

La Paloma Academy Liberty - PHX.
2026-2027
STUDENT HANDBOOK



Please read the handbook together with your child;
then sign below, date and return this page to their
homeroom teacher on the next school day.

Thank you!

*We have read and understand the contents of the
La Paloma Academy Liberty 2026-2027 Student Handbook and have
also reviewed the school year calendar.*

Parent Signature

Printed Name

Date

Student Signature

Grade

Homeroom Teacher

La Paloma Academy Liberty-PHX.

Student / Parent Handbook
2026-2027



The answers to many of your questions are right here in the La Paloma Academy Liberty Handbook. This handbook has been provided so that parents and students are informed of procedures and policies of the school. It is very important for you to review the contents of this handbook with your child. We hope you will find everything you need to make this a safe and happy school year.

Questions?

If you have any further questions, please call the school.
We're always happy to hear from you.

Office hours:

Monday - Friday from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM

The office will close at 1:30 PM on early release Wednesdays.

School Hours:

8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Half day every Wednesday 8:00 am -11:30 am

Phone: 602-442-8791

Fax: 602-353-9270

Transportation:

Tonika Moton-Carol: 602-526-5701

Mission Statement

La Paloma Academy Liberty partners with families to empower students to reach their full academic potential through a focus on personal growth and character-based education.

Philosophy

La Paloma Academy Liberty's mission is to impart the best in traditional education using current technology. La Paloma Academy Liberty teaches its students reading skills, critical thinking skills, analytical reasoning skills and the ability to become lifelong learners and productive citizens in a world of diverse cultures.

La Paloma Academy Liberty provides a kindergarten through eighth grade education whereby character education is presented. Quality reading skills are developed through intensive phonics, math skills are emphasized, students learn responsibility and respect for self and others, students learn that effective work yields rewards, life skills are taught in cause-and-effect relationships, computer technology is blended into effective learning and teachers and staff are committed to each student.

La Paloma Academy Liberty also emphasizes the importance of parental involvement in the education of their children. For this reason, parents of Liberty Traditional School's students are encouraged to sign a Title One compact whereby they agree to take an active role in the education of their child and, to the best of their abilities, participate in school activities.

Absences, Attendance & Tardiness

It is unlawful for any child between the ages of six to sixteen years (or completion of tenth grade) to fail to attend school during the hours that school is in session unless they are too sick to be in school or they are home-schooled as defined by the state statute, A.R.S. 15-803.

1. "Truant" MEANS AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FOR AT LEAST ONE CLASS PERIOD DURING THE DAY.

2. "Truant child" means a child who is between six (6) to sixteen (16) years of age and who is not in attendance at a public, private or charter school during the hours that school is in session, unless excused as provided by in this section.

3. "Habitually truant" means a truant child who is truant for at LEAST 5 school days within a school year.

VIOLATION OF THE LAW CAN HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES!

- Parents can be given a citation for contributing to the delinquency of a minor.
- Truancy is a misdemeanor offense where parents can be fined up to \$500.00 and serve up to 30 days in jail.
- Students can also be issued a citation.
- In severe cases, punishment includes juvenile detention center for up to 30 days for the student.
- The school can be fined or lose funding for not enforcing truancy laws in certain states.
- Students can be retained in the same grade level as a result of excessive absenteeism (18+ absences).

Absences will affect the eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities. Students absent on the day of games are not allowed to attend/play at the sporting event.

If it is necessary for a student to be absent, parents or guardians, please call the school by 7:30 AM to report that the child will be absent and the reason so we can identify the absence as excused or unexcused. Please do not ask your child to be excused for baby-sitting, shopping, haircuts, missing the bus, transportation problems, and vacation or minor matters. Someone from the school will be making a call to the parents if a child is absent and the office is not notified of the absence. Tardy students disrupt class and cause loss of instruction time both for the tardy student and the rest of the class. Please ensure that your student is on time every day

All students arriving after the last bell at 8:00AM will be counted as tardy. If the student is late he/she must report to the office with a parent before going to the classroom. The student will be given a pass to take to the classroom teacher. 3 tardies equals one absence.

Parents MUST sign a student in if they are arriving late to school.

La Paloma Academy Liberty is committed to:

- Working with students and their families to ensure that all students attend school regularly.
- Understanding there are a variety of factors that may influence school attendance.
- Provide culturally appropriate interventions and services including parent education and referrals to school/community-based resources.
- Addressing excessive absenteeism, chronic tardiness and early departures as quickly as possible.

- Partner with parents/guardians and students to develop strategies to address the absenteeism and produce a change in behavior.

La Paloma Academy Liberty campus administration will work together to monitor and document a student's attendance record. In an attempt to curb excessive absences, chronic tardiness and early departures, and chronic truancy, the following measures will be followed:

- After a student accumulates 6 tardies or early departures (excused or unexcused) a letter will be sent home and the student will be required to participate in the school's Intervention Program for each tardy and early dismissal thereafter. A student who accumulates 3 tardies will not be considered for perfect attendance.
- If a student accumulates 10 tardies or early dismissals, parents may be required to meet with school administration. Students will be entered into an intervention program.
- After a student accumulates 3 unexcused absences (consecutive or nonconsecutive) a letter will be sent home and the student will be required to participate in the school's Intervention Program for each unexcused absence thereafter.
- **At 10 absences** (excused or unexcused) parents/guardians and students will be required to **meet with the administration** for an Intervention Meeting. At this meeting, strategies to address the poor attendance will be discussed and an Attendance Contract will be signed.
- Failure of a parent/guardian to sign an Attendance Contract could result in a Court referral.
- Failure to comply with the terms of the Attendance Contract and/or failure to participate in the Intervention Program could result in a suspension, grade retention, and/or Manifestation Determination Meeting, and/or being taken to the School Board for expulsion. Additionally, the student could be referred to Maricopa County Juvenile Court and the parents/guardian referred to Child Protective Services.

La Paloma Academy Liberty reserves the right to retain a student who has missed over 18 days of school (excused or unexcused) during the school year. Additionally, loss of after-school privileges and exclusion from extracurricular activities, including field trips, dances, dress-down days, and sports, and for 8th grade student's exclusion from promotion ceremony activities could be a result of a student's failure to maintain at least an 90% attendance record and/or failure to comply with Liberty Traditional Charter School Attendance Policies.

