



LANGUAGE ACADEMY OF SACRAMENTO
ACADEMIA DE IDIOMAS DE SACRAMENTO

Student & Parent Handbook

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www.lasac.info

Office Hours: 7:30 am-4:00 pm

2015-2016



Language Academy of Sacramento

A Two-Way Spanish Immersion Charter School

2850 49th Street
Sacramento, CA 95817
(916) 277-7137
Fax (916) 277-7141
www.lasac.info

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Dear Students, Parents and Staff:

Welcome to the Language Academy of Sacramento Public Charter School. Please take time to review the contents of this Student and Parent Handbook with your child. This guide provides information, procedures, and expectations that are important for all students and parents. Please sign and return the Back-to-School Packet forms to your child's teacher **within five days** of receipt of this handbook.

Feel free to contact us at 277-7137, or come in and visit if you have any questions or would like further clarification about our program, our school, and/or our activities. Thank you for your support and for being part of the Language Academy family!

Respectfully,

Eduardo de León
Academic Director

Meet the Language Academy Staff, Governing Board and Parent Council

Administration & Office Staff		Support Staff	
Academic Director	Eduardo de León	Grounds Supervisors	Elizabeth García
Academic Accountability Specialist	Teejay Bersola		Martha González
Business Manager	Judy Morales		Amanda Cervantes
Special Education & Intervention Coordinator	Isela Méndez		Maria G. Jaimes
Office Manager	Adriana Yáñez-Gutiérrez	Instructional Assistants	Anabel Aldana
Administrative Support	Angelita Sepúlveda		Evelia Melchor
Administrative Support	Sarah Blancas		Vacant/Vacante
ASEP Administrative Support	Pedro Aguilera	Plant Manager	Maxine López
Intervention Support	Graham Sobelman	Custodian	Pedro Blancas

Governing Board		Parent Council	
Parent Representative	Erika Ruíz	Kindergarten	Leila Pérez-Cervantes
Parent Representative	Fernando Aceves	First Grade	Erika Vázquez
Parent Representative	Vacant	Second Grade	Teresa Reyes
Teacher Representative	Adriana Gutiérrez	Third Grade	Liz Kennish
Teacher Representative	Antonio González	Fourth Grade	Nancy Ortíz
Staff Representative	Angelita Sepúlveda	Fifth Grade	Beth Olagues
Community Representative	Mary Ann Mellor	Sixth Grade	Alma Pérez
Community Representative	Gustavo González	Seventh Grade	Gina Chávez
Community Representative	Vacant	Eighth Grade	Luz Castro
		PC Treasurer	Hector Vázquez
		PC Secretary	Stacy Miller
		PC Vice-President	Tamara Faber
		PC President	Virginia Díaz

Faculty			
Transitional Kindergarten	Mayra Tejada	Fourth Grade	Graciela Castañeda
Kindergarten	Adriana Gutiérrez Ann Hubbell Dehisy Valencia		Miguel Pérez Cynthia Suárez/Mayra Tejada
First Grade	María de Luna Rosío Pérez Irene Rodríguez	Fifth Grade	Maria Anguiano Stephanie Dobkin Isela Martínez
Second Grade	Colleen Conant Rebecca Heredia Cristina Meza	Middle School (6-8)	Erica Frederiksen Antonio González Gemma Jáuregui Rosa Lomelí Pamela Phelps
Third Grade	Perla Campos Xana Macías Karina Vargas		Physical Education
Special Education	Dana Romo Ana González Jaclyn Moreno	Gabriela Garibay Claudia Corona Ariana Pantoja	Evelyn Sandoval Lorette Shea

ASES Staff			
ASES Admin Support	Pedro Aguilera	ASES Office Support	Delia Márquez
ASES Instructors	Mari Barrera Tina Favela	ASES Instructors	Franchesca Sonoyama Mayra Marquez Jennifer Ochoa

Table of Contents

About the Language Academy/Introduction.....	4
Overview of Two-Way Immersion Educational Program.....	5
Instructional Time.....	5
Academic Assessment.....	6
Accidents.....	6
Appointments.....	6
Arriving and Departing from School.....	7
Attendance and Absences.....	7
Awards and Recognition.....	8
Bicycles.....	8
Birthdays.....	8
Books and Supplies.....	8
Breakfast/Lunch/Snacks.....	8
Bus Rules.....	9
Cafeteria.....	10
Classroom Visitation.....	10
Climate for Learning.....	10
Closed Campus.....	10
Communications.....	10
Communicating Concerns or Suggestions.....	11
Communication at LAS: Description, Protocol, and Dialogue Examples.....	11
Destruction of School Property.....	12
Dress Code.....	13
Electronic Devices.....	13
Emergency Cards.....	14
Emergency Procedures.....	14
English Learners Advisory Council.....	14
Field Trips.....	14
Governing Board.....	14
Harassment of Any Type.....	14
Health/Medications.....	15
Health Services.....	15
Homework.....	15
Inclement Weather/Air Quality Procedures.....	15
Independent Study Contracts.....	15
Library.....	15
Life Skills.....	16
Lost and Found.....	16
Lunch & Breakfast Program.....	16
Messages and Deliveries.....	16
New Student Procedures.....	16
Open Enrollment.....	16
Parent Compact.....	17
Parent Council/Parent Association.....	17
Parent Drivers.....	17
Parking Areas.....	18
Personal Property.....	18
Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support: Rewards.....	18
Progress Reports.....	18
Progressive Discipline.....	18
Promotion/Retention Policy.....	20
Promotion/Retention for Middle School.....	20
Report Cards.....	20
Safety.....	21
School-Wide Behavior Plan/School Rules & Expectations.....	21

Sexual Harassment Policy.....	22
Special Education.....	22
Sports Policy.....	22
Student Council.....	22
Student Exposition.....	23
Student Insurance.....	23
Student Records.....	23
Student Success Team (SST)	23
Supervision.....	23
Technology Use Procedure.....	23
Telephone System.....	23
Telephone Use.....	23
Textbooks.....	24
Tobacco and Drug Free Zone.....	24
Website.....	24
Community Services.....	24
Parent and Student Handbook Form.....	25
Technology Agreement.....	26
Bullying Policy.....	29

About the Language Academy

School Mascot: Jaguar

School Colors: Green and Gold

Mission:

The LAS mission is to create a learning community where students:

- Utilize bilingual (Spanish and English) academic knowledge and skills in real-world situations and diverse settings. (BILITERACY)
- Develop and exhibit positive self-esteem, pride, confidence, and respect for themselves and others. (CONFIDENCE AND LIFE SKILLS)
- Demonstrate leadership skills in order to build bridges between communities and apply critical thinking skills to solve problems, promote social justice, and create change in society. (LEADERSHIP AND CRITICAL THINKING)

Vision:

Our vision is to provide an exceptional two-way Spanish immersion program for all students.

Student Declaration

We are prepared to learn.
 We are a diverse community.
 We are attaining high academic achievement
 in Spanish and English.
 We are proud to be bilingual.
 Together we will lead our multicultural world.

Introduction

Parents’ Rights and Responsibilities

This Handbook includes important information about laws related to public schools and your rights and responsibilities as a parent. This handbook also contains useful information to help parents guide their child’s education. As soon as you receive this LAS Handbook, please review the entire handbook with you child. Pay close attention to the following three important documents: 1) The Parent Compact, 2) Bullying Policy and 3) The Parent and Student Technology Use Agreement (located in the final pages of this handbook). **Upon reviewing with your child, complete these three forms (located in your back-to-school packet), and return them to your child’s teacher.**

Charter School Background

Charter schools are **nonsectarian public schools** of choice that operate with some flexibility in terms of the regulations that apply to traditional public schools. The school has a “charter” detailing the school’s mission, program, goals, students served, methods of assessment, and measurement of success. The basic concept of charter schools is that they exercise increased autonomy as it related to academic, governance, and fiscal structures. Our Charter school is accountable to our authorizing local education agency (LEA) Sacramento City Unified School District, Sacramento County Office of Education, California Department of Education, California State Controllers Office and the taxpayers who fund them. The length of time for which charters are granted in California is five (5) years. At the end of the term, the entity granting the charter may renew the school’s contract. LAS is proud to announce that it is entering its twelfth year and will be applying for renewal in fall of 2019.

General Professional Expectations

At the Language Academy of Sacramento (LAS), we regard the work that we do as being of the utmost importance. Therefore, we have high expectations for professionalism and performance for each one of our employees, students, parents, and the community at large. All employees, students, teachers, school administrators, volunteers and family members are to treat each other with respect and to approach all situations as opportunities to learn.

Overview of Two-Way Immersion Educational Program

• **High Academic Achievement in English and Spanish**

The Language Academy of Sacramento’s core educational program is based on a two-way Spanish immersion (TWSI) educational model. The academic goals of the TWSI program are for students to:

- Attain high academic achievement
- Meet or exceed grade-level benchmarks
- Speak, read and write fluently in English
- Speak, read and write fluently in Spanish

The Language Academy provides students with a curriculum based on the California Common Core State Content Standards. Mastery of state content standards and high academic proficiency in two languages is measured by state standardized assessments, curriculum-embedded assessments, and teacher-developed assessments. The Language Academy incorporates the federal provisions stipulated under the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) Act in its strategic plan for student success. In addition, the LAS mission is aligned with the state of California’s eight areas of priorities for effective schools.

