent **MUST** notify the school.

ALL students **MUST** present a written excuse after any absence within 48 hours of that occurrence. The written excuse should state the student's name, date of absence(s) and reason for the absence. If a child is absent due to illness **more than three (3) days in a row**, a physician's note stating the illness, the recommendation to stay home and the date the student is allowed to return to school, should be submitted when the child returns to school. Parents may NOT submit multiple letters at the end of the semester/school year to excuse absences more than 48 hours old. Failure to follow these procedures may result in your child being sent home, which could incur an additional absence. **FAILURE TO REPORT TO SCHOOL WITH A WRITTEN EXCUSE FOR THE ABSENCE WILL RESULT IN AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE IN OUR ATTENDANCE RECORDS.**

Students who are absent six (6) or more days per quarter, eleven (11) or more days per semester and twenty (20) or more days per school year, are considered excessively absent. Continued absences may result in the student attending mandatory summer school and/or being retained in that grade. A parent conference will be required after six (6) or more absences in the quarter.

Excused absences are recorded for students who miss school because of the following reasons: (Parents are asked to send a note to school with their child to confirm nature of absence)

- Personal illness or quarantine
- Bereavement
- Serious family illness or emergency
- Observance of a major religious holiday
- Other exceptional reasons approved by the Director

Full credit will be given for work assigned by the teacher and completed by the student within a reasonable amount of time after returning to school. If the absence is for any other reason than those listed above, it is considered an unexcused absence and teachers are not required to provide special assistance and homework is still required to be completed. Examples of

Unexcused absences/Tardiness include, but are not limited to: car trouble, sleeping/working early/late, parent/guardian illness, etc.

Tardiness

Tardiness is disruptive to the educational process and is inconsiderate to both teachers and other students; therefore, it is imperative that students are punctual. The school day starts at 8:00 am. **A student is considered tardy when he/she arrives to class after the bell has rung — 8:10 am.** Consequences for excessive tardiness will be determined by the campus Director. Repeated and frequent violations may result in serious consequences, including, but not limited to suspension. Excessive tardiness is considered more than 4 tardies per month. Continued tardiness throughout the school year may result in a student attending summer school and/or being retained in the current grade level. Consequences for tardies will be determined by the school leadership team at each campus.

Early Dismissal

No child is allowed to leave the building or playground during school time unless he/she is accompanied by a parent, guardian or an adult from the school. All-day attendance is important for every student, every school day. If it is known in advance that an early dismissal is absolutely necessary, **parents must send a written note to the classroom teacher and it must be approved by the Director.** Children who leave early must be picked up in the school office. There will be no early dismissal after 3:00 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and no early dismissal after 1:15 pm on Wednesdays. **Once students are dismissed they may not re-enter the building.** Early dismissal will be allowed only in rare circumstances and requires the approval of the campus Director.

Dismissal for Vacation

Children are discouraged from taking vacations or trips during the school year. However, if family trips are unavoidable, the school should be notified several days in advance if at all possible.

Students who are absent over a period of 2 weeks because of extended vacations should not expect to receive homework assignments ahead of time and are at risk of being retained.

Policy Enforcement

Consistent attendance and on-time arrival at school is an important part of any student's education. Because of its importance, the campus Director has the authority to enforce the policy through a variety of methods. ***The campus Director may at his/her discretion levy fines or other penalties to ensure compliance to the attendance and tardy policies.***

Assessment & Promotion

Report Cards

Students receive a report card once per quarter. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to pick up their child's report card. If a report card is not picked up by a parent/guardian the school will 1) call by phone and/or 2) send a letter by mail. If a report card is not picked up the parent/guardian **must** meet with the Director prior to sending their child back to school.



Graduation

The students of CICS Bucktown, Prairie and West Belden campuses **MUST** meet the following minimum requirements to receive an 8th grade diploma:

- A student must have passing grades in the core subjects of Mathematics, Language Arts, Science, Reading, and Social Studies. End-of-the-year grades in each subject are determined by averaging each of the 4-quarter grades.
- A student must achieve an acceptable level in Reading and Mathematics as determined by the standardized tests and as determined by the 8th grade team. It is possible that a student be denied graduation and will have to repeat 8th grade.
- A student must not receive more than 1 failing grade in any Specials classes (Art, Computer/Media, P.E., Spanish, Music).
- A student must pass the Federal & Illinois Constitution test.

Should a student *not* meet the 8th grade requirements:

- He/she must attend summer school, if available, to make up any deficiencies and will not be permitted to participate in graduation exercises. (Director Discretion)
- If a student consistently failed most subject areas in quarters 1, 2 and 3, it is more than likely that he/she will not be able to pass 8th grade. Summer school is not sufficient time to teach all of the material that a student has missed over the course of the school year, therefore he/she will probably be retained to repeat 8th grade the following year.
- Any student who reaches age 15 by the end of the calendar year and who does not meet the academic standards set forth by the school, will not receive a graduation diploma, but rather a certificate of attendance.