Make-Up Work

Make up work can be requested upon reporting the absence by the parent. The work will be collected and made available in the front office for pick up. Siblings are also allowed to transport uncompleted or completed work to school from home. For older students it is the student's responsibility to ensure that all work is requested and made up when he or she returns to school from any absence.

After School Activities & Athletic Programs

ALL students who want to play a sport **MUST** have a physical completed before trying out for a team. The school offers after school sports programs for both boys and girls in fifth through eighth grades. There is an athletic participation fee per student per sport. In order to participate in sports and other after school activities, a student must be passing all classes with a grade of "C" or better and have a signed permission slip from a parent or guardian before being allowed to remain after school. School attendance is required of all athletes on the day of a game. Absences on the day of the game will result in students being ineligible for that day's athletic event.

No Pass No Play Policy

State Board of Education Rule R7-208 as mandated by the Arizona State Legislature requires that each school district must have in place a "No Pass No Play" policy. *La Paloma Academy Liberty* views this policy as a tool for motivating student athletes to be successful in their academic subjects. Athletics are defined as extracurricular activities that fall under the "No Pass No Play" policy. The policy requires the following:

- Student athletes receive a weekly grade check to determine their eligibility to participate in Athletic competitions.
- A student must receive a passing grade in all enrolled classes on the weekly grade check preceding the contest or performance
- **Ineligibility is declared on Friday and the student is ineligible beginning the following Monday.**

Sportsmanship and Citizenship Are Central Themes

Victory with Honor...Sportsmanship and Citizenship are the central themes for all sports. All parents, coaches and players are expected to demonstrate sportsmanship while enjoying the benefits of friendly competition. Failure to comply with positive behavior at any athletic event may result in school administration or game officials requesting individual(s) to leave the premises. Student athletes must demonstrate conduct reflecting the six pillars of Victory with Honor; trustworthiness, respect, responsibility,

fairness, caring and citizenship throughout their involvement during the season. Failure to comply with district or school procedures and rules may result in the suspension of participation with no refunds.

Siblings of students involved in after school activities and students not involved in after school activities **are not to be on school grounds after the buses leave at dismissal time**. Students should be picked up promptly at the scheduled end time of the activity; repeated delays will result in the student being dismissed from the team with no refund.

Student Athlete/School Ground Concussions and Head Injuries

A student who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion in practice, a game, P.E. or recess will be removed from participation or competition at that time. A student who has been removed from an interscholastic contest, practice, PE or recess for a possible concussion or head injury may not return to physical activity unless cleared to do so by a physician. If not cleared to return to physical activity, a student may not return to play or practice until the student has provided the school with written clearance from a physician. The student will be required to follow the Return to Play Progression process as outlined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. All student athletes must have a current physical and clearance to participate in sports.

Awards

In an effort to reward and recognize positive behavior and effort, attendance, citizenship, honor roll (K -8th grade) and leadership, certificates and other types of rewards will be given at periodic assembly programs. Parents are invited to attend these programs.

Before-Afterschool Program

La Paloma Academy Liberty offers FREE before and after school programs. The hours of operation for these programs are:

Before School -Afterschool Program Hours:

Monday- Friday 6:30 am-7:30 am

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 3:00-6:00pm

Wednesday 11:30am-6:00pm

In order to enroll in the before/ afterschool program a parent must fill out all required registration forms and

submit them back to the front office for processing. The school may choose to exclude a student from these programs if paperwork is not submitted correctly or is incomplete.

Before and After School is a privilege and not a part of the instructional day. If a student violates the disciplinary code of conduct of the school then their afterschool privileges can be suspended or removed. The afterschool program is focused on increasing student achievement and providing fun activities for students to engage in however, all rules must be maintained and supported as if it were during the school day

Parents must be on time and pick up their students before the after school program ends each day. The program ends by 6:00 p.m. If students are not picked up by 6:00 p.m. (more than 1 time), after-school program staff may contact Child Protective Services or law enforcement. Please note: Three instances of tardiness in picking up your child WILL RESULT in his/her dismissal from the program.

Books & Supplies

Textbooks are provided by the school. Students are responsible for all books that have been issued to them. These books must be returned in good condition by the end of the school year. There will be a charge for any lost or damaged textbooks.

Transportation

Students should be aware that it is a privilege to ride the school bus. Students are to follow all rules and be respectful to the bus driver at all times. Students who choose to disobey the following rules will be reported to the administration and may be denied the privilege of riding the bus and may be subject to further disciplinary action.

The following rules and procedures have been implemented and will be enforced in order to guarantee the welfare and safety of *La Paloma Academy Liberty* bus riding students.

We feel there is a shared responsibility between parents and all segments of the school community, but also important is the mutual respect between the bus riding students and the school bus driver.

1. Respect Driver & fellow students.
2. Follow directions immediately when asked.
3. Stay in your assigned seat.
4. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.

5. Talk quietly and keep your hands to yourself.
6. No eating or drinking except water (straws are not permitted). No gum chewing.
7. No profanity or vulgar language.
8. No balloons or glass are allowed.
9. Electronics are students' responsibility.
10. No throwing things out of the bus.

Pick up and Drop off locations have been established based on student geographical locations and will not be changed unless approved by La Paloma Liberty administration. Once a student has been registered, if a transportation request is made (submit paperwork) the school will provide pick up and drop off locations and times within 24 hours of paperwork being submitted. Bus drivers will not deviate from their assigned routes unless instructed by school administration. Change of address forms must be submitted to front office staff before a student can be moved to another stop. Students will not be allowed to get off at another stop unless a written notice has been provided to the front office and verified. This also means students will not be allowed to ride other routes unless notice has been provided and approved by the school.

The school realizes that things come up or happen unannounced, however, day to day routines are essential for success. We ask that any requests need to be made in writing or verbally before 2:00p.m of that school day.

Students will not be allowed to ride another student's bus without a written letter that has been verified with the office prior to dismissal time. No phone calls will be accepted.

Consequences:

Transportation will contact parents and give a warning to the student for any offense. Depending on the violation and number of incidents, consequences may be a warning, phone call to parents, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, and expulsion and/or bus suspension or bus privileges revoked.