Instructional Time

Transitional Kindergarten (M-F)	Kindergarten	Regular Day Schedule 1st Grade	Regular Day Schedule 2nd Grade
8:30-10:00 Instruction 10:00-10:15 Recess 10:15-12:05 Instruction 12:05 Lunch/ Dismissal	8:30-9:55 Instruction 9:55-10:10 Recess 10:10-11:15 Instruction 11:15-12:00 Lunch 12:00-2:00 Instruction 2:00 Dismissal	8:00 – 9:55 Instruction 9:55- 10:10 Recess 10:10 – 11:40 Instruction 11:40 – 12:25 Lunch 12:25– 2:30 Instruction 2:30 Dismissal	8:00 – 10:15 Instruction 10:15- 10:30 Recess 10:30 – 11:40 Instruction 11:40 – 12:25 Lunch 12:25– 2:30 Instruction 2:30 Dismissal
Regular Day Schedule 3rd Grade	Regular Day Schedule 4-5th Grade	Regular Day Schedule 6-8th Grade	<u>Shortened Days & Friday Schedule</u> Kindergarten
8:00 – 10:15 Instruction 10:15- 10:30 Recess 10:30 – 12:05 Instruction 12:05 – 12:50 Lunch	8:00 – 10:35 Instruction 10:35- 10:50 Recess 10:50 – 12:30 Instruction 12:30 – 1:15 Lunch	8:00 – 12:45 Instruction 12:45 – 1:35 Lunch 1:35 – 2:30 Instruction 2:30 Dismissal	8:30-9:55 Instruction 9:55-10:10 Recess 10:10-12:00 Instruction

12:50 – 2:30 2:30	Instruction Dismissal	1:15 – 2:30 2:30	Instruction Dismissal			12:00	Dismissal
<u>Shortened Days & Friday Schedule</u> 1 st Grade		<u>Shortened Days & Friday Schedule</u> 2 nd -3 rd Grade		<u>Shortened Days & Friday Schedule</u> 4-5 th Grade		<u>Shortened Days & Friday Schedule</u> 6-8 th Grade	
8:00-9:55	Instruction	8:00-10:15	Instruction	8:00-10:35	Instruction	8:00-12:30	Instruction
9:55-10:10	Recess	10:15-10:30	Recess	10:35-10:50	Recess	12:30	Dismissal
10:10-12:30	Instruction	10:30-12:30	Instruction	10:50-12:30	Instruction		
12:30	Dismissal	12:30	Dismissal	12:30	Dismissal		

Policy and Procedure

Academic Assessments

Student achievement is a top priority at the Language Academy. To monitor student learning, students are given classroom, school, and state assessments. These assessments are used to recommend student placement in various school programs and to plan for high academic achievement at the school. The following is a description of the different types of academic assessments that teachers administer during the academic year.

• **Classroom Assessments**

On a daily basis, teachers check for student understanding of grade level standards using classroom assessments. During each trimester/semester, teachers complete a series of assessments to report student progress on the standards-based report card. All teachers at a grade level use the same criteria to determine if a student meets the standards.

• **School Assessments**

Students are given reading diagnostic assessments at the beginning, middle and end of each school year. Students are also given periodic writing assessments. Teachers use information from these assessments to plan instruction and monitor student progress.

• **State Assessments**

During the fall, all students identified as English Language Learners (ELLs) via their Home Language Survey form and/or previous year’s CELDT score, take the California English Language Development Test (CELDT). Results of this state test serve as a progress indicator for each ELL student in their development in English language proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. CELDT scores are used for designing targeted English language development instruction as well as a redesignation criteria for ELL students to be identified as Reclassified Fluent English Proficient (RFEP) status.

Moreover, in the spring, all students in third through eighth grades participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). The CAASPP includes the following test components:

- Computer-based Smarter Balanced assessments (SBAC) for English Language Arts and Math for students in grades third through eighth.
- The California Standards Test (CST) in Science for grades fifth and eighth.
- The California Modified Assessment (CMA) in Science for qualifying students in fifth and eighth.
- The California Physical Fitness Test (PFT) for grades fifth and eighth.

The tests are administered over a period of three to four weeks in late April to May. Test results are mailed home by the end of the summer by the State of California. Please contact your child’s teacher if you have any questions about interpreting these test results. To help your child do well on this test, please ensure that your child gets plenty of sleep, has a healthy breakfast, and attends school daily.

Accidents

If a serious injury occurs on the school grounds, a parent/guardian will be notified immediately and the school will call 911, if necessary. Parents will be asked to pick up their child for observation or examination by a family physician. In the event that a parent/guardian cannot be reached, the student will be discharged to a person named on the emergency information card. **Parents are required to complete an emergency card for each child and return said form to the office within five (5) days of the first day of school. Information must be updated throughout the year, if necessary.**

Appointments

Please schedule appointments so that they do not interfere with instructional time. Dismissal requests will not be accepted via phone calls. If it is necessary for a student to leave the school grounds before the regular dismissal time, a parent/guardian is required come to the office to request early dismissal for a child. Only then will office personnel call the student from his/her classroom. **Picking up students from their classroom is strictly prohibited.** Teachers will not release students from the classroom. In addition, students will not be released to anyone other than their parent/guardian or person indicated on the emergency card.

If your child has a late arrival due to a medical/dental appointment, the student must check into the office and receive a pass to return to class.

Arriving and Departing from School

As a safety precaution, students are not be on the school campus prior to 7:40 am. Students eating breakfast will need to arrive by 7:40 a.m. Supervision is available in the cafeteria for students eating breakfast beginning at 7:40 a.m. Instruction begins at 8:00 a.m. (1st-8th) and 8:30 a.m. (Transitional Kinder & Kinder). Students who arrive at school after classes have begun are considered tardy and must get a late slip from the office before going to class.

At dismissal, teachers will walk students to the front of the school. Please have a back-up plan with your child if you are running late or are unable to pick him/her up after school. Students will not be allowed to call home after school to make arrangements. Parents should confirm after school arrangements **prior** to dropping his/her child off at school. **Messages regarding after school arrangements will only be relayed to your child in the event of an unforeseen emergency.**

- Children waiting to be picked up must remain in front of the school until parents/guardians arrive.
- **Children not picked up by 2:50 p.m. are to wait in the office** and will not be allowed to wander the school grounds. Parent/guardian/alternate must sign out the student with the office at the time of the late pick-up.
- If your child/ren will be picked up later than 20 minutes after school has been dismissed, you must call and inform the office staff. Habitual late picks will be reported to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB) and may be referred to the Child Protective Services (CPS).
- Students are not to go into the street to meet parents/guardians; students must be picked up from their teacher or signed out in the office, on campus.
- Students and under-age volunteers are **strictly prohibited** from leaving campus to purchase food items from vendors.
- Parents/guardians are to park their cars in the parking lot or on the street and escort their children to/from their car.
- Cars left unattended in the entrance or along the red pick-up and drop-off curb area of the school will be subject to parking tickets and/or getting towed by the City of Sacramento.

Attendance and Absences

Daily school attendance is critical for a student's academic success as well as for the Charter School's financial solvency. By law (Ed Code Section 48200-48208), parents are obligated to send their child to school daily. **Unless it is an emergency, parents are asked to schedule medical and non-medical appointments outside of school hours.**

When a student is absent, parents **are required to** provide a written note or contact the school office to verify the reason for the absence. School absences are monitored carefully throughout the year. If a student has **more than ten absences** in a year for illness, a physician must verify further absences for illness. **If attendance for a full day is not possible, we encourage students' attendance for at least half of the core school day. *Students must be present for at least 80% of their core day to be eligible for afterschool program participation.**

List of Excused Absences:

- Health reasons
- Attendance to funeral services for an immediate family member
- Appearance in court
- Observation of a religious holiday or ceremony

Parents of students with excessive tardies and/or three or more unexcused absences will be contacted by school administration and a truancy letter will be sent as required per Education Code 48200.

Tardiness

- Student must report to the office and obtain a late pass before going to class. **Parents may not obtain a pass on their child's behalf.**
- After the third unexcused tardy (late 30 minutes or more), parents will be subject to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB).
- Habitually tardy students will be referred to the SARB (School Attendance Review Board) committee and may be referred to the School's Governing Board, Child Services and Sacramento Sheriff's Department.

Students who are tardy, dismissed early, absent, or on Independent Study are not eligible for attendance awards during that month/trimester.

Awards and Recognition

Monthly

- Jaguar of the month (1st -8th) – Students will be recognized for demonstrating Life Skills in their classrooms and school.
- Monthly Perfect Attendance (K-8th) – Students without any absences, tardies, early dismissals or independent study contracts will receive attendance certificates.

Annually

- Silver Honor Roll (6th-8th) – Students who demonstrate a GPA of 3.0-3.9 in 6th-8th grades will be recognized.
- Gold Honor Roll (6th-8th) – Students who demonstrate a GPA of 4.0 and above in 6th-8th grades will be recognized.
- Gold Ribbon Award (K-8th) – Students who have demonstrated improvement in the area of academics and/or behavior.
- Perfect Attendance Award (K-8th) – Students who did not have any absences, tardies, early dismissals, or independent study contracts for an entire school year will receive gift certificates

Bicycles

Students may use the bike rack to lock their bikes if necessary. LAS is not responsible for any stolen and/or damaged bikes that are left at the bike racks. Helmets must be worn at all times. Students not wearing a helmet will be reported to the office. The office may call parents, and the student may be dismissed with a warning. If the student is caught without a helmet again, School Leadership may confiscate the bike until a parent conference is established. Bike riding is not allowed on campus while classes are in session and/or children are present.

Birthdays

A child's birthday is a family celebration. Instructional time is **not** to be used to "celebrate" a child's birthday. If you would like to send a birthday treat for your child's class, **please make arrangements with her/his teacher prior to the date.** Treats containing peanut or nut byproducts or excessive sugar will not be allowed in the classroom. Please check with your teacher prior to purchasing snacks for the classroom. ***Calls to the office on the day of the event will not be accepted.*** Children will be provided the treat during a non-instructional time (recess, lunch, dismissal). Balloons, presents etc. should be presented to the child at home. Please refrain from distributing birthday or party invitations at school unless the entire class is invited.

Books and Supplies

Students will be provided with required textbooks. Each child is responsible for providing proper care for these materials. In the case of a lost or damaged text or library books, the parent/guardian will be responsible for fines and/or replacement costs. In addition, school records or report cards will be held in the office until fines are paid.

Recommended instructional supplies that parents can donate:

- Lined binder paper
- Boxes of crayola crayons
- #2 Pencils
- Dry erase markers
- Kleenex/tissue paper
- Reams of green copy paper (school newsletter)
- Yellow, green and pink highlighters
- Glue sticks
- 3" x 3" Post it notes
- Reams of white and/or colored copy paper
- Uniforms your children have outgrown

Breakfast/Lunch/Snacks

Students eating breakfast must be on time and will be directed to the cafeteria. Breakfast for LAS students is served between **7:40-8:00 a.m.** for Grades 1-8 and **7:40-8:10 a.m.** for Grades TK-Kindergarten.