Promotion

The curriculum of the CICS schools is rigorous. It is the intention of the schools to promote preparedness for each child to progress through the grade levels successfully.

Any child who is not prepared to exit a grade level will not be permitted to continue on to the next grade until they have attained adequate achievement in their present grade.

Students who receive a final grade of “D” will be required to attend summer school.

Students who receive a final grade of “F” in Reading and/or Mathematics will not be promoted to the following grade. They will receive 1 of 2 classifications:

1. A student must pass summer school to be promoted to the next grade level. Summer school absences of more than 1 day will result in automatic retention. *Tuition may be charged for summer school attendance.*
2. A student must be retained in their present grade for the following year. *Summer school is not required, but is strongly recommended.*

Student classification is the final decision of the campus Director.

****Minimum satisfactory score on the ISAT and NWEA will be required for promotion to the next grade level beginning in 3rd grade.****

Primary Grades

The decision to promote students in primary grades will be based on adequate progress and data from assessments such as DIBELS, classroom tests, and the Primary MAP for NWEA. Students who receive “1’s” and “2’s” in the core subject areas are at risk of retention.

Summer School

Students may be required to attend summer school if s/he is eligible based on one or more of the following criteria:

- NWEA. Students with NWEA reading and/or math scores at or below the 35th percentile at the end of the Spring testing cycle
- ISAT. Students with ISAT reading and/or math scores at or below the 24th percentile based on SAT 10 data
- FINAL LETTER GRADE(S). Students who have report card grades of “D” or lower (1’s and 2’s in Primary) in reading and/or math
- ATTENDANCE. Students who have more than 9 days of unexcused absences (absences that were not excused with a note within the 48 hour time frame specified in this handbook)

Student Enrichment

Homework

Homework is an integral part of a child's educational process. The Distinctive Schools organization requires student preparation outside of school and that is enhanced by a parent's involvement with homework completion.

Homework assignments are a part of each student's grade, therefore, missing assignments must be turned in as soon as possible. Students are also responsible for homework assignments missed during an absence from school (see section on student absences).

Consequences for missing assignments will be determined by the campus Director. Continuing to not complete or to turn in homework assignments on time will result in appropriate consequences determined by the classroom teacher and/or Director of the school.

- Parents may be required to work with their child on special projects and provide materials that can be found in the home.
- Parent/student reading, particularly in the primary grades, is strongly recommended.
- Parents have the responsibility to discuss and check homework assignments on a daily basis with their child.
- Parents have the responsibility to review and sign their child's Homework Folder sent home in order to be informed about current units of study, their child's progress, etc.
- All assignments should be completed by the student only. Parents/Guardians may assist with homework, however, thoughts and responses should be student originated in the student's own handwriting.

All students are required to have an assignment notebook/planner or Binder at specific campuses.

Field Trips

Cultural and educational field trips are scheduled during each school year. Field trips are planned to enhance your child's educational process and must be relevant to what is being studied at the time the field trip is planned. **Field trips are scheduled on school days and are, therefore, not optional. Fees may apply.**



Permission slips from parents/guardians must be signed and returned to the classroom teacher before a student may participate in a field trip.

Chaperones - The ratio of chaperone to student is:

- Kindergarten – 2nd grade: 1 parent/guardian for every 6 students
- 3rd – 8th grade: 1 parent/guardian for every 10 students.
- Teachers count as 1 chaperone for every field trip.

Each chaperone is directly responsible for their group of students and chaperones should check in with teachers on a consistent basis. Chaperones should follow the direction and guidelines set forth by the classroom teacher on the trip. Each group will follow the same set of rules. Team Leaders or Teachers will provide a brief outline of the guidelines to chaperones before the trip at the chaperones request. Any questions regarding the rules and responsibilities should be directed to the Team Leader or Teacher.

Dress Attire - Students attending a field trip are required to wear their complete CICS uniform, unless otherwise noted in the field trip/permission slip sent home to parents prior to the field trip.

Refunds - Refunds will not be given for illness, injury or disciplinary actions.

Athletic Program

It is our belief that a child's participation in athletics is important in the development of character, teamwork, self-discipline, healthy living, integrity, respect for others and positive, competitive behavior.

Expectations:

1. The athletic program(s) will not interfere with/disrupt the academic programs of the school.
2. The student athlete must show respect for coaches, team members, opponents and the officials of the sport. The athlete is also expected to demonstrate respect toward the spectators and play by the rules of the game.
3. The athlete must be present and on time for all practices and games. It is the responsibility of the athlete to notify the coach if he/she is unable to attend a practice or a game.
4. The athlete is expected to return his/her uniform in good, clean and reusable condition.

Blatant disrespect and disregard of the expectations mentioned above will result in limited or revoked playing time and the potential withdrawal of the student from the athletic team and competition.