Consequences for Severe Violations:

Direct Referral - No warning; Disrespect to driver, fighting, vandalism, theft, indecent exposure, weapons, profanity or foul language. Note: If destruction of property occurs, the student will be assessed damage costs in addition to the required discipline. These violations could result in in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, and expulsion and/or bus suspension or bus privileges revoked.

Cell Phones

Cell phones are considered an electronic device and should not be used throughout the school day either in class or around campus. The reason for this strict policy is that we have encountered students who are using them during class, texting, giving answers to others on tests, notifying other students to meet them at the restroom, etc. If a staff member suspects that a student has a cell phone in their possession, the student will be asked to give the phone to the staff member, and the student **MUST** surrender the phone to the staff member without an argument, regardless of who the phone belongs to. If a phone is confiscated, the parents must pick up the phone from the school. The phone will not be returned to the student. The only exception is on the school bus (See bus rules cell phone usage for detail).

We understand that as parents many want their children to have cell phones however, they can cause serious disruption to the learning environment therefore, all cell phones must be put away in a student's backpack and be in the silent setting so as to not disturb the learning environment. If a student chooses to violate this policy he/she and the parents must understand that La Paloma Academy Liberty staff will not accept responsibility for any loss, theft or damage. Multiple violations can result in school disciplinary consequences.

Change of Address/Phone Number

It is very important that every student maintain an up-to-date address and telephone record at the school office. If you move or change telephone numbers, report the change to you child's teacher and the school office as soon as possible. It is devastating to a child when there is an emergency and we are not able to get in touch with the parents.

Child Abuse Reporting

The legal obligation of La Paloma Academy Liberty school employees is to report situations of suspected child abuse and neglect. If the designated school officials feel the situation needs to be reported, CPS will be called by the employee who has first-hand information of the situation. La Paloma Academy Liberty employees will maintain confidentiality and speak with no individual beyond the designated school officials (i.e. nurse, counselor, principal). If any student or employee feels they are the victim of sexual abuse of any kind, they may directly contact any adult on our campus for help.

Computer & Internet Use

The school provides computers and internet access to support the educational mission of the school and to enhance the curriculum and learning opportunities for students. **The rules listed here are intended to provide students with general guidelines and examples of prohibited uses but do not attempt to state all required or prohibited activities by users.** Failure to comply with these rules may result in loss of computer and internet access privileges, disciplinary action and/or legal action.

Parents should understand that while many precautions are taken to supervise student use of the internet, the school cannot prevent all inappropriate uses if a student chooses to break the rules and access them. The school is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of information that students obtain through the internet. Students and parents are required to sign and submit the Internet/Technology User Agreement.

A. Computer Use Is a Privilege, Not a right

Student use of a school's computers, networks and Internet service is a privilege, not a right.

Unacceptable use/activity may result in suspension or cancellation of privileges as well as additional disciplinary and/or legal action. The administration will have final authority to decide whether a student's privileges will be denied, revoked and/or reinstated.

B. Acceptable Use

Student access to the school's computers, networks and internet services are provided for educational purposes and research, consistent with the school's educational mission, curriculum and instructional goals. The same rules and expectations that govern student conduct and communications will apply to student use of computers and the internet. Students are further expected to comply with these rules and all specific instructions from the teacher/staff when accessing the school's computers, networks and internet services.

c. Prohibited Use

The user is responsible for his/her actions involving school computers, networks and internet services and for his/her computer files, passwords and accounts. Examples of unacceptable uses that are expressly prohibited include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. **Accessing Inappropriate Materials:** Accessing, submitting, transmitting, posting, publishing, forwarding, downloading, scanning, or displaying materials that are defamatory, abusive, obscene, vulgar, sexually explicit, sexually suggestive, threatening, discriminatory, harassing, and/or illegal.
2. **Illegal Activities:** Using the school's computers, networks and internet services for any illegal activity that violates policies, procedures and/or school rules.
3. **Violating Copyrights:** Copying or downloading copyrighted materials without the express authorization of the student's teacher/staff.

4. **Plagiarism:** Copying material found on the internet (such as papers, articles, etc.) and claiming it as your own is plagiarism and is considered cheating. When internet sources are used in student work, the author, publisher and website must be identified.

5. **Copying Software:** Copying or downloading software without the expressed authorization of the student's teacher/staff.

6. **Misuse of Passwords/Unauthorized Access:** Sharing passwords, using other users' passwords without permission and/or accessing other user's accounts.

7. **Malicious Use/Vandalism:** Any malicious use, disruption or harm to the school's computers, networks and internet services, including, but not limited to hacking activities and creating/uploading computer viruses.

8. **Unauthorized Access to Chat Rooms/Newsgroups:** Accessing chat rooms or newsgroups without specific authorization from the supervising teacher.

9. **No Expectation of Privacy:** The school retains control, custody and supervision of all computers, networks and internet services owned or leased by the school. The school reserves the right to monitor all computer and internet activity by students. Students have no expectations of privacy in their use of school computers, including email and stored files.

10. **Compensation for Losses, Costs and/or Damages:** The student and/or the student's parent /guardian will be responsible for compensating the school for any losses, costs or damages incurred by the school related to violations of policy and/or these rules, including investigation of violations.

11. **School Assumes No Responsibility for Unauthorized Charges, Costs or Illegal Use:** The school assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges made by students, including but not limited to, credit card charges, long-distance telephone charges, equipment and line costs, or for any illegal use of its computers, such as copyright violations.

12. **Student Security:** A student will not reveal his/her full name, address or telephone number on the internet without prior approval from a supervising teacher. Students should never meet people they have contacted through the internet without parental permission. Students should inform their supervising teachers if they access information or messages that may seem dangerous, inappropriate or make them uncomfortable in any way.

13. **System Security:** The security of the school's computers, networks and internet services is a high priority. Any user who identifies a security problem must notify only a supervising teacher. Any user who attempts or causes a breach of system security will have his/her privileges revoked and may be subject to additional disciplinary and/or legal action.

Custody

In cases where custody/visitation affects a child at school, the school will follow the most recent court order on file. It is the responsibility of the custodial parent or of parents having joint custody to provide the school with the most recent court order. The school should not be placed in the middle of custody disputes and visitation of non-custodial parent should be arranged out side of the school so as not to distract from and interrupt the child's education.