Students may bring **healthy/nutritional snacks** to school to eat during their recess time. LAS highly discourages sending your child a sugary or excessively sweet snacks/drink. Students may only eat their snacks in the designated areas and/or at school benches and are responsible for throwing away their garbage.

Bus Rules

Students who ride to and from school or to attend field trips as a way to enrich their curriculum are required to behave in a respectful and courteous manner. The following bus rules have been developed to ensure safe bus transportation. These rules are to be followed whenever a student rides on a bus. Parents are asked to review bus rules with their child and encourage them to act safely by following the bus rules. Students who do not follow the established bus rules will be given a warning. If behavior is not rectified, the student may lose his/her privilege to ride the bus.

Adults interested in being chaperones on field trips must attend a mandatory chaperone orientation meeting at the start of the school year. Chaperones attending the study trips are expected to assist with supervision. Therefore, chaperones are required to be 18 years of age or older. Chaperones may not bring other adults or children on the bus.

Prior to riding the bus to and from school

- **Parents** must attend a mandatory orientation complete a LAS Bus Transportation Release Form. Signed forms should be submitted to the office.
- Students may not ride the bus unless they have received confirmation of bus approval from the Office Manager.

Waiting for the School Bus

- **Parents:** DO NOT PARK in the bus parking space. This delays loading and creates an unsafe environment for students.
- Be on time. The bus will not wait or stop if you are late.
- Walk to the bus stop using a sidewalk if there is one. If there is no sidewalk, stay on the left side of the street facing the traffic.
- While waiting for the school bus to arrive at the bus stop, do not wander down the street, into a wooded area or onto private property.
- Do not speak to strangers while waiting for the bus.
- Do not go into the street while waiting for the bus to arrive.
- Do not roughhouse, run or play with your friends while waiting for the bus to arrive.
- When the bus approaches, line up away from the street. Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop and has the door open before stepping into the road.

Rules for Boarding the School Bus

- Hold the hand rail when getting into the school bus.
- Do not push or shove others when they are in line or are boarding the bus.
- Once you are on the bus, quickly find a seat, sit down and stay seated.

Riding on the School Bus

- Stay in your seat.
- If the bus is equipped with a seat belt, make sure to fasten it securely.
- Never put your head, hands or arms out of the school bus window.
- Do not yell or make other loud noises that could distract the bus driver. Talk quietly while on the bus.
- Do not eat or drink anything while riding on the bus.
- Do not block the bus aisle with backpacks, books or musical instruments. If an emergency should arise it is important that the aisle is clear.
- Do not touch or play with the emergency exits.
- Do not throw things at others on the bus or out of the bus windows.
- When you reach the school, or your bus stop on the return trip home, have your things ready so you can leave without holding up others on the bus
- **No bullying, teasing or disrespectful behavior will be tolerated on the bus. Such behavior is subject to school discipline policies and may result in a loss of bus privileges.**

Getting Off the School Bus

- Stay in your seat until the bus comes to a complete stop at the school or at your bus stop on the trip home.
- Walk to the front of the bus and use the hand rail while stepping off of the bus.
- Do not get off the bus at a bus stop other than your designated stop.

- Once you get off of the school bus, go straight home. Do not talk to strangers on the way.
- If you leave something on the bus and have already walked away from the door, do not go back for it. The bus driver may not see you coming back and may start driving away.

Crossing the Street

- If you have to cross the street after exiting the bus, always cross in front of it. Make sure the bus driver is able to see you. Walk along the side of the road at least 10 feet in front of the bus until you can see the bus driver, before crossing the street. If you cannot see the bus driver, the driver is not able to see you.
- Wait for the bus driver to give you a signal that it is safe to cross the street. Even with the signal from the bus driver pay attention to the traffic in the road. Make sure to look in both directions before walking across the street.
- If you drop something in the street do not go back to get it. The bus driver will not be able to see you if you are close to the front of the bus.
- Do not cross the street behind the school bus. The bus driver cannot see you.
- Never go near the back wheels of a school bus.

Cafeteria

Due to state and federal regulations, **under no circumstances may students take cafeteria food or drinks from the cafeteria to the playground.** As a health and safety precaution, we ask that students do not share food. Students may bring their lunches if they choose, but canned sodas, energy drinks, coffee and/or excessive sweets are strictly prohibited. LAS staff encourage healthy nutrition habits at our school.

Classroom Visitation

Parents/guardians and interested members of the community are encouraged to visit the school and observe the educational program. **ALL visitors must go directly to the school office to register (Penal code 627.6) and receive a visitor's badge before going onto any part of the campus. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.** If a conference with the teacher is desired, an appointment should be set with the teacher during non-instructional time. *Parent/guardians and visitors who are interested in long-term volunteer work in the classroom need to fill out a volunteer application in the front office, attend a mandatory volunteer orientation and turn in the necessary paperwork before receiving permission to volunteer on campus.*

Climate for Learning

The school staff is committed to providing a safe, orderly and caring learning environment where students feel comfortable, share responsibility for maintaining a positive school climate, and take pride in their school and their achievements. As a school, we encourage attitudes and behaviors that promote mutual respect and harmonious relations. One of the ways in which the school promotes conflict resolution is by providing students with opportunities to voice their opinions about school policies and practices. Please help us maintain this climate by reporting any behavior that disrupts our school climate.

Closed Campus

To ensure student safety and supervision, the Language Academy is a closed campus. Once a student arrives on the school grounds, she/he must remain on campus until the end of the school day unless she/he leaves with a parent/guardian or authorized designee. If a student leaves school grounds without this permission, the student is considered truant and is subject to disciplinary action. **{Education Code 44808.5}**

Student and under-age volunteers are strictly prohibited from leaving campus. If a student/underage volunteer violates the closed campus rule, he/she may lose their volunteer privilege with LAS.

Communications-School-wide Announcements/Updates/Deadline Reminders

Language Academy staff and teachers use a variety of media outlets to disseminate information, including but not limited to:

- **Monthly Newsletter** (paper copy) is sent home with eldest sibling at the beginning of every month. The newsletter contains current school-wide news including important dates, upcoming events, lunch menus, handouts. The newsletter is also uploaded on to the LAS website.
- **Classroom announcements** (paper copy) are sent home with students. The announcements will contain information specific to grade level or classroom events, deadlines or fundraisers.
- **Automated phone calls** are sent to the primary phone number provided in the emergency cards. Reminder phone calls are typically regarding absences, upcoming events or deadlines.

- **Emails** are sent to the primary emails listed on the emergency cards. Emails contain information regarding important updates and electronic copies of the newsletter.
- **Website** (www.lasac.info) contains school news, links to staff, Governing Board, school calendars, grade level and program information pages, extracurricular activity information, state testing, etc.
- **Facebook** is a closed page and you must request permission from the LAS administrator. Page contains current event updates/reminders and pictures of school events.
- **Marquee** contains a clock and important date reminders.
- **School Bulletins** are placed on the walls by the main entrance and throughout the core building corridors. It here that you can find event flyers, Governing Board agendas, spirit day announcements, etc.

Communicating Concerns or Suggestions

Effective and open communication is a basic component of establishing an environment where stakeholders trust each other and work together toward achieving the academic and life-learning goals stated in the school’s mission. At the Language Academy of Sacramento (LAS), we believe that a clearly delineated process of communication is important, not just in terms of providing a solid procedure that supports the policies of the school, but also in the overall establishment of the school’s culture as evidenced in the nature of its stakeholders’ discourse or what we will call *Language of Communication*.

**Language of Communication at LAS:
Description, Protocol, and Dialogue Examples**

A. Description

At LAS, the *Language of Communication* in addressing concerns, questions, and ideas between stakeholders follows the same premise and dialogue format in all cases, whether the issue at hand is being conducted in an informal or formal setting and/or procedure. The basic premise is that individuals in the dialogue come from unique perspectives and have the right to express themselves. The *Language of Communication*, the means with which they express themselves, will follow the usage of “I” Statements and Listening for Understanding discourse methods.

B. Protocol

Steps to Take Before Addressing a Concern:

Steps	Dialogue
1. Reflect and breathe. (Take 3 deep breaths.) Oxygen provides the energy in our brain to help us process things more clearly.	How do I feel right now? What do I need? How would I want to resolve this?
2. Mediator Is this something you can solve on your own, or do you need a mediator? (Sometimes having a mediator may appear intimidating to the other person; be thoughtful and considerate about the use of mediators.)	Would you be okay if we have (mediator’s name) help us resolve this conflict?
3. Make a request to dialogue.	Would you be willing to talk about what just happened? If the other person is not ready to talk just yet, ask for another time.
4. Remember non-verbal communication, “body language,” speaks louder than words.	Use eye contact and be aware of how your arms and body are relative to the person whom you are addressing.
5. Remember the rules of Listening for Understanding.	“I will listen attentively.” “I won’t interrupt.”

C. Resolving the Conflict

Steps	Dialogue
1. Share feelings using “I” statements.	“I felt sad when you...” “I felt very frustrated when...”
2. Listen for understanding (paraphrase).	“I heard you say that you felt sad when...”
3. Acknowledge the other person’s feelings. (Apologize, if appropriate.)	“I am sorry that you felt sad when...” “I understand how that may have hurt your feelings...”
4. Make a request; arrive at an understanding.	“Would you be willing to ...?”
5. Express gratitude.	“Thank you for taking the time to talk about...” “I appreciate you for listening...” Shake hands and make eye contact.

D. Ways to Communicate with School Personnel

With Teachers:

1. Call the school, and leave a message for the teacher.
2. Make an appointment to see the teacher.
3. Write a note
4. Send an email

With Administrator:

1. Call the school: leave a message if necessary.
2. Make an appointment.
3. Write a note requesting a meeting or phone call.
4. Send an email

E. Expressing Concerns

If you have a concern regarding the performance of a school employee, please speak with School Administration and they will take steps to address the situation. If the outcome is not to your satisfaction, you may submit a Formal Grievance Complaint (see below.)