Responsibilities:

- A student must have parental approval to participate on the team. A permission slip will be sent home to parents/guardians at the beginning of the athletic season.
- A student must have a physical exam and be in good physical health according to a licensed physician prior to joining the team. The physician's statement must be presented to the campus Director or school Nurse.
- A student must be in good academic standing upon joining the team (a minimum of a "C" average in all courses) and maintain a "C" average in all classes for the duration of the athletic season. A grade of "D" or "F" in any class will automatically make the student ineligible.
- All students participating in the athletic program must present a grade verification form (provided by the coach of the team) at the end of each quarter, to each of their teachers for a signature.
- Any student who has incurred a category II or higher discipline violation will not be able to participate on the team for that quarter. A student may request to be reinstated for the following quarter. Approval must be given to a student by the campus Director.

Technology Acceptable Use Policy

Purpose of Use

Through technology, DS provides access for students and staff to resources from around the world. Expanding technologies take students and staff beyond the confines of the classroom, and provide tremendous opportunities for enhancing, extending, and rethinking the learning process. This new capability, however, requires guidance for students and staff use.



The Opportunities and Risks of Technology Use

DS believes that the value of information and the opportunity for interaction that technology offers outweighs the hazards of its misuse. Making network access available, however, carries with it the potential that some network users will encounter sources that could be considered controversial or inappropriate. Because information on networks is ever-changing and diverse, despite the use of content filters and close teacher supervision, DS cannot completely predict or guarantee what students may or may not locate when on-line. Technology provides a conduit to information: the users must be wary of the sources and content and be responsible in choosing information to be accessed.

No technology is guaranteed to be error free or totally dependable, nor is it safe when used irresponsibly. Among other matters, DS is not liable or responsible for:

1. any information that may be lost, damaged, or unavailable due to technical, or other difficulties;
2. the accuracy or suitability of any information that is retrieved through technology
3. breaches of confidentiality;
4. defamatory material; or
5. the consequences that may come from failure to follow DS policy and procedures governing the use of technology.

Privileges of User

Students may access technology for educational purposes only. Exercising this privilege requires that they accept the responsibility for all material viewed, downloaded, and/or produced.

The actions of students accessing networks through DS reflect on our organization. Students must conduct themselves accordingly by exercising good judgment and complying with this policy, and any accompanying administrative regulations and guidelines.

Definition of Acceptable Use

Students will:

- Adhere to the rules of copyright and assume that any software that they did not create is copyrighted (unless it is labeled "freeware" or "public domain");
- Adhere to the licensing agreements governing the use of shareware; note that e-mail is not guaranteed to be private;
- Be responsible at all times for the proper use of their access privileges and for complying with all required system security identification codes, including not sharing such codes;
- Maintain the integrity of technological resources from potentially damaging messages, physical abuse, or computer viruses;
- Respect the rights of others to use equipment and therefore use it only for school-related activities;
- Treat all computers, printers, cameras, and other electronic hardware and software with great care;
- Abide by the policies and procedures of networks and systems linked by technology; and protect the privacy of other students and the integrity of the system by avoiding misuse of others' files, equipment, and programs.

Students will not:

- Use offensive, obscene, inflammatory or defamatory language;
- Harass other users;
- Misrepresent themselves or others;
- Violate the rights of others, including their privacy;
- Access, download, and/or create pornographic or obscene material;
- Use the network for personal business or financial gain;
- Vandalize data, programs, and/or networks;
- Degrade or disrupt systems and/or equipment;
- Damage technology hardware and/or software;
- Spread computer viruses;
- Gain unauthorized access to resources or entities;
- Violate copyright laws;
- Damage computers, printers, cameras, or other hardware;
- Use technology for illegal activities; and
- Reveal their name, personal address or phone number, or those of other users without permission.

Right to Monitor

DS, as the provider of the technology, email, and Internet access, has the right to monitor any and all use of its system. Any individual right of privacy is superseded by the school's need to maintain its system.

Penalties for Improper Use**

If students do not follow the rules of Acceptable Use, their privileges may be taken away according to the following guidelines. Students may also be accountable for consequences under the CICS Student Code of Conduct.

Level 1: Loss of use of computer privileges until the end of the current period.

Student does not follow the directions of supervisor regarding Internet, programs, or use of hardware.

Level 2: Loss of use of computer privileges for one month.

Student consistently does not follow directions of supervisor regarding Internet, programs, or use of hardware, OR Student damages hardware due to carelessness.

Level 3: Loss of computer privileges for 3 months to entire academic year.

Student destroys files, any form of another person's work, OR
Student views or prints a sexually explicit, offensive site OR
Student views or prints other inappropriate material, OR

Student destroys hardware intentionally, OR
Student destroys hardware beyond repair.

Level 4: Incurs the cost of repair or replacement of computer.
Student breaks the computer intentionally or unintentionally.

*****Technology grades may be affected because of loss of privileges.*****

Please read and sign with your child the “Student Technology Rules Contract” at the end of this handbook. The signed contract MUST be brought in and given to your child’s teacher the 1st week of school. If the contract is not returned to school the 1st week your child will not be able to use any technological equipment in the school.