Discipline

Classroom Discipline Plan

Each classroom will have a posted plan which includes expectations for behavior, consequences for violations and rewards for compliance. Teachers will send home their classroom discipline plan for parents to read, sign and return.

Discipline: Referrals

The following consequences may be used with students who are sent to the office with a referral for unacceptable behavior. However, the most effective consequence to change a student's behavior is when the parents support the school with consequences at home. This helps the student realize that their parents and the school are going to be working together to help them behave and become the best that they can be but not necessarily in this order.

- A. Conference with student
- B. Phone call to parent
- C. Time out of assigned class
- D. Recess/Lunch detention
- E. Loss of dress down for a predetermined time frame
- F. Loss of special activities-(i.e. field trips, sports, fun days etc.) privileges
- G. Put on Behavioral Contract
- H. Intervention as deemed necessary by Administration Team
- I. In-school suspension
- J. Out-of-school suspension
- K. Expulsion from school
- L. Police referral
- M. Other miscellaneous appropriate consequences

The consequence will be determined by the severity of the behavior and the number of times the student has received a referral. The consequences will also get progressively more severe with each additional referral.

If a student has three serious infractions of school rules the parents will be required to come to the school for a meeting with the administration and teacher(s) to create a Behavior Modification Contract. If the student does not comply with this contract resulting in two more referrals or one more serious infraction of the rules, this will be taken as notice to the school that the child has no intentions of complying with the school rules/ policies and the student will be referred to the school board for expulsion.

Behaviors Requiring Discipline

The following behaviors are by no means conclusive, and other misbehaviors may receive consequences even if not included in the list: Repeated willful defiance that result in:

1. Violation of classroom discipline rules
2. Violation of established school rules
3. Bullying-either verbal, physical or emotional
4. Disorderly conduct
5. Repeated violation of dress code
6. Inappropriate use of technology resources
7. Gambling
8. Plagiarism, presenting work or answers from someone else, cheating on tests
9. Continual electronic device violations
10. Trespassing
11. Leaving campus without permission
12. Ditching
13. Excessive unexcused tardies or absences (see Absence Policy, Truancy)
14. Verbal abuse to staff or other students(especially substitutes)
15. Disrespect to staff or other students.
16. Threatening staff or other students
17. Bullying or hazing
18. Possession of cigarettes or vape/ wax pipe products
19. Unacceptable sexual conduct or suggestive dress/behavior
20. Serious disruptive behavior
21. Noncompliance with bus rules
22. Theft or extortion
23. Possession of drugs, alcohol, or obscene material
24. Under the influence of drugs or alcohol
25. Sexual harassment against another student or staff member
26. Fighting
27. Destroying or defacing property, including graffiti
28. Damaging property of others
29. Exhibiting gang-related behavior
30. Exhibiting gang-related dress
31. Gang related violent activity
32. Gang-related threatening behavior
33. Intentional physical assault

34. Possession or representation of a dangerous instrument
35. Buying, selling or dealing drugs or alcohol
36. Possession of a deadly weapon (Law enforcement must be called)

La Paloma Academy Liberty sets high academic standard. All school policies and rules must be followed by the students to foster the right atmosphere for quality learning. NO STUDENT has the right to take away the learning environment from other students. All students have the right to learn and teachers have the right to teach. We believe that students must take responsibility for their behavior and be respectful of each other and the staff of the school:

- A student can forfeit his/her right to a free public education. Expulsion is for continued disruptive behavior, or for violent or dangerous behavior. (A.R.S.15-841.B.)
- A teacher may remove a student from the classroom who is disruptive. (A.R.S.15-841.A.2.)
- A school may refuse to admit any pupil who has been expelled from another public school. (A.R.S.15-841.C.)

****Each incident will be handled on an individual basis. Please refer to Glossary of Consequences**

Dress Code

The school uniform dress code encourages a disciplined learning environment. It is important that students adhere to the standards, parents impose them at home and our faculty enforces them at school. The dress code applies to all students at all times during the school day, including after school, except when an administrator waives it for a specific activity. Only during specific school sponsored events will the school uniform be waived. Notices will be sent out when students are permitted to wear clothes other than the uniform. Should you have any questions please contact Administration.

School Colors

Polo Shirts—solid color Red, White and Navy Blue (colors of the American Flag) Or a Liberty School Shirt. Slacks, Shorts, Jumpers, Capri pants, Skirts: Navy Blue, Black and Khaki ONLY. NO JEANS.

- Pants and shorts are NOT permitted to be "saggy" or worn below the waist. Pants or shorts are to be a traditional "Uniform" style and an appropriate size (not excessively baggy, no rips or holes, or too tight)
- Jumpers, shorts and skirts are to be no shorter than 4" above mid-knee

- All shirts are to be tucked in at ALL times when not on field recess/P.E. class
- Undershirts are to be white or the same color as the polo shirt and can't be larger than the polo
- Sweaters, sweatshirts and jackets are to be of solid color-navy, white or red-have no writing or emblems and worn over a collared uniform shirt. They must also be appropriately sized for the student. Sweatshirts are only allowed during cold weather season
- Headwear: No hats, bandanas or scarves allowed. **Hoods on sweatshirts must be down**
- Tennis shoes are recommended. Wheeled sneakers (Heelys) are not allowed on campus
- Makeup/Piercings/tattoos/jewelry/accessories: Any type that is deemed distractive, including excessive bangle or armbands, will be removed or student will be asked to cover them.

Parents: Please read these rules carefully and discuss them with your child. Students, who choose to wear inappropriate clothing to school, will be sent to the office to call their parents to bring them school attire. If parents are not available to bring a change of clothing, the child will spend the day in In-School Suspension.

Dress Down Days/Dollar for Duds

Students will be able to participate if they choose to dress down on "Dollar For Duds" days which is every Wednesday. As a fundraiser, students will be allowed to wear clothes that are not their uniform for the fee of \$1.00. This means appropriate school attire of modest nature. No hats, bandanas or scarves allowed.

FERPA—Family Educational Rights and Privacy Acts

Parents have the right to inspect and review all educational records, seek to amend educational records, and have some control over the disclosure of information from educational records. As a parent, you have the right to consent to disclosures and to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education. Copies of FERPA are available for parents at the front desk.