F. Formal Grievance/Complaint Procedures

In the event of a dispute involving a family or student, submit a complaint following the procedures outlined below.

PARENTS AND ADULTS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED FROM CONFRONTING STUDENTS DIRECTLY. Direct questions or concerns to teachers and/or school administration when deemed necessary

Grievance Filing Process

1. Parent or student may submit his/her grievance in writing to the School Administration within five working days of a failed good faith effort to resolve the dispute.
2. Within a reasonable amount of time after receipt of the written complaint, the School Administration shall schedule a meeting at a mutually convenient time and place for discussion of the complaint with all parties involved.
3. School Administration (and if necessary, an administrative assistant or designee) will conduct further investigation of the matter at hand, write the findings and the final determination report, and share the write-up with all the parties involved.
4. Within five days after receiving the final determination report, the parent, teacher, and/or student may submit an appeal to the President of the Governing Board. The LAS Governing Board may review and modify the School Administration’s final determination report, if it finds that the School Administration failed to properly follow the grievance process described above. The President or board designee shall schedule a meeting to consider such an appeal as soon as practical. Any such proceedings shall be conducted in closed sessions, unless requested otherwise by the parent, teacher, and/or student.

Destruction of School Property

Whenever school property, equipment, or learning materials are damaged, destroyed, or defaced and there is evidence of gross carelessness, violation of school rules, or damage is intentional, the student will be held responsible through detention, suspension and/or other prescribed consequences, **The parent will be held responsible for monetary damages due to loss of materials, property or fees incurred by their child’s actions.** Parents will be contacted immediately regarding the extent of the damage. Where damage occurs and evidence shows that it was done accidentally and unintentionally, no attempt shall be

made to collect for the damage. Whenever possible, students will be expected to repair or otherwise correct any damage that is not considered permanent such as carving on furniture, writing on walls, etc.

Dress Code

The LAS Governing Board believes that the development of dress codes and grooming attitudes and behavior patterns is part of the educational experience. Therefore, dress, hairstyle, makeup, or jewelry which are distracting or interfere with the study habits of students in class or school, or pose a health or safety risk to the students, are not acceptable. Personal appearance standards for students are defined in the uniform dress code.

Students' attire must adhere to the following guidelines:

- It is the school's expectation that all students at LAS wear school uniforms from Monday to Thursday. The uniform consists of forest green (dark green) shirts or blouses and khaki pants, shorts, or skirts. Jeans are also acceptable. Each Friday, students are allowed to wear appropriate free-dress. If a parent would not like their child to wear a school uniform, he/she must fill out and submit a "School Uniform Exemption Form" to the Academic Director.
- Recreational attire shall not be worn in classrooms or at school events. Examples of unacceptable recreational attire are swimming shorts, short shorts or cut-offs, tank tops, halter tops, mesh or see-through sheer tops, bare midriff or bareback tops, crop tops, inappropriate printed tee-shirts and half-shirts. Pants will be worn at or above the student's waist. In addition, no undergarments are to be visible.
- Inappropriate buttons, pins, jewelry or other apparel will be confiscated and returned to the student's parents or guardians. Items are considered inappropriate if they contain or promote profanity, sexual conduct, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, gangs, or violence.
- Shoes must be worn at all times. Flip flops, strapless shoes, as well as high and platform heels are not to be worn for regular school activities.
- Sun protective head coverings may be worn outdoors. A sun protective head covering is defined as a hat with a two to three inch 360-degree brim or a shade cap with a front bill and material that covers exposed head and neck areas. In inclement weather, students may wear jacket hoods. Exceptions to the hat rule may be made for medical or religious reasons. Hats, caps or head coverings must not show any non-school group identification logo. Jacket hoods and winter hats (not caps) may be worn during cold weather while outdoors.
- Students are prohibited from wearing any gang affiliated clothing or items. Examples of such prohibited items include, but are not limited to, certain handkerchiefs, hanging suspenders, belts, shoestrings, earrings, jackets, or devices associated with group intimidation, gangs, and/or gang colors. Gang attire is any clothing, accessory, or manner of grooming which may be an indicator of gang involvement.
- Students in grades Transitional Kindergarten-8th will participate in Physical Education classes and will be expected to dress appropriately for their grade level.
- Special dress days will be announced by school personnel. The dress code may vary on these days and will be announced ahead of time.

Students wearing inappropriate attire or footwear will be sent to the office during their recess and will be asked to call their parent or guardian. Students will be given the opportunity to change into appropriate clothing, if available at the site, or request the parent to bring a change of clothing or footwear. Please help our school by donating any uniforms your children have outgrown. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please call the school office.

Electronic Devices

Students are not allowed to use any personal electronic devices while on campus, including but not limited to cellular/digital telephones, iPods, iPads, cameras, and laptop computers. If any student is in the possession of such devices, these electronic devices should remain off during the entire time the student is on campus. If a student uses an electronic device while on

campus, LAS staff will remove the device from his/her possession and the parent/guardian will need to personally pick up the electronic device at a designated time.

Emergency Cards

Each year, parents are **required** to complete an emergency card for each of their children enrolled at LAS. **Yellow emergency cards are sent home during the first week of school and must be returned immediately.** Parents are also required to inform the office of any changes to their child's emergency card especially those related to phone numbers and emergency contact changes.

Emergency Procedures

Students and staff practice emergency procedures such as fire drills and classroom evacuations at least once every month during the school year and are familiar with how to respond in an emergency situation. Information on possible school closures due to inclement weather or other situations will be announced on Radio Station KFBK 1530 AM and KCRA Channel 3. A notice may also be posted in front of the school.

In the event of an emergency, if a student's parent cannot be contacted and/or the parent is unable to pick up her/his child, the school will maintain responsibility for the child until the parent or an authorized individual arrives. The safety of individual students is our highest priority. Students will not be excused except to the care of a parent or another adult designated on the emergency card.

If evacuation of the school is necessary, students will be transported to a predetermined location where their parent or another designated adult can pick them up. Information on this location will be posted near the school. The school will not be evacuated unless necessary.

English Learners Advisory Council

The Language Academy of Sacramento annually convenes the English Learners Advisory Committee (ELAC). The ELAC serves as the advisory body to the LAS Governing Board on the development of English Learners' curriculum, progress, training of teachers and attendance policies. The school works with the parents of English Learners and English speaking students to develop and adopt policies and strategies. ELAC representatives meet during the regularly scheduled Monthly Parent Association meetings.

Field Trips

Throughout the year, students may occasionally go on field study trips. Field study trips are intended to provide an "applicability to real world" experience. Parent/guardian permission slips must be signed and returned to school personnel prior to the trip. All standard rules of conduct and procedures used in the daily transportation of pupils will be observed and enforced on field trips. ***All interested adults must attend the mandatory chaperone orientation, which is held at the start of the school year.*** Teachers will develop a method to select parent/guardian chaperones. **Chaperones must be 18 years or older and may not bring siblings or any non-LAS students on field study trips.** Adult chaperones are expected to supervise students as directed by the teacher. The use of the school uniform will be enforced unless stated otherwise by the classroom teacher or school administration.

Governing Board

The Governing Board is responsible for adopting a school-wide vision, aligned school policies and procedures, and the yearly budget. The Board is composed of ten voting members elected by their peers: community members, parent representatives, teacher/staff representatives and one SCUSD representative. The combination of teacher, parent, and community membership ensures that the voice of each group of stakeholders is taken into consideration. The Governing Board meets monthly at LAS; Board agendas are posted at the school office and hard copies are available upon request at the school. Parents and community members are encouraged to attend Board meetings. Information on how to give input at Board meetings is available at all Board meetings.

Harassment of Any Type *(The Bullying Policy Form requires a parent/guardian signature, please see page 29)*

LAS will not tolerate any harassment and/or bullying of any type. LAS is considered a Zero Tolerance campus. Harassment or bullying is defined as follows:

Harassment or bullying is any gesture or written, verbal, graphic, physical or electronic act (i.e. including, but not limited to, internet, cell or smart phone, or wireless hand held device) that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race; color; religion; ancestry; national origin; socioeconomic status; academic status; mental, physical, development or sensory disability or impairment; creed; political belief; age; linguistic or language differences; height; weight; marital status; parental status; or by any other distinguishing characteristic; or because of an

association with a person who has or is perceived to have one or more of these characteristics. Such behavior is considered harassment or bullying whether it takes place on or off school property, at any school-sponsored function, in a school vehicle, or by students, family members or staff.

Students must conduct themselves in a respectful manner in keeping with their levels of development, maturity, and demonstrated capabilities with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, school staff, volunteers, and contractors.

Health/Medications

The school recognizes that students may have special medical needs. Education Code 49407 outlines conditions for administering medications at school during the time the student is under the supervision of school personnel. **Medications can only be given by LAS staff if there are written instructions from a medical doctor and permission from the parent/guardian.** Written instruction and permission must be renewed at the start of each school year. Medication must be labeled and in the original pharmacy container. Specific guidelines must be followed for students to use medication at school. Students should not bring or carry medication of any kind to school (including cough drops).

Health Services

The school will verify that students have complied with legal requirements for health examinations and immunizations **before** enrolling a student in school. If the student is missing any required immunizations, the student will not be permitted to attend school until complying with the state requirements.

Homework

Homework should be an extension or practice of what is learned in school. Students are expected to complete and return homework as indicated by their teacher. Homework will be designed so that students can complete it independently; however parents can serve as a resource to their child. Students who miss school because of an excused absence will be given the opportunity to complete comparable homework assignments and get full credit if work is completed satisfactorily and within a reasonable amount of time. Students who miss schoolwork because of unexcused absences may be given the opportunity to complete comparable homework assignments for either partial or full credit.

Inclement Weather/Air Quality Procedures

The school believes in providing a safe and appropriate environment for all students and staff. In keeping with this belief, LAS has developed guidelines to comply with the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) regulations regarding hazardous ozone episodes and temperature alerts.