General Information

Textbooks, Library Books, Audio/Visual Equipment & Other School Materials

All books are inspected and assigned to students at the beginning of the school year and are inspected and collected at the end of the school year. It is the responsibility of CICS students to return textbooks, library books and any other school materials at the end of the school year in good condition. In accordance with the DS policy, it is the responsibility of a parent/guardian to instill respect of property in their children. Thus, parents **MUST** assume responsibility for damage to or loss of any textbooks, library books, audio/visual equipment or other school materials used by their child/children. Replacement costs and/or damage fines will be assessed for any lost or damaged materials. These fines must be paid in full, in cash, before a final report card will be issued, transfer of records sent, or registration accepted for the next school year. The teachers, in conjunction with the Campus Directors, Team Leaders and Dean's, will determine these fees.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

Cell phones that are brought to school **MUST** remain in the off position during school hours, **MUST** be put away and **MUST** not be seen by any school personnel. Teachers may choose to collect phone and keep them locked throughout the day. If a cell phone is not put away and is seen by any school personnel it will be taken away and returned to the student at the end of the school day. ***The school claims no liability for any lost or stolen cell phones brought to school.***



CELL PHONES!

All other electronic devices are not to be brought to school. This includes Game Boy, iPods, etc. Parents are urged to help children understand why these items are not to be brought to school and why. If there is a repeated violation of the cell phone policy, the incident will be treated as a Category II offense and the cell phone will be **confiscated by the Director until the end of the year**. Each campus will determine specific consequences and cell phone policies with director discretion.

STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO USE CELLULAR PHONES FOR ANY PURPOSE DURING SCHOOL HOURS. IF A STUDENT NEEDS TO CONTACT THE PARENT OR IF THE PARENT NEEDS TO CONTACT THE STUDENT, YOU MUST USE OR CALL THE MAIN OFFICE PHONE.

Articles Not To Be Brought To School

Objects which create a safety hazard or which interfere with school procedure should not be brought to school. Undesirable objects will be confiscated if brought to school without the teacher's permission. *Any money sent to school with your child should be kept to a minimum. ***The school is not responsible for any money that is sent to school with your child.****

Marking Clothing

Articles of clothing, boots, tennis shoes and lunch boxes should be marked with the child's name, and grade, or room number so they may be returned if lost.

Personal Appearance

Students are expected to be dressed and groomed in a manner which will not be disruptive to the educational process, constitute a health or safety hazard or violate civil law.

Uniform Dress Code

It is our belief that good dress and work habits reflect a proper school attitude. Students are required to be in proper dress code during school hours and on field trips unless otherwise notified.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE WORN IN SCHOOL

- ◆ No sunglasses
- ◆ No tank tops
- ◆ No jeans
- ◆ No tight pants (as determined by administration)
- ◆ No athletic bowling style shoes
- ◆ No hoop or dangling earrings (for safety reasons)
- ◆ No hooded sweatshirts
- ◆ No rollers/curlers
- ◆ No sagging pants
- ◆ No visible tattoos

- ◆ No visible body piercing including band-aids covering piercings
- ◆ **NO** hats or other head coverings, including sweatbands and handkerchiefs are permitted
- ◆ **NO designs of any kind are permitted in the hair or eyebrows.**
- ◆ Hair **cannot** be colored or highlighted any color that is not natural hair color
- ◆ Necklaces **must** be tucked inside shirts or blouses and must be a reasonable size
- ◆ **NO** boots – hiking, work boots, etc. may be worn during the school day. *Boots may be worn to school during the winter, but must be removed once in school and regular school shoes put on.*

- ◆ No sandals/flip flops
- ◆ No tight fitting shirts/tops
- ◆ No sleeveless shirts
- ◆ No hanging belts
- ◆ No hair glitter/body glitter
- ◆ No jackets
- ◆ No key cords
- ◆ No combs or picks
- ◆ No shorts (non-uniform)
- ◆ No hanging suspenders
- ◆ No cargo pants
- ◆ No false nails including acrylic, press-on nails, etc.
- ◆ No fluorescent color nail colors or distracting designs
- ◆ Stud earrings (in ears) are **acceptable for girls only. Boys may not wear earrings.**
- ◆ No wristbands, string bracelets or sweatbands are to be worn unless given permission by Director
- ◆ **NO** Mohawks or other hairstyles/designs which partly remove hair from the scalp
- ◆ Excessively large chains, key chains, etc. may not be worn during the school day by boys or girls
- ◆ **NO** pants may be worn under skirts (for girls). *Pants may be worn under skirts in winter only, but must be removed once in school*

Students are expected to be dressed and groomed in a manner which will not be disruptive to the educational process, constitute a health or safety hazard or violate civil law.

Any clothing or jewelry that is distractive to the learning process is not permitted.