Both biological parents have equal access rights to their child unless the police or court system has severed their parental rights. The school cannot intervene in parental disputes and will not prevent any biological or legal guardian access to their child unless an order has been received from the courts, CPS, or police department stating otherwise.

Field Trips

Field trips to nearby points of interest are scheduled by various teachers throughout the school year. These trips are designed to supplement different aspects of the curriculum and to introduce students to the resources of the community. Parents will be notified in advance of any planned field trip. Notes will be sent home stating the destination, cost, time and purpose of the proposed trip. Parents may accompany their child if they are designated as a chaperone after a volunteer application has been processed and fingerprints have been taken (see visitors & guest section). Chaperones will **not** be permitted to bring any siblings/ friends other than the ones scheduled to attend the field trip. This includes children in another grade from the same school, children from another school, siblings, infants or toddlers._

A written permission slip signed by the parent **MUST** be obtained before a child is allowed to attend a field trip. Students with unacceptable behavior may be denied the privilege of participating in a field trip or a parent may be required to accompany him or her on the trip. Any monies paid for the field trip will **NOT** be refunded for students who lose the privilege of going on the field trip for behavior and or academic issues. Parents will be notified if their child will not participate or if the parent will need to accompany him/her on the trip.

Fire Drills & Emergencies

Fire drills are held on a periodic basis. A fire evacuation plan is posted in each room. Students should study the plan and become familiar with it. It is important for students to follow teacher instructions quickly and quietly whenever such emergency situations exist. When the first alarm sounds, students will immediately leave the room in an orderly fashion as outlined by the teacher. Since safety in an evacuation is of utmost concern, no one will be allowed to run. Students are to remain at least 50 feet away from the buildings. **NO ONE IS TO RETURN TO THE BUILDING UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY AN ADMINISTRATOR.**

We conduct fire drills on a monthly basis. We also conduct occasional lock down drills and bus evacuation drills. These drills are conducted during class time. Students periodically review exit routes and safety procedures for evacuating the building and the lockdown drill procedures.

Food & Nutrition Program

La Paloma Academy Liberty serves a hot breakfast every day from 7:00 am to 7:50 am. Lunch is served on a rotating schedule based on grade level. Students are welcome to bring their lunch if they choose. There is no microwave or refrigerator for student use on our campus. Students who bring their lunch will not have a place to warm anything up.

Forbidden Items

The following items have no place at school: knives, weapons or replicas of weapons of any kind, fireworks of any kind, lighters, matches, cigarettes, tobacco products of any kind (which includes vape/wax pipes and fluids associated), drugs, alcohol, pornography, CD players, MP3 players, iPods, portable DVD players, electronic games, laser pointers or pens, water guns, baseballs, and hardballs.

These items and anything else that cause a disruption at school will be taken and disciplinary action will follow. **If one of these items are confiscated a parent must pick up the item from the office. A second offense will result in the item being kept until the end of the school year. Liberty is not responsible for lost/stolen/damaged cell phones, I pod's or any other electronics. Also keep in mind that if one of the items confiscated relates to drugs or tobacco products the school will enforce disciplinary consequences and items will not be turned over to the Police.**

Disciplinary action will reflect zero tolerance of weapons or tobacco related products on or near school property or at school activities, including air guns that shoot pellets, BB's, or other similar material and cigarettes, and vape/ wax pipes. Accordingly, a student who possesses any type of gun or tobacco product on or near school grounds or at school sponsored activities before, during, or after school hours will be subject to long-term suspension or expulsion. Zero tolerance is defined as follows: Immediate and developmentally appropriate action will be taken as per La Paloma Academy Liberty Student Code included in the back of this handbook. Disciplinary action in this area will also reflect zero tolerance for possession or use of any other instrument in a dangerous, intimidating or combative manner.

REGULATION: It is strictly prohibited to possess firearms, any type of explosive devices, knives, or other dangerous instruments on district school grounds, any school-sponsored activity or on the bus. A.R.S. 13-3101 through 13-3110 further prohibits the concealment of

weapons and possession of explosive devices and sales thereof.

1. Police will be notified and students may be prosecuted.
2. Parents will be notified.
3. Student may be suspended up to ten days to await a hearing.
4. If found guilty, the school shall make a recommendation for either a long-term suspension or expulsion.

Gang Related Activity

For the purposes of school discipline, a gang shall be defined as a group of three or more persons who (1) have a name, (2) claim a territory, (3) have rivals/enemies, (4) interact together to the exclusion of others, and (5) exhibit anti-social behavior often associated with crime or a threat to the community.

Gang behavior that initiates, advocates, or promotes activities which threaten the safety or well-being of persons or property on school grounds, or which disrupts the educational environment, is strictly forbidden. Any student wearing, carrying, or displaying gang clothing, symbols or paraphernalia; exhibiting behavior or gestures which symbolize gang membership; causing and/or participating in activities which intimidate or adversely affect the educational pursuits of another student or the orderly operation of the school shall be subject to disciplinary action. The following will be used to prohibit inappropriate and/or gang-related behavior on campus:

- Graffiti symbolizing gang membership or identification can inflame hostility between gangs and create a potentially violent situation. Students using graffiti may receive a suspension from school. Throwing signs may result in suspension.
- Gang related altercations will be reported to the police immediately. School personnel, if necessary, will do follow-up.
- Weapons will be turned over to the police. Students will be suspended or expelled.
- Fighting will result in automatic suspension with probable expulsion.
- Intimidation will warrant suspension.
- Students who continue to disrupt the educational process or pose a threat to other students due to gang-related behaviors will be recommended for long-term suspension or expulsion.

Grading System

Teachers grade largely on class work, homework, and tests. Participation in class discussions, special projects, and effort are also taken into consideration. Report cards are issued four (4) times during the year.

Subjects are graded as follows:

A - 90-100%	Excellent
B - 80-89%	Above Average
C - 70-79%	Average
D - 60-69%	Below Average
F - 59& below	Failing

Additional grades are as follows:

- E - Excellent, high performance
- S - Satisfactory, sufficient progress
- N - Needs Improvement
- U - Unsatisfactory

Harassment & Bullying

La Paloma Academy Liberty strives to create a positive, learning-centered atmosphere at school. For our students to be successful, it is imperative that our campus is free from bullying, intimidation, and harassment. Each student deserves to feel safe at school

The following policy regarding bullying, intimidation, and harassment shall be posted in a highly visible area at school. Students, parents, and staff will be notified about this policy, and staff at this school will be vigilant to ensure that these policies and procedures are properly followed.