Appropriate actions will be taken when the temperature exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit **and** the ozone exceeds 100 PSI for that day, or during extreme wind or rain. When a temperature alert episode is received from SMAQMD, all vigorous outdoor physical activities will be curtailed in the afternoon hours. Students and staff will be notified about the temperature alert and ozone episode so steps can be taken to ensure their safety.

Independent Study Contracts

The criteria for approval for most independent study requests include: Student is at grade level or above; there is an acceptable reason for requesting the independent study and there is evidence that the student will complete assignments. This program requires a contract signed by the parent, student, teacher and administrator. The contract specifies the amount of work to be completed, when the work will be turned in to the assigned teacher, and how the work will be evaluated. An independent study contract must be **requested a minimum of two weeks prior** to a planned absence so that teachers can prepare materials for the student. The contract must be completed, signed and dated **BEFORE** the student leaves on Independent Study. Independent Study Contract Request forms are available through your child's teacher. Students who do not return at the designated date of return or do not complete their required assignments will have all independent study days convert to unexcused absences and will be referred to the Student Attendance Review Board (SARB).

Library

Students are scheduled to visit the school library on a regular basis. Students are accountable for all books that they borrow from the school or library. At the end of each trimester, parents/guardians will be charged for the full replacement value of each lost book. In addition, students will not be able to check out books until library fines have been paid in full. Report cards will be held until books have been returned to the school or the fee to replace the book has been paid in full.

Life Skills

The Life Skills is a school-wide program designed to help students be more successful in school and life. LAS requests families to support student practice of the following life skills beyond the school grounds such as at home and during after-school activities:

Caring	Common Sense	Cooperation	Sense of Humor	Pride
Courage	Curiosity	Effort	Responsibility	Perseverance
Flexibility	Friendship	Initiative	Resourcefulness	
Integrity	Organization	Patience	Problem Solving	

Lost and Found

Many articles become lost or are left unclaimed. When personal belongings have a first and last name written on them, it makes it easier for school staff to locate the owner(s). Any unclaimed items are stored on a cart outside during recess for students to reclaim; nevertheless, there are frequently many unclaimed items of clothing and not enough space to store them.

Unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity at the end of each month.

Lunch & Breakfast Program

Application forms for free or reduced price lunches are available at the school office. Eligibility is based on federal guidelines. Students may be eligible for free or reduced meals, depending on their family's annual income. Students may bring a lunch to school and eat it in the cafeteria as well. **Please keep in mind that students will be charged for their meals at the beginning of the school year until the student's application has processed.**

Messages and Deliveries

Please have students assume responsibility for remembering lunches, school items, and homework. Plans for pick-up arrangements after school should be made in advance as students will not be allowed to use the school phone unless it's an emergency. **The office will NOT deliver a message to a student except in cases of an actual emergency. The office will not deliver bags or homework to students who have forgotten these at home.** Students are responsible for bringing all necessary materials with them to school.

Phone calls for teachers will NOT be transferred into their classroom during instructional time. Instead, the call will be transferred to the teacher's voicemail.

New Student Procedures

To help with the successful transition of students entering LAS after the beginning of the school year, the staff has developed the following procedures:

- Families will have an orientation that will include information on the LAS dual immersion program, charter information, and school rules and procedures.
- Families will receive a Student/Parent Handbook. They will be requested to sign and return the Student/Parent Compact page, the Bullying Policy Form and the Technology Agreement.
- Students will start school when an emergency card is completed and all required documents and vaccination records are on file in the office.
- The student will be escorted to class on the first day by office staff.
- The student will be assigned a peer/buddy who will show him/her playground rules and lunch procedures. The buddy will assist during the day in his/her transition into the school community.
- The classroom teacher will begin to administer school assessments the first week of school.
- The classroom teacher will contact the parent/guardian by phone within two weeks of school to schedule a conference to review assessment results.

Open Enrollment

The Language Academy hosts an annual Open Enrollment period from January to March for all interested families. Interested parent/guardians must call the main office to sign up for an enrollment information session and turn in an interest form application. LAS parents interested in enrolling the sibling of a current student must also follow the Open Enrollment procedures. *Siblings will not be automatically added to the enrollment lottery.* All qualifying applications will be entered into the annual public lottery held in April. Applications will not be accepted after the Open Enrollment period. Any interested families who contact LAS after the Open Enrollment period will be added a list of interested families and will be given the opportunity to take part in the following year's enrollment process.

Parent Compact

<p>Program Continuity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain my child in the program for the duration of the program. 	<p>Parent Association</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend monthly Parent Association meetings.
<p>Learning Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a quiet area with school supplies for my child to complete homework. • Review that homework is complete. • Limit the amount of television that my child watches. • Establish a set bedtime with a regular routine so that my child can rest and be ready to learn the next day. • Read to my child, or have my child read: 20 min. daily - K – 2nd 30 min. daily - 3rd – 8th • Talk with my child’s teacher about my child’s progress and challenges. • Attend Parent Conferences and school events. • Communicate high expectations for my child’s future. • Support the learning in school by routinely asking about what my child has learned. • Encourage my child by telling them how proud I am of their accomplishments. • Encourage my child to practice Life Skills in all venues. 	<p>Parent Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer a minimum of twenty hours per school year per family <p>Suggestions to fulfill volunteer commitment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer in the classroom or garden • Offer to prepare class materials at home • Attend or serve on the Governing Board • Serve on the Parent Council • Read and provide feedback on LAS Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) <p>Sign up to help plan and work a school event such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back to School Night • Winter Festival • Family Reading/Book Fair Night • Health Fair • Student Expo • Career Day • Day of the Child • Annual Carnival • Donate food or materials for an event • Assist a class in the After School Program: Academic or Enrichment

Parent Council/Parent Association

The Parent Council is the organization responsible for involving parents in the activities of the school for the purpose of strengthening the LAS community. The Parent Council consists of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and a classroom representative that is elected by Language Academy parents. A language balance is sought within the Parent Council. All parents are encouraged to attend Parent Council meetings.

All parents of LAS students are members of the Parent Association. The sole purpose of the Parent Association is to support the mission of the Language Academy of Sacramento. Parent Association events will be held monthly, and will be planned and led by School Leadership and the Parent Council, which is composed of parent leaders elected by the Parent Association. The Parent Council will generate topics of interest from parents for these meetings. Parent Association events will be attended by the School Administration, teachers, parents, and students. These events will provide an opportunity for parents to communicate with their children’s teachers and to get to know their children’s peers and other parents.

Academic and artistic events will be developed and organized by the administrators, the teachers, the Parent Council, and other volunteers. These groups will meet at the end of the academic year to decide what type of and how many academic events will take place in the subsequent year. Examples of academic events include: Family Reading Night, Spelling Bee, Science Fair, or Social Science Exhibits. Art events may include plays, talent shows, student choir concerts, dance recitals, and classroom performance nights.

Parent Drivers

All parents willing to voluntarily transport LAS students are greatly appreciated. In order to become an approved driver, parents must provide a copy of their valid driver’s license and insurance coverage prior to driving students. The insurance coverage provided must cover the vehicle that will be driven on that given day. If you would like to volunteer as a driver, please provide a copy of these documents to the office to verify eligibility. In addition, to ensure the safety of students, parents must be fingerprinted. When all documents and fingerprint results have been approved, parents will be added to the LAS approved driver list. This process is applicable for all school sponsored events.

If a parent cannot provide that information, he/she will not be allowed to transport students to/from any school-related event.

Parking Areas

Parents, volunteers and visitors are asked to follow the LAS staff guidance in parking lot procedures and park only in the front parking area. **The rear parking lot is reserved for staff only. Students are not to be dropped off in this area.**

There is one main entrance to the parking lot in the center area. All cars should enter thru that entrance and find a parking space or enter the coned drop-off zone. **In the drop-off zone, parents must pull forward to the front of the lane and drop off students that are ready to exit the vehicle. If a student is not prepared at that moment, parent/guardians must exit and re-enter the parking lot until the student is prepared to exit the vehicle.** Students must use the crosswalk area and cross the zone accompanied by a LAS staff member. LAS has partnered with Sacramento City parking enforcement that regularly patrols the LAS parking lot and will give parking tickets to any vehicle violating the California Vehicle Code.

Personal Property

Students are to keep valuable, sentimental, and expensive at home unless specifically approved by parent or guardian to be at school. Dangerous or illegal articles are strictly prohibited on campus. iPods, cell phones and electronic items may not be used during school hours. All toys and personal items, including playground equipment such as basketballs, footballs, soccer balls, etc., should be left at home. These items will be confiscated from students and returned only to the parent/guardian. The school is not responsible for loss or damage to any of these articles, including iPod, cellphones, and/or electronic devices that students may store in their backpacks during the school day. If a child is uncertain whether or not an item may be brought to school, he/she should check with the school office. The list below includes, but is not limited to, items that may **not** be brought to school.

The following are examples of items that are **not allowed** at the School:

weapons/replicas	pocket knives	drugs	drug paraphernalia	cigarettes (including electronic cigarettes)
aerosol cans	iPads/tablets	electronic games	cameras	matches/lighters
chile/cinnamon powder	energy drinks	gum	toy guns	skateboards
roller skates/blades/ skate shoes	kendamas/yo-yos	trading cards	personal toys	water/air balloons
fireworks	walkie talkies	Personal sports equipment (balls, etc.)		

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support: Rewards

“Jaguar tickets” will be awarded on a regular basis to students who follow the three school rules and model exemplar behavior in the various school environments. Tickets will be used to raffle prizes during the monthly recognition assemblies.

Progress Reports

Every student will receive a progress report during the year; students in grade Transitional Kinder-5th will receive three per year and students in grades 6-8th will receive four per year. This is another way in which our school maintains communication with our parents/guardians. The report will inform you if your child is working at or below grade level. If the progress report indicates that your child **is not** meeting standards, a conference with the teacher is recommended.

Progressive Discipline

The LAS staff is responsible for providing students with reasonable, logical and related consequences to ensure a positive classroom climate. Every teacher will discuss classroom procedures during Back to School Night. Referrals may be used to communicate and document infractions and consequences. Referrals (verbal or written) will be shared between the student, parent, teacher, and Administration. Students are required to report referrals to parents. Parents must sign and return the referral to school the following day. The following list of classroom consequences is meant to serve as a guideline.