****Final determination of appropriateness of student dress and measures taken to enforce the policy will be made by the campus Director****

Contact your individual school campus for uniform purchasing procedures

All Students

Shirts and Pants

- Clean CICS-Bucktown logo uniform polo shirt (short or long sleeved).
- Shirt must be tucked into pants.
- Clean Khaki casual pants worn with a plain black or brown belt. **(No cargo pants.)**
- CICS-Bucktown logo uniform sweatshirt may be worn over polo or gym uniform. CICS Bucktown LOGO must be on uniform pieces
- NO Skinny pants/pants that are too tight to the skin
- Solid color socks
- Navy or white turtleneck or long sleeve shirt may be worn under short or long sleeve polo- acceptable in cold weather.

Shoes

- Black or brown solid color shoes that sit below ankle **or**
- Black leather shoes with black rubber soles.
- Shoes must meet the following requirements without exception:
 - must be **entirely a solid color** with no other colors.
 - must have no design other than the small company logo.
 - must sit below the ankle. (No high tops.)
 - must be worn fully laced and tied.
 - must be well maintained.

Boots

- Cold weather boots may be worn to and from school, and during recess.
- Students **must** bring their uniform shoes to wear during the school day when cold weather boots are worn to and from school.

Physical Education (Gym day)

- CICS-Bucktown logo navy shorts or CICS logo sweatpants.
- Sweat pant legs **must** be worn at ankle length.
- CICS-Bucktown logo uniform t-shirt **ONLY**.
- Gym shoes – permitted only on gym days. (No wheeled shoes)
- Solid color socks

Kindergarten through 3rd Grade:

- Maroon or white polo. *Shirts must be properly buttoned and tucked into pants or skirts.*
- Solid docker style gray dress pants.
- Plaid jumper for girls (*The jumper should be knee length or fall just below the knee.*)
- Plain solid colored belt.
- Solid black or brown dress shoes (no athletic style shoes).
- Maroon button down or v-neck sweater.
- Solid white, gray, maroon, or black knee or trouser socks OR tights for the girls.

4th through 8th Grade:

- **Boys** – Maroon or white polo shirts.
- **Girls** – Maroon or white polo OR white collared blouse (*Shirts must be properly buttoned and tucked into pants or skirts.*)
- Solid docker style gray dress pants.
- Plain solid colored belt.
- Plaid skirt for girls (*The skirt should be knee length or fall just below the knee.*)
- Maroon button down or v-neck sweater.
- Solid black or brown dress shoes (no athletic style shoes).
- Solid white, gray, maroon, or black knee socks OR tights for the girls.

Gym Uniform:

- Maroon or gray sweats or shorts (sweat pant legs **MUST** be worn at ankle length).
- White, gray, or maroon t-shirt (CICS logo shirt or plain shirt).
- Gym shoes – permitted only on gym days.
- White gym socks.
- CICS logo or plain gym uniforms only.

Girls:

- Clean navy collared polo shirt/blouse (short or long sleeved). *Shirts must be properly buttoned and tucked into pants or skirts.*
- Clean khaki docker style dress pants with a plain belt or CICS uniform Khaki or Plaid jumper (grades K-3). *The jumper or skirt should be knee length or fall just below the knee.* No skirts above 4th grade.
- No khaki (beige, tan or corduroy) colored jeans. (Defined as having rivets)
- CICS navy cardigan sweater or vest.
- NO Skin tight pants or “skinny” pants
- Solid color tights or socks in white, navy, black or brown. (No Fluorescent colored socks)
- White or navy turtleneck acceptable in winter – with blouse over it.
- Belts must be plain black or plain brown.
- No excessively large, ornate belt buckles.

Boys:

- Clean navy collared polo shirt (short or long sleeved). *Shirts must be properly buttoned and tucked into pants.*
- Clean khaki docker style dress pants worn with a plain belt.
- No khaki (beige, tan or corduroy) colored jeans. (Defined as having rivets)
- CICS navy cardigan sweater or vest.
- Solid color socks in white, navy, black or brown. (No Fluorescent colored socks)
- White or Navy turtleneck acceptable in winter – with shirt over it.
- Belts must be plain black or plain brown.
- No excessively large, ornate belt buckles.

Gym Uniform:

- CICS-West Belden logo gym uniforms **MUST** be purchased from the school. Only the mandatory West Belden uniform may be worn—NO SUBSTITUTIONS.
- Navy sweats or shorts (sweatpants legs **MUST** be worn at ankle length).
- No tight white shirts.
- No layered look – colored shirts below white shirt.
- Gym shoes – only on permitted gym days.
- **White** gym socks. (No Fluorescent colored socks)

Gym uniform may only be worn on gym days during the school year.

Shoes

- Black or brown solid color shoes that sit below ankle **or**
- Black leather shoes with black rubber soles.
- Shoes must meet the following requirements without exception:
 - must be **entirely a solid color** with no other colors.
 - must have no design other than the small company logo.
 - must sit below the ankle. (No high tops.)
 - must be worn fully laced and tied.
 - must be well maintained.

Policy Enforcement

Policy Statement

Distinctive Schools the managing organization of the Chicago International Charter Schools—Bucktown, Prairie and West Belden campuses. DS is responsible for establishing and carrying out the following discipline policy per CICS. It is in stating this that DS wishes to ensure that the school environment is safe for all CICS students. Furthermore, DS expects all CICS students to accept full responsibility for their actions and behavior.

