

# PEPIN ACADEMIES PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK

## MISSION STATEMENT

To empower students with learning and learning-related disabilities to reach their full potential by providing a high-quality education in a stimulating, low-threat learning environment with a wide variety of services.

## VISION

To prepare students to meet the academic, social, and emotional challenges encountered in everyday life and prepare them for successful transition to middle and high school and post-secondary.



## TAMPA CAMPUS

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# STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

## Student Rights and Responsibilities

### School Program

The total purpose of the school program and the personnel who support that program in any way is to provide for the maximum personal and educational development of each and every student who is in attendance and is affected by that program.

Students have the right to:

- a meaningful curriculum that shall meet their immediate and future needs;
- voice their opinions in the development of their curriculum;
- pursue their education under competent instruction; and
- take part in in-school (instructional) activities and to decide if they want to take part in after-school (extracurricular) activities.

Students have the responsibility to:

- attend all classes regularly and on time;
- contribute to the total classroom and school atmosphere in a manner that keeps it wholesome and conducive to learning;
- complete all classroom assignments and meet requirements for all class objectives;
- respect the rights of others and respect the views and backgrounds of those that differ from their own;
- meet the approved criteria required for participation in instructional and extracurricular activities; and
- follow Pepin Academies' rules and procedures in the classroom, school, on the bus, and school-sponsored extracurricular activities.

### Grades

Students have the right to:

- be informed by the school of their academic progress;
- have periodic reviews of their instructional achievement by the school staff;
- academic grades in each class that represent fairly and impartially their academic progress in that class;
- have the opportunity to periodically review their grades with their teacher;
- be graded on their progress and class work; and
- follow the established grievance procedure adopted by the Pepin Academies' School Board in cases of disagreement concerning grades assigned.

Students have the responsibility to:

- attend class regularly and on time;
- perform all tasks required for the successful completion of the course;
- make up all work missed during excused absences but not for work missed during truancies, out-of-school suspensions, or unexplained absences;
- complete all classroom assignments to the best of his or her ability to earn the best possible grade;
- cooperate with the teacher to provide a good learning environment in class (conduct, while not a part of a student's grade, may bear a relationship when a student is absent from a class and unable to make up work due to misbehavior); and
- refrain from cheating or plagiarizing on all tests and work assignments.

# STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

## Consultation

Students have the right to:

- consultations with special services personnel (Social Worker, Counselor, School Psychologist, Student Success Coach) in the areas of vocational opportunities, personal and social development and educational planning;
- be informed of all special student support services available in their school; and
- be informed about the availability of community services to help them with their counseling needs.

Students have the responsibility to:

- take advantage of the special support services available to them and offer assistance in the continuous improvement of those services. Appointments are made in advance, unless the concern is one of an emergency nature; and
- along with parents or guardians, inquire about additional counseling services available in the community to assist students with special needs.

## Due Process

Students have the right to:

- have proper notice of the infraction, an opportunity to be heard, and the hearing must be conducted fairly.

## Code of Student Conduct

Students have the responsibility to:

- understand and adhere to the Code of Student Conduct and the individual discipline plans of each school.

## Law Enforcement

Students have the right to:

- privacy and shall be free from unreasonable search, as well as seizure of personal property. These rights shall prevail unless there is reason to believe that it is necessary to set them aside to protect the safety, health, and property of the school, students, and staff;
- privacy of their personal possessions unless there is reason on the part of the Principal, or his or her designee, to believe that the student is concealing a weapon, illegal drugs, or other material that is inappropriate or dangerous to himself or herself, others, property, or in violation of existing Pepin Academies' policy that would bring rise to a search;
- be given prior notification of any searches except in case of emergency or exigent circumstances.
- to request the presence of their parent/guardian or a responsible adult/advocate during any criminal investigation.

Students have the responsibility to:

- not carry, possess or conceal any material that is prohibited by law; to accept the consequences for their actions in cases where unlawful materials are found in their possession or in their lockers.

# STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

## Student Records

Eligible students have the right to:

- inspect, review, and challenge the information contained in the records;
- appeal any disagreement of records to the Principal.

Students have the right to:

- be protected by legal provisions prohibiting the release of personal information to other than legally-authorized persons without the consent of the parent, guardian, or student.

Eligible students have the responsibility to:

- provide the school with any information that could be useful in making appropriate educational decisions;
- authorize release of information to those individuals or agencies who are working for the benefit of the student;
- follow Pepin Academies' School Board policies for release of student information through the school;
- make an appointment with the school when they wish to review a record.

## Assembly and Association

Students have the right to:

- join school organizations and lawfully assemble in such a manner so as not to disrupt the orderly process of the school's program;
- lawfully assemble;
- organize associations within the school for social, athletic and other proper and lawful purposes, providing that no such group denies membership to any student because of race, sex, religion or for any reasons other than those related to the purpose of the organization.

Students have the responsibility to:

- exercise the right to assembly so that the assembly does not disrupt the school program nor the orderly conduct of the school;
- know and observe qualifications for membership in student activities and to refrain from activities that interfere with school discipline;
- conduct themselves in a manner that is representative of the school and the organization of which they are members.

## Religion

Students have the right to:

- study, examine, discuss, criticize or support religious ideas and institutions for their literary and historic qualities when presented objectively as part of a program of education;
- release time from school to observe religious holidays, which is an excused absence with written parental permission;
- practice their religion.

Students have the responsibility to:

- not endanger the physical health or safety of themselves or others or disrupt the educational process;
- develop tolerance and respect for the beliefs of others;

- inform school officials through their parents about any religious practices or beliefs that may be in conflict with school rules or regulations;
- decide for themselves whether or not they wish to take part in any religious activity.

## Patriotism

Students have the right to:

- show love for their country and allegiance to its flag;
- recite and display their feeling of patriotism;
- participate in, or refrain from, activities involving loyalty oaths, saying a pledge, singing an anthem, saluting a flag, or taking part in a patriotic ceremony;
- refrain from reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and to remain seated/stand quietly while the pledge is recited by others.

Students have the responsibility to:

- not interrupt the educational rights of others;
- not interfere with the rights of other students to express or refrain from expressing patriotism;
- remove any headdress when the national anthem is played, if a male, except when such headdress is worn for religious purposes;
- stand at attention, when possible.

## Language Assistance

Students have the right to:

- a competent interpreter to assist him/her if the student has difficulty speaking/understanding English.

# ACADEMICS AND EXTRACURRICULAR

## Academics and Extracurricular

### Individual Education Program (IEP)

Pepin Academies will make every attempt to schedule a mutually agreed upon time for IEP meetings. It is our policy to send at least one written notice of the IEP meetings. If we do not receive a response from you, we will notify you via email. If you choose not to attend, the meeting will be held at the scheduled time and copies of the IEP will be sent home for your review. If you feel additional information needs to be added and/or changed, another meeting will be scheduled. However, the same process will be followed as previously stated.

IEP's must be reviewed a minimum of once a year prior to the expiration date of the current IEP in order to comply with federal guidelines.

### Academics and Grading

Pepin Academies follows the current Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and Florida Standards. These standards, expectations, and benchmarks are met through the utilization of multisensory teaching techniques such as visual, kinesthetic, and auditory learning modalities.

#### Grading Scale

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D / Needs Improvement
Below 60	F / Unsatisfactory

#### Promotion/Retention Policy

Students must show a consistent effort in order to participate in the learning process and meet the requirements of Hillsborough County's Student Progression Plan. Every effort will be made to support the student, however; promotion and retention decisions are based on the student's individual progress as well as attainment of State and District benchmarks.