1. Verbal Warning
Students will receive a verbal warning when they display inappropriate behavior.
2. Time Out in the Classroom
Students will receive time out in a designated area in the classroom when they are demonstrating disruptive or off-task behavior.

3. Time Out in Another Classroom

Students will spend time out in another classroom when a verbal warning or classroom time out has not changed the misbehavior. The purpose of time out is to give the student time to think about his/her behavior and to think about ways to improve before returning to class.

4. Loss of Recess

Time out during recess is another possible consequence when students fail to follow playground and/or classroom rules. Students restricted from recess may be sent to the office and/or stay with the teacher in the classroom for time out. A phone call and/or referral may be issued and sent home for parents to sign when a student has loss of recess more than three consecutive times.

5. After School Detention

Students may be assigned to detention after school for failure to follow school or classroom rules. Parents will be notified of after school detention by phone and students may serve detention the same day of the infraction. Teachers may assign a 15-minute detention after school without parent notification.

6. In-House Suspension

Students who commit more serious or frequent infractions may be assigned to another classroom for the day. Parents will be called to pick up students who are disruptive and/or to inform them of the student's infraction. When students are assigned In-House Suspension, they may attend a different lunchtime or recess time. Students assigned to In-House Suspension are expected to sit and work quietly in the designated classroom. Parents must sign and return a referral the following day.

7. Suspensions/Expulsions

Suspensions are consequences for serious or persistent behaviors. At the time of the suspension, the school administration will contact the student's parent/guardian regarding the suspension and notify the parent/guardian of the suspension in writing. The school will request to meet with the parent/guardian about the suspension. Under state law (Education Code 48914), the parent is then obligated to meet with school staff without delay. A conference will be held to clarify the reason for the disciplinary action and to verify the events or evidence. Parents must keep their child at home for the duration of the suspension. Teachers are not required to supply schoolwork for suspended students.

A student will not be suspended from school for more than five days unless the student is recommended for an expulsion. If the student is recommended for expulsion, the matter will be referred to the LAS Board, and the Board will hold a closed hearing to avoid violating the student's right to privacy (Education Code 49073-49079).

Note: Consideration must be given to the severity of the behavior. It may be necessary to assign suspension for a first offense.

Education Code 48900 Subsections – Grounds for Suspension or Expulsion. **During the period of suspension the student is not to be on school campus or attend any day or evening school-related activities or may be subject to arrest (PC 626.2).**

The following are offenses with grounds for suspension with the possibility of school transfer or expulsion from the School.

- a. Caused, attempted to cause or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.
- b. Possessed, sold or otherwise furnished any firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object.
- c. Unlawfully possessed, used, sold or otherwise furnished or been under the influence of, any controlled substance, an alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind.
- d. Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance, an alcoholic beverage or an intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered or otherwise furnished to any person another controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant. This includes drug paraphernalia.
- e. Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
- f. Stolen or attempted to steal school property or private property.
- g. Possessed or used tobacco, any products containing tobacco or nicotine products.
- h. Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- i. Had unlawful possession of, or unlawfully offered, arranged or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia.

- j. Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators or other school official engaged in the performance of their duties.
- k. Sexual Harassment. Conduct considered sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon an individual's performance or created an intimidating, hostile, or offensive education environment.
- l. Harassment. Threats, intimidation. Intentional behavior severe enough to disrupt class work, create substantial disorder, and invading the rights of that pupil or group of pupils by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment.
- m. Hate violence. Willfully interfering with or threatening another person's personal property or property rights because of his or her race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, or sexual orientation. A verbal act (speech) is not sufficient unless the speech threatens violence against person or persons, and perpetrator has apparent ability to carry out the threat.
- n. Knowingly received stolen school property or private property.

Promotion/Retention Policy

Students' progress is determined from grade to grade by meeting the state's standards for promotion. If a student is at risk of retention due to academic achievement, the parent or guardian will be notified early in the school year and school staff will meet with the parent to develop and implement an intervention plan to help the student meet the standards for promotion. It is the school's intent to identify struggling students early in the school year so that interventions can be provided. Intervention opportunities will be provided for students who are at risk of retention. The school has a clear process and schedule for informing parents about their child's progress toward meeting promotion criteria. The intervention process includes written notices and multiple meetings between the parents and teacher(s). It is the school's intent to work collaboratively with parents/guardians to help a student gain the skills needed for promotion to the next grade level. Ultimately, state law (Education Code 48070.5) identifies that school professionals have the authority to retain a child except in some cases in Kindergarten.

Promotion/Retention- Middle School (8th grade)

Upon successful completion of 8th grade, students will participate in end of the year activities and a promotion ceremony. Successful is defined as students who:

- Achieve a minimum grade point average of 2.00 on the Final Progress Report and/or Final Report Card
- Do not to exceed two suspensions (including in-house suspensions) during the school year
- Receive a minimum of one F on the final report card

Report Cards

The primary purpose of grades and report cards is to clearly communicate a student's areas of strength and areas needing improvement based on the grade level standards. To provide students and parents with specific information on student achievement, students receive California Common Core standards-based report cards at the end of each trimester in grades TK-5, and at the end of each semester in grades 6-8. The goal is for students to meet or exceed each grade level standard by the end of the school year. Report cards represent only one facet of the communication process and may be used as a starting point for discussion at conferences.

Explanation of Grades and Correlation to Percentages (Transitional Kinder – 8th)

Proficiency Level	Number Mark (TK-4 th)	Percentage Range (all)	Letter Grade (5 th – 8 th)
Exceeds Grade Level Standards	5	90 – 100% +	A
Meets Grade Level Standards	4	80 – 89%	B
Adequate Progress Towards Grade Level Standards	3	70 – 79%	C
Below Grade Level Standards	2	60 – 69%	D
Far Below Grade Level Standards	1	59% and Below	F

Definition of Proficiency Levels/Marks/Grades

The following definitions should guide mark and grade reporting in grades TK-8. Emphasis should be placed on the **body of evidence** that should be gathered before each reporting period to substantiate the mark/grade assigned. **Note: All marks/grades can be assigned at any time of the year as long as the body of evidence supports the decision.**

Exceeds Grade Level Standards/5/A: The student consistently exceeds standards as demonstrated by a body of evidence that shows depth of understanding and flexible application of grade level concepts.

Meets Grade Level Standards/4/B: The student consistently meets standards as demonstrated by a body of evidence that shows independent understanding and application of grade-level concepts.

Adequate Progress toward Grade Level Standards/3/C: The student occasionally meets standards as demonstrated by a body of evidence that shows incomplete/inconsistent understanding and application of grade-level concepts.

Below Grade Level Standards/2/D: The student rarely meets standards as demonstrated by a body of evidence that shows minimal understanding and application of grade-level concepts.

Far Below Grade Level Standards/F/1: The student does not meet standards as demonstrated by a body of evidence that shows no understanding or application of grade-level concepts.

Transitional Kinder through 5th Grade Dates for Issuing Progress and Report Cards

	Trimester	No. of Days	Progress Reports Sent by	Report Cards Issued by
1	Aug 18 - Oct 30	52	Friday, October 2, 2015	Friday, November 6, 2015
2	Nov 2 - Feb 26	61	Friday, January 29, 2016	Friday, March 4, 2016
3	Feb 29 - June 10	68	Friday, May 13, 2016	Friday, June 10, 2016

6-8th Grade Dates for Issuing Progress and Report Cards

	Semester	No. of Days	1 st Progress Reports Sent by	2 nd Progress Reports Sent by	Report Cards Issued by
1	Aug 18 - Jan 29	95	Friday, October 2, 2015	Friday, December 4, 2015	Monday, February 1, 2016
2	Feb 1 - June 10	86	Friday, March 4, 2016	Friday, May 13, 2016	Friday, June 10, 2016

Safety

The safety of our students is our top priority. We have many procedures in place to keep students safe while they are at school. If you do not accompany your children, a few precautionary steps can help to increase your children’s safety while traveling to and from school grounds:

- Have your children walk to school with a friend or other parent.
- Design a school route with your children so you will know where they should be in case they are late getting home.
- Instruct your children not to talk to or accept a ride from strangers.
- Allow your child to accept a ride only from family or friends with whom your child is familiar and whom you trust and whom you’ve made prior arrangements with.
- Your child’s route should include a “Safe House” (an approved business or friend’s house) your children can go to in case of an emergency.
- Make certain that you ALWAYS know the location of your child(ren).

School-Wide Behavior Plan/School Rules & Expectations

1. Be respectful

- Treat others the way you want to be treated-with respect.
- Be kind and polite to other students, adults, and teachers.
- Show caring toward others.
- Be considerate of students’ right to learn.

2. Be responsible/Make good choices.

- Take responsibility for your own behavior.
- Arrive and leave school on time.
- Be prepared to learn.

- Wear your school uniform.
- Show care for all property.
- Follow directions.

3. Resolve Problems.

- Follow playground rules.
- Do your personal best.
- Be a good listener.
- Stay on task.
- Use your time wisely

Sexual Harassment Policy

Sexual harassment of or by any student or staff member at the Language Academy of Sacramento will not be tolerated. The LAS Governing Board considers sexual harassment to be a major offense that may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal or expulsion, of the offending student or staff member, or other appropriate sanction. Sexual harassment could include, but is not limited to: sexual flirtations; touching, advances, or propositions; verbal abuse of a sexual nature; graphic or suggestive comments about dress or body; sexually degrading words; and/or the display of sexually suggestive or offensive pictures. All complaints will be investigated promptly, objectively, and as confidentially as possible. Staff will clearly communicate to students that sexual harassment is prohibited and advise students to report any sexual harassment that they experience or observe. This policy is available in the school office.

Special Education

The Language Academy of Sacramento strives to provide an educational program to meet the needs of all school-aged children. The school provides special education services described in Education Code (56000-56001). A student shall be referred for special educational instruction only after the resources of the regular education program have been considered and/or modified. If a student is referred to special education, parents will receive a notification of rights and an explanation of proposed assessments. Following assessments, a report of findings will be written and an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) team will meet with the parent to develop program goals for that student if he/she qualifies for special education services. This plan and the student's progress will be reviewed with the parent/guardian at least annually.