CICS Discipline Code

CICS expects all students to conduct themselves in a socially responsible manner. Disciplinary measures are used to maintain a safe and orderly school environment which promotes CICS's philosophy of providing a college preparatory education for all students.

The CICS discipline code applies to the actions of students during school hours, before and after school, while on school property, at all CICS sponsored events and when the actions affect the mission of CICS. Students may also be subject to discipline for serious acts of misconduct, which occur either off-campus or during non-school hours, when the misconduct disrupts the orderly educational process at CICS.

Each discipline case will carry its own merit and will be adjudicated according to the facts accompanying the case. CICS's staff shall consider all mitigating circumstances prior to disciplinary action. Mitigating circumstances shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Age, health, maturity and academic placement of a student
- Prior conduct
- Attitude of a student
- Cooperation of parents
- Willingness to make restitution
- Seriousness of offense
- Willingness to enroll in a student assistance program

In some cases the school's administrative personnel may deem public service a necessary component of the disciplinary action. Public service may include, but is not limited to: repairing or cleaning property damaged as a result of the offense(s); participating in landscaping, gardening and/or other projects aimed at beautifying school property or the community; and/or providing services that improve the quality of life for community members.

Each category of offense listed below has a minimum and maximum disciplinary action associated with it. After considering the actual disciplinary violation and factors such as those listed above, CICS Administrative staff shall determine the disciplinary action within the minimum/maximum range to which the student shall be subjected.

CATEGORY I

These acts of misconduct include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Running and/or making excessive noise in the hall or school building or premises
- Loitering in the hallway
- Failing to abide by school dress code
- Persistent tardiness to school or class
- Lying to school personnel
- Gum chewing

Students who commit any of these acts are subject to a teacher-student conference as a result of a 1st offense and may, as a result of repeated violations and depending on the circumstances, be subject to the maximum 1 day suspension. As a supplement and/or alternative to suspension, school staff may require students to complete between 1 and 8 hours of public service as commensurate with the seriousness of offense(s).

CATEGORY II

These acts of misconduct include, but are not limited to, the following student behaviors that disrupt the educational process at CICS:

- Excessive truancy (absence without just cause)
- Use of profane, vulgar or obscene words, gestures or other actions which disrupt the school environment or are disrespectful
- Insubordination (refusal to follow orders, directions or stated school rules)
- Participation in acts designed to disrupt classroom or school activities
- Repeated failure to follow state school rules and procedures
- Smoking on school property
- Acts that obstruct or interrupt the instructional process in the classroom
- Repeated refusal to participate in classroom activities or complete academic assignments
- Fighting or threatening any student or staff member
- Visible carrying of cell phones, pagers or other electronic devices
- Leaving the classroom or school grounds without permission
- Cheating
- Plagiarism
- Bullying, including verbal harassment or cyber bullying
- Forgery
- Inappropriate touching of another student
- Roughhousing/horseplay
- Persistent tardiness
- Tagging of books, folders, or notebooks
- Initiating or participating in any unacceptable minor physical actions against another student
- Disrespect of school staff members

Students who commit any of these acts are subject to 1 after school or Saturday in-school detention and teacher-student conference as a result of a 1st offense and may, as a result of repeated violations and depending on the circumstances, be subject to the maximum penalty of a 5 day out-of-school suspension and teacher-parent conference. The degree of the suspension whether in-school or external, as well as length of suspension, shall be determined by DS staff. As a supplement and/or alternative to suspension, school staff may require students to complete between 3 and 12 hours of public service as commensurate with the seriousness of offense(s).

CATEGORY III

These acts of misconduct include those student behaviors that very seriously disrupt the orderly educational process in the classroom, in the school, and/or on the school grounds. These acts of misconduct include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Fighting or threatening any student or staff member
- Assault on a student or any school employee (assault is interpreted as an attempt to do bodily harm to a student or to any staff member)
- Persistent refusal to follow stated school rules and procedures
- Arson
- Destruction of property/graffiti
- Creating a false fire alarm
- Repeated Category I and Category II offenses
- Possession of weapons
- Any act that endangers the safety of the other students, teachers or any school employee
- Theft
- Trespassing (entering the school grounds, classroom/office space, or personal workspace without permission)
- Involvement in gang activity
- Sex violations/sexual harassment
- Use, possession, sale or delivery of alcohol, illegal drugs, narcotics, controlled substances, weapon contraband or look alike weapon contraband/drugs
- Any display of gang affiliation (wearing clothing or displaying paraphernalia, the display of gang signs, symbols and signals that signifies or exhibits an individual's affiliation with a gang)
- Use of intimidation, credible threats of violence, coercion or persistent bullying
- Bomb threat
- Inappropriate sexual conduct during school hours, which includes kissing, touching and comments

Students who commit any of these acts are subject to a maximum 10-day, out-of-school suspension and teacher-parent conference and may, depending on the circumstances, be subject to the maximum penalty of expulsion. As a supplement and/or alternative to

suspension or expulsion, school staff may require students to complete between 6 and 30 hours of public or school service as commensurate with the seriousness of offense(s).