Definitions

Bullying -

"A person is bullied when he or she is exposed, **repeatedly and over time**, to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons, and he or she has difficulty defending himself or herself."

This definition includes three important components:

1. Bullying is aggressive behavior that involves unwanted, negative actions.
2. Bullying involves a pattern of behavior repeated over time.
3. Bullying involves an imbalance of power or strength.

Intimidation - Verbal or physical threats toward another person made with the intent to inflict fear, injury, or damage to property.

Harassment - The continual or repeated annoyance or humiliation of another person. Harassment towards an individual or group that is based on race, ethnicity, color, gender, religion, physical or behavioral characteristics, sexual orientation, and disability is also considered discrimination.

Acts of bullying may include, but are not limited to:

- Physical or verbal abuse
- Gossiping, starting rumors
- Harassing phone calls
- Starting fights
- Stealing someone's belongings
- Excessive teasing, name calling
- Excluding people from groups
- Playing mean tricks
- Threatening email, text, or internet messages

Students shall not bully, intimidate, or harass any student or school staff member in any way; This includes on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, or while en route to or from school. Students that violate this policy are subject to school disciplinary action. This may include suspension, expulsion, or involvement of law enforcement. This policy also includes students that support or aid another student and includes students that support or aid another student in committing these violations.

Retaliation against a victim, reporter, or witness of bullying is strictly prohibited. Students who intentionally report false accusations of bullying, harassment, or intimidation will be subject to disciplinary action.

Health Office

Administration of Medication:

In order for student to receive medication at school the following policy will apply:

- Parents/guardians will supply medication.
- A permission form supplied by the office must be completed by the parent/guardian.

Administration of Medication Prescribed By a Physician:

- The law (A.R.S. 15-344) requires medication must be delivered to the office in the prescription container as prepared by the pharmacist; the school office may document the number of pills upon receipt.
- The prescription label must bear the student's name, current date, and the name of medication, dosage and the time to be given.

- Please ask your pharmacist to provide you with three containers: one for home, one for school, and one for a single dose on field trips.

- It is recommended that no more than a 30-day supply is maintained at school.

Administration of Non-Prescription Medication:

- Parents will supply the medication
- In order for students to receive over the counter medication, a permission slip needs to be signed.
- The law (A.R.S. 15-344) requires medication must be delivered to the nurse in the original container as packaged by the manufacturer and labeled with the student's name.
- Dosage must be in keeping with the manufacturer's recommendations as printed on the label.

Health Screening

Health screening programs MAY include: Vision, Hearing and or Dental. If any abnormalities are discovered as a result of the screening, parents/legal guardians will be notified and recommendations made for further evaluation.

Emergency Information Update

Each school year, you will be asked to complete an emergency update for each child in your family. You are asked to provide school personnel with current information so that you can be reached in the event of an illness/injury. Please let school personnel know how and where to reach you during school hours.

Please keep school personnel informed of any changes in this information during the school year.

Immunizations

No Child Will Be Admitted Without Proper Proof of Immunizations or a signed Waiver
Documentary proof of immunizations must be presented to school personnel at the time of enrollment or a signed waiver of the parents denying immunizations for their child. Immunizations must be current for the age of the child. Please keep the office informed of any new immunizations your children receive so the health records will be current.

Children who are not adequately vaccinated or who have chosen not to vaccinate against preventable diseases will be excluded from school in the event of a disease outbreak. The following is the immunization requirement for school enrollment (Maricopa County Department of Health):

Arizona State Law requires that a child, upon entering school, must have a record of immunizations against preventable childhood diseases. These are diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough (DPT); Polio (OPV or IPV); measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) and Hepatitis B. The requirements

for immunizations can change from year to year; the health office will notify you of any changes.

Students can be enrolled without current or immediate proof of immunizations. However, the student will be suspended until or unless parent submits documentary proof and they are not exempted from immunization pursuant to ARS 15-873.

A waiver or deferral, in part or in full, will be granted in medical or religious cases, or for personal beliefs. In all cases, parents must provide either a record of immunizations or request a waiver of immunizations.

Early Dismissal of Students Due to Illness or Injury

When illness or injury occurs at school and remaining at school is not in the student's best interest, parents/legal guardians or their designee will be contacted. If you want the school to contact you in the event of all injuries, please notify the school in writing at the beginning of the school year. Parents will be called in the event of any serious accident or illness. For their safety, students are not allowed to walk home during the school day. A parent or designee must sign them out of school.

Homework

Homework is a natural extension of the school day. It is intended to provide independent practice and build study skills. Homework can also strengthen basic skills and reinforce study habits as well as allow parents to see the quality of work their child is handing in. Any unfinished class work is considered homework. **If a student misses an assignment due to illness or other family problems, he/she is responsible to get the assignments from the teacher, or from another student to get the work they missed.** Parents can help their children by arranging a quiet, comfortable place at home for the students to work and by checking to see that assignments are completed. Teachers will assign homework almost everyday. Please check with your child's teacher about his/her homework policy. Parents are encouraged to provide time and a quiet study area for their children to complete homework activities.

Intervention Policy

La Paloma Academy Liberty is committed to providing quality instruction to support student learning and success. Students who are unable to be serviced in the classroom due to tardies, early departures, absences and continual dress code or behavioral violations will be identified for

intervention services. (Refer to the excessive absence and excessive tardy policies).

Intervention services will require the student to stay afterschool from 3:05-4:05 in a designated classroom to make up for lost instructional time in the classroom for the above listed reasons (absences, tardies, dress code violation, behavior). The student will be required to complete various task such as completion of missing assignments, make up work, character reports, or other appropriate activities as designated by administration. Once the student has completed their intervention time for the day they **MUST BE PICKED UP BY A PARENT IN THE FRONT OFFICE. THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PHASE INTO THE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM.** In the event a student does not stay for their designated intervention time for a reason that is taken as unacceptable (skipping, forgot, etc.) their time could be doubled to accommodate.