Sports Policy

Athletic activities do not take precedence over academics but rather supplement academic study. Therefore, interscholastic sports must not conflict with or jeopardize the academic program of the charter school and/or the student. It is the expectation that each student wishing to participate in interscholastic sports complete the following academic requirement:

1. Students must not have any D's or F's or equivalent on their current semester/trimester report cards in order to participate.
2. Students are required to maintain or improve their grades throughout the sport season or run the risk of being dismissed from participation of the interscholastic sport.
3. Students must not have any serious disciplinary issues, including but not limited to, in-house or out-of-school suspensions.

Student Council

Student Council promotes initiative and leadership among its members. The Student Council includes four executive officers (President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary) that are elected from fifth, sixth, seventh & eighth grade classrooms at the end of each school year. Student Council members are to be exemplary members of the student body and must abide by all Student Council member expectations, including their student grade point average. All Executive Officers and Classroom Representatives must meet the following criteria to maintain active membership on LAS Student Council: a) Consistent school attendance -No more than ten absences per school year; b) Grade Point Average of 2.5 or a report card average of 3; and c) Excellent behavior record -No suspensions, expulsions or serious offenses. In addition, the entire Council includes representatives for each classroom from third through eighth grades. It is the duty of the representatives to bring to the council's attention items of business from their classmates and to report the actions of the council. Students are encouraged to become involved in Student Council. Specific responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Develop and maintain the budget for the student body.
- Coordinate student body fund-raising activities.
- Sponsor student activities.
- Sponsor and coordinate annual projects for school improvement.
- Sponsor positive incentive award programs that recognize and promote achievement, attendance, and excellent behavior.
- Provide responsible leadership that promotes our school as an academic facility where students' primary responsibility is learning.

- Organize and coordinate community service projects.

Student Exposition/Back to School Night

The Student Exposition will be held annually in the spring, and it is an opportunity for students to exhibit their projects, schoolwork, and classrooms accomplishments. Every parent is invited and encouraged to attend. Students will facilitate the tour.

Student Insurance

The School does not provide student insurance. Student insurance is optional and is made available through a private company at a nominal cost to parents. This company is not affiliated with the Language Academy of Sacramento.

Student Records

The School keeps cumulative records for each pupil, as required by law, and any additional records that would be helpful in providing maximum educational opportunities for pupils. These records are available for parents/guardians to review. If you wish to review your child's cumulative record, please call the school office to set up an appointment with School Leadership.

Student Success Team (SST)

The Student Success Team (SST) is a school-site team whose purpose is to identify effective strategies to meet the needs of individual students who are not meeting standards for academic achievement, behavior, and/or attendance or who have medical or other concerns. The Student Success Team process is a collaborative process between the school, the parents, and in some cases the student. A parent, teacher, or other staff member may make requests for assistance to the Student Success Team through the teacher and/or the School Administration. The Student Success Team meeting may include the parent, the student, the child's teacher, administrator, coordinator, general education teachers and other support staff as needed.

An individual modified program may be developed for students who are unable to achieve grade level standards in one or more content areas on a case-by-case basis. The decision to modify a program for a student will only be made during a formal Student Success Team meeting, an Individual Educational Plan, or a 504 plan by a team that includes the teacher, parent, administrator and other staff. At this meeting, the modified program will be defined to include individual goals and a means of monitoring student progress toward these goals.

Supervision

Playground and cafeteria supervision begin at 7:40 a.m. **Students should not arrive earlier than 7:40 a.m.** If students are dropped off before that time, parents will be contacted and asked to make arrangements that will support LAS' supervision schedule.

Technology Use Procedure *(The Technology Policy requires a parent/guardian signature, please see page 26)*

At LAS, students will have access to use the school's technology equipment to enhance their learning experience. The use of computers, indeed the use of any form of technology, is a means, not an end to education. Teachers and students have a responsibility to use the tools at hand to enhance education. We believe the Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers. The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the school setting. The Language Academy of Sacramento has taken precautions to restrict access to controversial materials, and an industrious user may discover controversial information. We firmly believe that the valuable information and interaction available on the worldwide network far outweigh the possibility that users may obtain material that is not consistent with the educational and moral goals of The Language Academy of Sacramento. Please review the Technology Policy for more details and provide a signature of agreement and understanding of the school's policy.

Telephone Communication

Our automated call system allows school administrators to send phone messages out to all families almost instantaneously. These automated telephone calls assist our families by providing pertinent communications such as student absences and program cancellations. All parent/guardians must ensure that their contact information is up-to-date in the school office in order to receive telephone messages.

Telephone Use

When a student is not able to use their classroom telephone, the student may use the office phone for emergency use only. The office staff will make all necessary calls home when a child is ill. All after school arrangements should be made prior to arriving to school.

Textbooks

- All textbooks are loaned to students free of charge.
- Students are responsible for lost or damaged books and will be expected to pay for them if lost or damaged. Students are responsible for damage resulting from misuse of equipment or violation of school rules.
- Report cards will be held until books have been returned to the school or the fee to replace the book has been paid in full

Tobacco and Drug Free Zone

The LAS Governing Board believes that the use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs adversely affects a student’s ability to achieve academic success, is physically and emotionally harmful and has serious social and legal consequences. Therefore, all schools and district facilities are tobacco, alcohol and drug free sites. The use of any tobacco, alcohol or drug products is prohibited within school property, facility, or vehicle. This prohibition also applies to all individuals attending events on school campus or representing the school at school-sponsored activities that are held at locations other than LAS property.

Website

Our school website is www.lasac.info and is regularly maintained with updated information regarding school events, news, forms and volunteer opportunities.

Community Services

Community Emergency Numbers

Poison Control	1-800-876-4766
Animal Control	264-7387
City Police Emergency	Contact by cell: 911 or 264-5151
City Police Non-Emergency	264-5471
County Sheriff Emergency	911 or 874-5111
County Sheriff Non-Emergency	874-5115

Language Academy of Sacramento Parent and Student Handbook

This copy is for your records

Student Statement

As a Language Academy Student, I realize the importance of doing my personal best every day. I know I am responsible for my own success. Therefore, I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

- Be in class and on time each day.
- Support the School-Wide Behavior Plan as stated in this Handbook.
- Return completed class work and homework on time.
- Be a cooperative learner.
- Ask for help when needed.
- I will help keep my school clean of trash, graffiti and damage.
- I have read, understand, and agree to follow the Technology Use Procedure and guidelines from this Student/Parent Handbook.

Parent Statement

I understand that my participation in my child's education will help their achievement and attitude. Therefore, I will carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

- Encourage and set aside a quiet area for my child to complete all his/her homework and class work.
- Review all school communication sent home.
- Attend Back to School, Parent Teacher Conferences, Student Exhibitions, and other school events.
- Support the School-Wide Behavior Plan/Rules and Expectations
- I have read, understand and agree to support the Technology Use Procedure.
- I have read, understand and agree to support the policy and procedures in the LAS Student/Parent Handbook.

Staff Statement

We understand the importance of a quality education for all students. We agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of our abilities:

- Teach grade level skills and concepts.
- Strive to address the individual needs of each student.
- Communicate regularly with parents/guardians regarding each child's progress.
- Provide a safe, positive and healthy environment.
- Communicate homework and class work expectations to all students.
- I have read and agree with the conditions in this Parent and Student Handbook.

Language Academy of Sacramento
Parent/Student Technology Agreement
This copy is for your records

I. Introduction

The use of computers, indeed the use of any form of technology, is a means, not an end to education. Teachers and students have a responsibility to use the tools at hand to enhance education. We believe the Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers. The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the school setting. The Language Academy of Sacramento has taken precautions to restrict access to controversial materials, and an industrious user may discover controversial information. We firmly believe that the valuable information and interaction available on the worldwide network far outweigh the possibility that users may obtain material that is not consistent with the educational and moral goals of The Language Academy of Sacramento.

Parents: It is important that you and your child read this agreement and discuss it together. When your child is allowed to use the computers it is extremely important that the rules are followed. As a parent, you are legally responsible for your child's actions. You are responsible for supervision of your child's Internet use when not in a school setting.

II. Education Goals

- To provide a variety of information to enhance the curriculum areas.
- To help students work effectively with various forms of telecommunication tools.
- To prepare students to become critical thinkers and problem solvers.
- To teach skills that are needed in the electronic and global society.

III. Terms and Conditions

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies, regional and state networks. The smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided so that you are aware of the responsibilities you are about to acquire. In general this requires efficient, ethical, and legal use of the network resources. If a Language Academy of Sacramento user violates any of these provisions, his or her privileges will be terminated and future access could be denied. Violations of this agreement will be referred to appropriate school officials for disciplinary action. Violations of state or federal law will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The signatures at the end of this document are legally binding and indicate parties who signed have read the terms and conditions carefully and understand their significance.

A. Acceptable Use

The use of the Internet must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of The Language Academy of Sacramento. Use of other organizations' network or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulations is prohibited. This includes, but not limited to: copyrighted material, or material protected by trade secret.

B. Privileges

The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in the cancellation of those privileges. (Each student who accesses the Internet will be a part of a discussion with a Language Academy of Sacramento faculty member about the proper use of the network.) The Language Academy of Sacramento officials will deem what is inappropriate use, and their decision is final. Also, The Language Academy of Sacramento officials may request that the school deny, revoke, or suspend specific user privileges. The Language Academy of Sacramento expects the co-signing teacher to monitor the student's access for which he or she is responsible. This may include random checks of Internet history and monitoring of student access to determine whether the accounts are being used in a manner that is consistent with this agreement. Students accepting The Language Academy of Sacramento access to the Internet consent to such monitoring.