#### Interim Reports of Grades

Grades can be viewed at any time on PlusPortals. This system also gives access to view class information, assignments and homework the teacher may post. Report cards are given out quarterly. Parents will be notified during the grading period if their student is receiving a "D" or an "F" in any of their academic coursework.

### Records Requests

If you wish to have a copy of records or transcripts, you must submit a "Student Records Request" form to administration or the data processor. Charges apply (see form).



# ACADEMICS AND EXTRACURRICULAR

## Athletics

### Philosophy

It is the philosophy of Pepin Academies to teach the values of cooperation, self-discipline, character building, and to demonstrate commitment to others in team-building activities and sports.

### Required Forms for Participation

Physical Exam: FHSAA Physical Form completed  
Consent and Release Form  
Pepin Athletic Contract

### Eligibility

Students must maintain at least a C average in all academic classes and at least a B in conduct in all classes. Students are required to turn in daily progress reports to their coach or sponsor for the duration of the program.

### Team Sports

Basketball	Elementary, Middle, and High School
Cheerleading	High School
Volleyball	Middle and High School
Track and Field	Middle and High School
Golf	High School
Soccer	Elementary, Middle, High School
Flag Football	Middle School

### Player's Conduct

It is the responsibility of each athlete to:

- Represent your school in a respectful manner including dress attire
- Accept official's decisions without argument and with respect
- Cheer for your team and not against your opponent
- Conduct yourself in a way that shows a positive attitude toward yourself, your team and your school
- Display appropriate behaviors toward the opposing team

### Spectator's Conduct

It is the responsibility of each spectator to:

- Demonstrate good sportsmanship at all events
- Uphold high standards of behavior
- Follow the same conduct as required by the players

### Transportation and Safety

On practice days, it is the parent's responsibility to pick up their child at the conclusion of practice. If the child is not picked up on time, within 5 minutes of practice ending, they will be sent to aftercare for an additional fee. It is also the parent's responsibility to get their child to and from games. If public transportation is used (HART), the school will provide bus passes. If a bus pass or identification is lost, it is the parent's responsibility to obtain a new ID or bus pass.

# ATTENDANCE

## Attendance

Florida School Law, Chapter 232 states that children up to age 16 are required to attend school regularly. To fully benefit from the instructional program, students are expected to attend school regularly, be on time for classes, and satisfy all course requirements. Poor attendance or excessive tardiness may result in failing grades and will be taken into consideration when evaluating a student for promotion and/or graduation.

The attendance policy includes the following:

- An absence can be excused by a phone call on the same day. Voice messages must be clear and include the name of the caller, the name of the student, the date, and the reason for the absence. If a call is not received on the same day, then only written notification will be accepted for an excusal. This notification must be submitted in a timely fashion and with the above required information.
- All classwork is required to be made up for any absence.
- For every absence, an automated phone call and/or email from Hillsborough County School District will be made.
- After the 7<sup>th</sup> absence in a 90 day period, a phone call will be made to the parent documenting factors contributing to absenteeism. Additionally, an absentee letter will be sent to the parent from Pepin Academies
- After the 10<sup>th</sup> absence in a 90 day period, a parent conference will be initiated. Also, all future absences must be accompanied by a Physician's note or Court documents.
- After the 15<sup>th</sup> absence in a 90 day period, a Child Study Team (CST) meeting will be held and an Attendance Referral submitted to the Hillsborough County School District. Additionally, the student may lose their guaranteed placement at Pepin Academies and be placed back in the lottery for the next school year.
- After the 15<sup>th</sup> unexcused absence per semester, the student has met the legal definition for truancy and law enforcement may be contacted. For students that have a driver's license, this may result in a suspension of this license.

### Reporting an Absence

The parent or guardian should call the school office by 9:00 am to report the student's absence to the designated office personnel. Voice messages must be clear and include the name of the caller, the name of the student, the date, and the reason for the student's absence. An automated phone call and/or email from the Hillsborough County School District will be sent to each parent/guardian each day their child is absent. Pepin Academies may request additional documentation upon the student's return.