Letters & Notices

Students have the responsibility of taking home all notices that are given to them. Many notices are very important, informing parents of things going on at the school that they need to know. Students, please make sure that you give all papers to your parents, including early dismissal notes and parent/teacher conference notices. We will also be using an automated program and an app for cell phones, tablets, and computers (Class Dojo) that will contact you by phone or app to provide information concerning the school therefore, it is important to listen to all messages and check Class Dojo to be informed about school information. This includes SMS messages or text messages sent by the schools automated service.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

During the school year, dates have been set aside for official conferences regarding their child's progress. Teachers are always available to meet or speak with parents outside of conference dates. Please contact your child's teacher or the school office in order to set up an appointment. Parents will not be able to speak to the teacher during the school day while they have responsibility for students. Formal conferences between parents and teacher are scheduled during the first and third grading periods of the school year. Parent/Teacher conferences provide an opportunity to review children's progress in all areas of the school experience.

Parents Right to Know

Parents may request information on the professional qualifications of the student's teacher. The type of information available upon request is if: the teacher meets State Qualifications/licensure requirements; the teacher is teaching under an Emergency Teaching Certificate; the teacher has a baccalaureate degree; the student receives services from a paraprofessional; and, the qualifications of the paraprofessional. (See pages twenty-one through twenty-three for more detailed information concerning Parents Right to Know.)

Police Visits

Police may ask to interview a student at school. If the purpose of the interview is to investigate child abuse or neglect, the school cannot notify the parent without police authorization. In all other cases, the school will make reasonable efforts to notify the parent. After reasonable efforts to notify the parent, the school will allow the interview unless the student does not wish to be interviewed or wishes to first speak with the parent. If police wish to take a student into custody, the school must comply with the request. The school will notify the parent unless the police have directed the school to refer the parent to the police.

Retention

The purposes of these procedures are to identify students who are not achieving satisfactory progress in one or more of the basic subject areas and to provide intervention as early as possible. To accomplish this, the parent, teacher, administrator, and student should work together to develop and implement a plan designed around the specific needs of the student, with the goal of decreasing the likelihood of retention. The student's progress should be closely monitored until such time as the student is achieving satisfactory grades. If, however, it is deemed in the child's best interest to be retained because he/she is not prepared to go on to the next grade or the child needs more time to acquire the skills at the present grade, the child will be retained. The final decision regarding promotion and retention rests with the school.

Additional Rules

Students are expected to know the following rules. The teacher will go over the rules at school. Read them over several times so you will remember them, these are in addition to others listed in the policies and procedures:

1. Threats to staff or students are not tolerated

2. Follow directions given by any staff member and obey school rules
3. Respect the rights and property of others
4. Respect school property and avoid littering
5. At all times, use appropriate language and level of voice
6. Chewing gum is not allowed on campus
7. Use equipment properly and safely
8. Laser pointers are not allowed on the school campus
9. Stay in designated areas
10. Stop playing when the bell rings or whistle is blown and go directly to class
11. Throwing objects is not permitted
12. Walk (don't run) on sidewalks and in the building
13. Food is allowed only in the cafeteria or snack areas
14. Students not under direct supervision of a teacher must have an appropriate pass
15. When going to the bus, walk with your teacher and stay in designated area until the bus arrives
16. Bike riders, when you are on school property, always walk your bike
17. No skateboards, scooters, Go-peds, Heely's or roller blades allowed on campus during the school day or at extracurricular activities
18. Personal fund raising activities are not allowed on campus
22. No game-boys, CD players, I pods, radios, music CD's, magazines, comic books or trading cards on campus. Any items seen by a staff member will be confiscated and will need to be picked up by a parent. If a student chooses to bring any of the above items he/she and the parents must understand that La Paloma Academy Liberty staff will not accept responsibility for any loss, theft or damage.

Sign Out

For the safety and protection of the child, an official I.D will be requested from the person picking up the student. We cannot allow him/her to be taken from the room before our regular dismissal time without the parent first coming to the office and signing the child out. We will then call the student from class. We will not excuse a student early on the basis of a note or telephone call from the parents. An adult who wishes to take a child out of school early must sign the child out in the office.

No child will be released to parent, guardian, or any other person not listed on the Emergency Contact list. Written authorization must be given to the school for a student to leave campus.

Search & Seizure

Order, safety and security are essential to a productive learning environment. When the learning environment is threatened by the presence of contraband, school officials have a responsibility and authority to search for and obtain the contraband from students or non-students if there is reasonable suspicion that the student possesses such contraband. These searches can include desks, personal belongings and the student's backpacks. Student desks, school textbooks and library books are the property of the school and remain, at all times, under the control of the school. However, students are expected to assume full responsibility for the security and safekeeping of the desks, books and equipment assigned to them. Inspections of desks and backpacks may be conducted by school authorities at any time without a search warrant or student consent.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

La Paloma Academy Liberty is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in relation to race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, or disability. This policy encompasses all matters concerning staff, students, the public, instructional programs, and services. Liberty Traditional School will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws relating to educational programs and personnel management. (ARS 15-184)

Substitute Teachers

Every student will periodically be taught by a substitute teacher when it becomes necessary for the regular teacher to be absent. **Students are expected to be extra courteous to substitute teachers.** Students are to be helpful, polite and friendly, failure to do so will result in discipline referral or loss of privilege.

Telephones

If parents would like to talk with their child's teacher, they should call either before classes begin or after the students are dismissed. Parents may call during class hours and leave a message with the office for the teacher. The teacher will return the call as soon as possible.

OFFICE TELEPHONE-The office telephone is a business phone and is not to be used by students, except in an emergency. They will also be required to have permission from their teacher or the office to use the phone and will be questioned on the reason for the call prior to using the office phones. Students are not allowed to use the phone to make personal arrangements (such as requesting permission from parents to go to another student's home after school). The office staff has the right to monitor a student's phone call to ensure they are being honest about the emergency need to use the phone.

CLASSROOM TELEPHONE-The phone in the classroom is for the teacher use only. Students are not to use them under any circumstances without the permission from the teacher.