C. Responsibilities

All persons accessing the Internet from the school locations must accept the responsibility of using the Internet

wisely and correctly. Access to the Internet by students will be monitored by faculty member at all times. You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network use. These include (but are not limited to) the following:

- There must be a clear academic purpose for accessing the Internet at the school location.
- Do not use the network for any illegal activity (e.g. violating copyright or other contracts, gaining illegal access or entry into other computers).
- Do not use the network for financial or commercial gain.
- Do not interfere with the proper operation of school systems and networks accessible through the Internet.
- Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the facilities by other users.
- Do not use school computing and network resources in a wasteful or frivolous manner (e.g. tying up resources with computer-based game playing, sending trivial or excessive messages, downloading excessively large files).
- Do not reveal your personal address/phone number or the personal address/phone number of another.
- Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy school equipment, data of another user, Internet, or any of the above listed agencies or other networks that are connected to the Internet backbone. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.
- If you feel you can identify a security problem on the Internet, you must notify a Language Academy of Sacramento teacher, staff, or administrator. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users.
- Respect the privacy of other individuals.
- Files/data belonging to others are to be considered private property unless explicit authorization is given by the owner of the files.
- Be polite. Do not be abusive in your messages to others. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.

The Language Academy of Sacramento makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service that is provided. The Language Academy of Sacramento will not be responsible for any damages you suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays or service interruptions caused by its own negligence or your errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at your own risk. No guarantee of complete privacy is made. The Language Academy of Sacramento specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the access of their network facilities.

IV. Consequences of Violations of the AUP and Agreement to Comply

User: *I understand and will abide the Internet Use Agreement. Any violation of the school's posted rules will result in any or all of the following consequences. I further understand that any violations of the regulations above are unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, (1) my access privileges may be revoked and (2) school disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.*

I have reviewed my Internet-Use responsibilities, specifically; the co-signing teacher has discussed each of the following points with me.

- Only students having permission and who have reviewed the Internet-Use responsibilities with the system administrator or his/her designee may use the school's computers to access the Internet.
- Access to the Internet by students is viewed as a privilege, not a right.
- Access is to be used for educational and research purposes only, consistent with educational objectives of The Language Academy of Sacramento. Misuse will result in loss of access.

The Language Academy of Sacramento asks that the co-signing teacher monitor access, including e-mail, to see that the access is being used for the stated purpose. For this and other reasons, e-mail is not private. Violations that may lead to revocation of Internet access include:

- Transferring copyrighted material to or from the Internet without express permission of the owner is a Violation of Federal Law.
- Plagiarism
- Playing network intensive games, or using IRC (Internet Relay Chat).
- Downloading excessively large or unauthorized files.
- Subscribing to inappropriate internet sites.
- E-mail correspondence inappropriate to educational purposes and access to personal e-mail accounts is prohibited.

- Any activity posing potential risks to others or myself.
- Harassing other users (e.g., with unwanted e-mail messages).
- Illegal Activity
- Revealing my or other's home address/phone number or other personal information.
- Vandalism of accounts or systems.
- Using abusive, vulgar, or other inappropriate language or sending or displaying offending messages or images.
- Activities that would violate the schools handbook policy.
- Failure to report known security problems.
- Any other inappropriate use or misuse of the Internet.
- The Language Academy of Sacramento officials will deem what is inappropriate use, and their decision is final. Access is monitored, and use of the Internet implies agreement to such monitoring. The Language Academy of Sacramento may restrict access at any time for violations.

Language Academy of Sacramento
Bullying Policy
This copy is for your records

The Language Academy of Sacramento recognizes the importance of a safe school environment to the educational process. The board has determined that a safe and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and to achieve high academic standards. Bullying, like other disruptive or violent behaviors that hinder both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe environment, is prohibited at Language Academy of Sacramento. Because students learn by example, all students and adults are expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior, treat others with civility and respect and refuse to tolerate bullying in a school environment.

Definition: What Is Bullying?

Bullying is defined as persistent, intentionally hurtful behavior towards another person.

Further, bullying is defined as the repeated use by one or more students of a written, verbal, or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture directed at an individual that:

- Emotionally or physically harms a student or damages the student's property
- Causes a student to be in reasonable fear that he or she will be harmed
- Creates a hostile environment for the student at the school
- Infringes on the rights of a student at the school
- Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the daily classroom instruction or school environment

Types of Bullying:

Types of bullying include the following behaviors when repeated or persistent:

Emotional bullying: excluding or persistently ignoring, tormenting, threatening through gesture, ridiculing or humiliating the other, inciting others to bully

Physical bullying: pushing, kicking, pinching, hitting, scratching, punching, biting, pulling; interfering with someone else's property or possessions

Racist bullying (race; color; religion; ancestry; national origin): racial taunts, jokes and gestures, graffiti and racist insignia/badges, circulating racist literature, or 'picking-on' behavior of all kinds

Sexual/Gender bullying (gender; sexual orientation; gender identity and expression): unwanted physical contact, sexually abusive comments, stalking, homophobic victimization

Socioeconomic Bullying: (social status; economic status, parent occupation, education level, health or nutrition level): Socioeconomic taunts, jokes, graffiti, or 'picking-on' behavior of all kinds

Verbal bullying: persistent name-calling, systematic unwanted teasing or taunting, intimidation or threatening behavior

Cyber bullying: All areas of internet, including but not limited to, email, internet chat room misuse, mobile threats by phone calls and text messaging, misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera, web cams, and video facilities

Indirect bullying: spreading nasty stories or malicious rumors about someone, excluding someone from social groups, sending malicious emails or text messages on mobile phones

Harassment or bullying is any gesture or written, verbal, graphic, physical or electronic act (i.e. including, but not limited to, internet, cell or smart phone, or wireless hand held device) that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race; color; religion; ancestry; national origin; socioeconomic status; academic status; mental, physical, development or sensory disability or impairment; creed; political belief; age; linguistic or language differences; height; weight; marital status; parental status; or by any other distinguishing characteristic; or because of an association with a person who has or is perceived to have one or

more of these characteristics. Such behavior is considered harassment or bullying whether it takes place on or off school property, at any school-sponsored function, in a school vehicle, or by students, family members or staff.

Students must conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with their levels of development, maturity, and demonstrated capabilities with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, school staff, volunteers, and contractors.

The Language Academy of Sacramento believes that standards for student behavior must be set cooperatively through interaction among the students, parents and guardians, staff, and community members of the school, producing an atmosphere that encourages students to grow in self-discipline. The development of this atmosphere requires respect for self and others, as well as for school and community property on the part of students, staff, and community members.

Because bystander support of bullying can bolster these behaviors, the school prohibits both active and passive support for acts of bullying. The staff should encourage all students to refuse to engage in these acts and to report them immediately to a staff member the school.

Consequences and appropriate remedial actions for a student or staff member who commits persistent acts of bullying may range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including in-school or out-of-school suspension from the school and/or expulsion or other disciplinary removal from the school, in the case of a student, and/or suspension or termination in the case of an employee, as set forth in the school's approved code of student conduct or employee handbook.

Consequences for a student who commits an act of bullying will be unique to the individual incident and will vary in method and severity according to the nature of the behavior, the developmental age of the student, and the student's history of problem behaviors and performance, and must be consistent with the school's approved code of student conduct. Remedial measures will be designed to correct the problem behavior; prevent another occurrence of the behavior; and protect the victim of the act. Depending upon the incident, expulsion may be recommended to the board.

The board requires the Academic Director at the school to be responsible for receiving complaints alleging violations of this policy. All school employees are required to report alleged violations of this policy to the Academic Director. All other members of the school community, including students, parents, volunteers, and visitors, are encouraged to report any act that may be a violation of this policy. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action may not be based solely on the basis of an anonymous report without further investigation.

The board also requires the Academic Director to be responsible for determining whether an alleged act constitutes a violation of this policy. In so doing, the Academic Director must conduct a prompt, thorough, and complete investigation of each alleged incident. An investigation is to be conducted within three school days after a report or complaint is made known to the Academic Director.

The board prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying. After consideration of the nature, severity, and circumstances of the act, the administrator will determine the consequences and appropriate remedial action for a person who engages in reprisal or retaliation.

At the same time, the board prohibits any person from falsely accusing another of bullying. The consequences and appropriate remedial action for a person found to have falsely accused another of bullying might range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion. Consequences and appropriate remedial action for a school employee found to have falsely accused another of bullying include disciplinary action in accordance with school policies, procedures, and agreements.

The board requires that school officials annually disseminate the policy to all school staff, students, and parents, along with a statement explaining that it applies to all applicable acts of bullying that occur on school property, at school-sponsored functions, or in a school vehicle and to develop procedures for investigating and addressing any alleged violations of this policy.

Additionally, the board requires school officials to ensure that this policy and procedures for reporting bullying incidents are reviewed with the students within 90 days after the policy is adopted and at least once each school year after that. The school administration is required to develop procedures necessary to implement this policy, and to develop appropriate prevention, intervention and education strategies related to bullying.

Under the Children's Internet Protection Act, the board directs the school administration to protect children from harmful online content. Therefore, the school is required to teach acceptable use and online safety to students. The school's curriculum will include instruction for educating minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyber-bullying awareness and response.

The Language Academy of Sacramento will comply with all applicable and related federal and state laws.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex, especially:
221.5 Prohibited sex discrimination
221.7 School-sponsored athletic programs; prohibited sex discrimination
32211 Threatened disruption or interference with classes
35160 Authority of governing boards
35160.1 Broad authority of school districts
35181 Governing board policy on responsibilities of students
35291 - 35291.5 Rules
48900.3 Suspension or expulsion for act of hate violence
48900.4 Suspension or expulsion for threats or harassment
44807 Duty concerning conduct of students
44810 Willful interference with classroom conduct
44811 Disruption of classwork or extracurricular activities
48900 Grounds for suspension or expulsion
48900(r) Grounds for suspension or expulsion: bullying
48907 Student exercise of free expression
51512 Prohibited use of electronic listening or recording device

PENAL CODE

243.5 Assault or battery on school property
311 Child Pornography
403-420 Crimes against the public peace, especially:
415 Fighting; noise; offensive words

CIVIL CODE

1714.1 Liability of parents and guardians for willful misconduct of minor

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

300 - 307 Duties of pupils

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

2000d-2000e-17 Title VI & VII Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended

2000h-2-2000h-6 Title IX, 1972 Education Act Amendments