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

When a student's misconduct results in the need to suspend or expel a student, the following procedures shall be followed:

- A. Suspension Not Exceeding 10 School Days:** Students suspended for 10 days or less shall be afforded due process in the following manner:

The student shall be given oral or written notice of the charges against him/her, an explanation of the basis for the accusation, and a chance to present his/her version of the incident. Students, who are placed on an out of school suspension, must be picked up within one hour of notification to avoid DCFS contact.

- B. Suspension In Excess of 10 Days and Expulsion:** Students suspended for more than 10 school days and/or expelled as a result of gross disobedience or misconduct shall be afforded due process in the following manner:

CICS's campuses will request that the student's parents or guardian appear before the Chicago International Charter School's Board of Directors, an appointed hearing officer, or a Board representative. Such requests will be made by registered or certified mail and state the time, place and purpose of the meeting. In addition to advanced written notice of the hearing, the student shall be afforded sufficient time to prepare for the hearing, the right to be represented by counsel, the right to present evidence and witnesses and school personnel. The expulsion hearing need not take the form of a judicial or quasi-judicial hearing. In no event shall a hearing be considered public. Further, at the discretion of the Board, the hearing may be closed to those individuals deemed advisable, except the student, the student's parents or guardians, the student's attorney, at least 1 school official, and Board's attorney at all times. Witnesses shall be admitted to a closed hearing to the extent necessary to testify.

PROCEDURAL DISCIPLINE GUIDE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The School Administrative may suspend students with disabilities for disciplinary reasons and cease educational services for up to 10 consecutive or 10 cumulative school days in 1 school year without providing special education procedural safeguards. When school staff anticipates a recommendation to an alternative school, a referral for expulsion, or anticipates that suspensions may exceed 10 cumulative school days, the following regulations apply.

1. DS staff must provide written notice to the parent or guardian that a disciplinary action is being considered and the date of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting, which must be held within 10 days of the date of misconduct.

2. The IEP team must:

- A. Determine whether the misconduct is related to the student's disability by reviewing evaluation and diagnostic results, information from the parent/guardian, observations of the student, and the student's IEP and placement. The behavior is not a manifestation of a student's disability if:
 - 1) The student was given appropriate special education supplementary aids and intervention strategies, and
 - 2) The disability does not impair the ability to control behavior.
- B. Review and revise, if necessary, the behavior intervention plan or, as necessary develop a functional behavior assessment and intervention plan to address the misconduct.
- C. Include in the IEP those services and modifications that will enable the student to continue to participate in the general curriculum and address the behavior so that it will not recur.
- D. Determine the appropriateness of an interim educational setting.

If the student's behavior **is not** a manifestation of the disability, school staff may apply the CICS discipline code, taking into consideration the student's special education and disciplinary records. In no event, however, may the student be suspended for more than 10 consecutive or cumulative school days in a school year without providing appropriate educational services.

If the student's behavior **is** a manifestation of the disability, the student's placement may be changed to an appropriate interim educational setting for 45 days if the student carried a weapon to school or to a school function, knowingly possessed or used illegal drugs, sold or solicited the sale of a controlled substance while at school or at a school function, or is substantially likely to cause injury to himself/herself or others.

Students with disabilities, even if expelled, must be provided with an appropriate education in an alternative education setting.

New federal regulations offer some flexibility in suspending students with disabilities in excess of 10 school days in the school year in certain circumstances. In order to determine whether the circumstances permit a suspension in excess of 10 days per school year, consultation by DS staff with the Chicago Public Schools Department of Due Process is absolutely necessary. Without such consultation and approval from the Department, the current procedures limiting suspensions for disabled students to 10 days in a school year will continue to apply.

Parent Involvement

Parents are more than welcome to come and visit their child's school, however, visits to your child's classroom must be scheduled with the campus Director and classroom teacher. The visit should be at a time and of such a nature as to present no interruption of the teaching/learning process. This procedure is necessary to prevent the disruption of classroom learning.

Notification of Rights under FERPA

For Elementary and Secondary Schools

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

- 1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

- 2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate.

Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the School principal [or appropriate school official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

- 3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

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); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or 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.

- 4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-5901

Distinctive Schools

Parent-Guardian School Agreement Form

Please sign your initials on the lines following each section title from the Parent-Student Handbook.

We have read and understand the information contained in the section titled:

	Parent/Guardian
Parent/Guardian Letter	_____
School Hours	_____
Enrollment	_____
Health Service Information	_____
Attendance	_____
Assessment and Promotion	_____
Student Enrichment	_____
Technology Acceptable Use Policy	_____
General Information (Cell Phone & Uniform Guidelines)	_____
Policy Enforcement	_____

We have read the Parent-Student Handbook and agree that we will abide by all rules, regulations and policies of CICS schools managed by the Distinctive Schools organization, (DS). We fully understand that non-adherence to these rules, regulations and policies by children enrolled in the schools or by their parent(s) or guardian(s) may result in a child's expulsion from the schools.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Name of Student: _____

DS Student Technology Rules Contract

Rules for using the Internet and E-mail help everyone. By following the rules, everyone can use the Internet, computers and other related hardware to learn more about the world and communicate with others. Only students who follow these rules may use the Internet, computers and other related hardware and telecommunication tools. Using the above listed tools are a responsibility and a privilege, not a right.