Tobacco, Alcohol & Drugs

The possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, or non-prescription drugs is not permitted at any time in the school buildings or within the area surrounding the school. This rule applies to all school sponsored activities, regular school days, before and after school or being transported to or from school. This rule would include coming to school under the influence and affects of alcohol or non-prescription drugs. Violations of this rule will result in suspension or expulsion from school and/or a police investigation.

Vandalism

Students who deliberately and wrongfully damage or deface school property will be required to pay for the damage and are subject to disciplinary action, which could include a police referral. Parents or guardians of these students will bear the ultimate responsibility for these payments.

Visitors & Guests

Any parent or guardian that would like to volunteer in the classroom or on a field trip must fill out a volunteer application and background check prior to volunteering. Please allow up to three weeks for the application to be processed. Once the application has been processed visitors are welcome at our school and are required to register in the office. All visitors must wear a visitor's badge while on our campus. We all have to be extremely careful to make sure that no unauthorized persons are entering the school grounds. Younger relatives are not allowed on campus without their parents. All visitors/volunteers/chaperones must be 18 years or older.

Weapons

Knives, projectile weapons, guns or any other object which could cause harm to someone, are not to be brought to school. If brought, they will be confiscated and returned only to a parent/guardian or to the police. Students violating this policy will be subject to severe disciplinary action. None of the above items are to be brought to the building or to be in the possession of a person at school. Violations of this rule will result in suspension and/or expulsion from school and a police referral.

Withdrawals

Please notify the office 24 hours in advance, either in person or by signed note or phone call, if you plan to withdraw your child from school. All text books and school property are to be returned, or paid for, in order to receive withdrawal papers and report cards.

GLOSSARY OF CONSEQUENCES

Some consequences apply to certain problems and not to others, it is not possible to list disciplinary options in a strict order of progression from less to more serious. Every situation is handled on a case by case basis.

- **Conference-** A teacher or administrator will talk with the student about expected behavior and the consequences of misconduct.
- **Parent Involvement** -A teacher or administrator will discuss student behavior with parent/guardian, seeking cooperation in creating a positive behavioral change.
- **Detention/Work Detail-** Detention is mandatory time spend in an assigned location, performing supervised work for the school. Rules for detention vary by assignment, but always require full cooperation with the supervisor. Detention or work detail may be assigned before school, during lunch period, after school, or on a Saturday. Parent/guardian will be notified prior to assignment of after school detention.
- **Restitution-** When personal or school property has been damaged, stolen, lost, or destroyed, the student may be held responsible for replacing or paying the cost of the item. Restitution may be required in addition to other behavioral consequences.
- **Loss of Privileges-** Any privilege that is abused may be revoked, pending behavior change or fulfillment of reasonable requirements. Privileges may be restored to students partially or fully and may depend upon development of a behavioral contract. Loss of privileges may include the student's right to be enrolled in class, or participation in extra curricular activity.
- **Behavioral Contract-** A teacher or administrator may outline in writing the terms upon which certain student privileges will be granted or continued and specific consequences if terms are broken. Signatures of both student and school official are required; in some instances, parents or guardian will also be expected to sign, indicating agreement to the terms of the contract.
- **On-Campus Suspension (Short-Term)** - With notification to the student and parent/guardian, a school administrator may remove a student from all classes for a period of one to ten days. During this time, the student's access to school services, facilities and personnel will be limited to the on-campus suspension area. The student is not permitted to participate in or attend any school-sponsored events during the period of suspension.

- **Off-Campus Suspension (Short-Term)** - With notification to the student and parent/guardian, a school administrator may remove a student from school and bar the student from all school activities for a period of one to ten days.
- **Off-Campus Suspension (Long-Term)**- Acting upon the recommendation of the administration, the Board may deny all school privileges to a student for a period of eleven days to one calendar year.
- **Expulsion-** Acting upon the recommendation of the administration, the Governing Board may permanently deny all school privileges to a student.

Safe Campus Policy

(Parent Conduct)

No person may interfere with or disrupt the school or its operation in any form, as determined by the governing board or school administration.

- Disruption or interference includes but is not strictly limited to:
 - Intimidation;
 - Aggressively confronting, touching (with exception to a child pertaining to a parent or guardian), swearing at, or threatening any other person affiliated with the school.
- All persons shall conduct themselves in a civilized and cordial manner when communicating or interacting with school staff, students, faculty, administration, parents, or any other person affiliated with the school. This Safe Campus Policy pertains to face-to-face communications, telephonic communications, email, or any other type of communication, contact, or correspondence of any kind with any stakeholder of the school or the school's affiliates.

A violation of this policy may result in one or more of the following actions against the person engaged in the disruptive activity:

- order by the school to immediately vacate or leave the property, either temporarily or permanently;
- report the actions to local police, sheriffs, or other local law enforcement jurisdiction;
- call the police or otherwise request assistance from local law enforcement to enforce the school's order to leave the property;
- file a criminal complaint and further pursue legal action;
- file for civil injunctive relief.

Enforcement of the foregoing is within the absolute discretion of the governing board or school administration.

Interference with or disruption of an educational institution may be considered a class six felony under the Arizona Criminal Code (13-2911).

CHILD FIND:

Child find is a component of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004 (IDEA '04) that requires states to locate, identify, and evaluate all children with disabilities aged birth through 21 who are in need of early intervention or special education services. This includes children who are highly mobile, such as migrant or homeless children, children suspected of having a disability even though they are advancing from grade to grade, private school students, and home-schooled students. The Arizona initiative for child find is referred to as AZ FIND. Some children have more difficulty learning than others. They may have trouble achieving milestones in one or more of the following developmental or academic areas:

Vision and Hearing Motor Control or Coordination
Behavior or Social Skills Speech or Communication Skills
Cognitive or Academic Skills

The earlier you express your concerns, the sooner your child's needs will be identified and the sooner he or she will receive the help needed to succeed. Anyone can refer a child birth through age 21 for early intervention or special education services. The referral can come from a parent, foster parent, teacher, counselor, friend, relative, or the student who finds learning difficult. If you have concerns about your child's development or progress in school, contact the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) at www.azdes.gov/azdes.gov/azeip, or call either 1-888-439-5609 or 602-532-9960

The policies in this handbook are meant to protect a student by ensuring that there is never a disruption to the educational process. If you have any questions or need further clarifications on any of the school's policies and procedures, please call the office immediately and we will clarify any questions