Teachers may view any student communication at any time in order to support the student's development as a responsible citizen.

Students are responsible for thoughtful, considerate behavior on computers as they are for their general classroom behavior.

Do	Do Not
❖ Access educational material with teacher permission.	❖ Access non-educational material or use the network for personal purposes
❖ Send appropriate messages and pictures with teacher permission.	❖ Send or display offensive messages or pictures.
❖ Use polite language on-line and be kind to others.	❖ Use obscene or inappropriate language.
❖ Protect computers, computer systems or computer networks.	❖ Harass, insult, or attack others.
❖ Follow copyright laws.	❖ Damage computers, computer systems, or computer networks.
❖ Treat all hardware with great care.	❖ Break copyright laws.
❖ Use your own identity, work, mail, files and folders with teacher permission.	❖ Treat hardware carelessly or roughly.
❖ Protect limited technology-related resources.	❖ Misrepresent yourself or trespass in and/or modify user's folders, mail, work, or other files.
❖ Keep personal information private.	❖ Waste limited resources.
	❖ Give out personal information.

Teachers and Directors with support and guidance from the Director of Technology will decide on the educational value of any electronic material. They will determine the proper action to take with students who do not follow these rules.

I agree to follow these rules and to use the Internet, computers and other related hardware in a responsible way to further my education.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

Note: Students in grades 3-8 will be asked to sign the technology contract. Only students with signed contracts on file will be permitted to use the school computers.

Photograph Release Form

Chicago International Charter School & Distinctive School of Illinois

Bucktown Campus

Prairie Campus

West Belden Campus

Please note: Each child needs to have a form. If you have more than 1 child, fill out a separate form for each child. Additional forms can be obtained from the school office.

Name of Student	Teacher's Name	Grade	Room #

I, _____, the undersigned, hereby (grant/ do not grant) permission to have photographs or other images taken of my child. I authorize the use of these photographs for the general purposes as determined by the Chicago International Charter School (CICS) –Bucktown, Prairie, or West Belden campuses, Distinctive Schools (DS) or the Chicago Charter International Schools Foundation without time restriction of such pictures or any portion thereof. I further waive any claim for compensation, financial or otherwise, in connection with the aforementioned pictures.

Parent's/Guardian's Name (Please Print): _____

Signature: _____ Date _____

Relation to Student(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

School-Parent Contract

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We value your role in working to help your child achieve high academic standards. The purpose of the school-parent compact is to communicate a common understanding of home and school responsibilities to assure that every student attains high academic standards leading to a quality education. The following information will serve as an outline of various ways you and the school staff can build and maintain a partnership of shared responsibility for your child's learning.

School's Responsibility:

- Provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children to meet Local, State, and National student academic standards (Assist all students in meeting their NWEA Reading and Math Spring to Spring Targets and as well as making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) on the ISAT.
- Provide you with assistance in understanding academic achievement standards and assessments and how to monitor your child's progress.
- Provide opportunities for ongoing communication between you and teachers through:
 - Semi-annual parent/teacher conferences
 - Frequent reports regarding your child's progress, and
 - Opportunities to talk with members of the staff, volunteer in class, and observe classroom activities.
- Provide the staff with appropriate professional development activities.
- Maintain highly qualified teachers.
- Provide a safe and secure learning environment.

Parent's Responsibility:

- Ensure that my child attends school daily and arrives to school on time.
- Encourage my child to follow the rules and regulations of the school.
- Monitor my child's homework.
- Attend parent/teacher conferences and participate, when appropriate, in discussions relating to the education of my child.
- Volunteer in my child's school and classroom if time or schedule permits.
- Communicate positive information regarding teachers, principals, and other campus personnel when discussing school with my child.
- Seek information regarding my child's progress by conferencing with teachers, principals, and other district personnel.

Student's Responsibility:

- Attend school regularly.
- Complete and turn in all classroom and homework assignments on time.
- Accept responsibility for my own actions.
- Show respect for myself, other people, and property.
- Make the effort to do my best to learn.
- Resolve conflicts peacefully.

School, Parents, and Student Responsibilities:

- High student expectation.
- Improve student academic achievement.
- Build and develop a partnership to assist the children of the community achieve high academic standards.

Please review this compact with your child. The contents of the compact may be discussed with you during a parent/teacher conference as it relates to your child's school progress.

Thank you for your support and involvement in your child's education.

I have read and discussed the contents of the document with my child as it relates to his/her education in the Distinctive Schools Network.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

Date: _____

Date: _____