If your child is absent from school, they will not be permitted to participate in afterschool/ extracurricular activities. Students must be in attendance for at least half of the school day in order to participate in school activities.

### Excused Absences

Examples of excused absences are:

- Illness of student (Physician's note may be required upon administration request)
- Medical or dental appointment
- Accident resulting in injury to student
- Death in the family
- Observance of a religious holiday (This will not count against a student's perfect attendance)

# ATTENDANCE

- Subpoena by a law enforcement agency or a court appearance
- Emergency reasons approved by the school administration

## Unexcused Absences

Examples of unexcused absences are:

- Truancy of a student
- Vacation
- Out-of-school suspension
- Any absence not excused by the administration of Pepin Academies

## School Business Absence

Students on school business will be counted as present and be allowed to make up missed work.

Examples of school business:

- Field trips approved by the administration
- An academic activity directly related to the instructional outcomes
- A summon to one of the administrative offices
- Participation in regularly scheduled, school sponsored athletic event
- Other approved activities such as Student Council, club meetings, etc. as designated by the school administration

## Make-Up Work Policy

A student who has an excused absence is permitted to make up work missed. Parent or student must make arrangements to pick up work. The student is allowed the total number of days they were absent to make up work that was missed during an absence. If the student misses an elective class, he/she will be provided an opportunity to complete an alternate assignment to make up the participation grade for the time that was missed. If the alternate assignment is not submitted, the student will receive a zero in participation for the days they missed class.

## Tardy Policy

A student who arrives to school after class has begun causes a disruption to not only other students but themselves. A student is considered tardy to school if they are not in their classroom by 8:30 am. Any student arriving after this time should report to the school office to receive a tardy pass. Students will not be permitted into class without a tardy pass. Parent must accompany student to the office when signing in late.

## Tardy Consequences

Students with excessive tardies (per quarter) will be subject to the following penalties:

- After 4 tardies, a behavior infraction will be submitted
- After the 8<sup>th</sup> tardy, a written notice will be sent home to parent

Note: Excessive tardies for all schools, whether excused or unexcused, will be addressed by school personnel on a quarterly basis.

# DRESS CODE

## Dress Code

All uniform shirts must be purchased from our uniform provider, Risse Brothers. Please label all clothing with your child's name, especially shirt, jackets and PE uniforms. Consequences may be applied to students for violations of this dress policy. This may include a call to the parent or guardian requesting that appropriate attire be brought to the school in a timely fashion.

### Shirts

- Official uniform shirt with the appropriate logo.
- High school students may wear the uniform white dress shirt and tie purchased at Risse Brothers.
- Long or short sleeve undershirts may be worn in the following colors: white, gray, or black.
- Undershirts must not hang out from the uniform shirt.
- Pepin spirit shirts may be worn on Fridays. These shirts can be worn untucked.

### Pants/Shorts/Skirts/Skort

- Must be khaki (tan) in color.
- Pants and shorts must be worn at the waistline, have belt loops and fit appropriately.
- Pants must not be stretch material or form fitting.
- Shorts, skirts, or skorts must be no shorter than 4 inches above the knee.
- No cargo style pants or shorts.
- No elastic waistbands unless pre-approved for therapeutic reasons.
- On cold weather days, leggings may be worn under skirts and shorts (black, gray, tan & white ONLY)

### Jackets and sweatshirts worn during the day

- Official Pepin Academies attire with school logo: navy blue (elementary), gray (middle) or black (high).
- If not official attire, solid color only: navy blue (elementary), gray (middle) or black (high).
- No lettering, designs, patterns or any other embellishment on non-official jackets and sweatshirts.
- Winter jackets in different colors may be worn due to very cold weather, but must be taken off inside.

### Shoes

- Footwear may be any color, but must have closed toes and closed heels for safety.
- Sneakers, shoes, boots and loafers are allowed.
- No heels, steel toes, flip-flops, or house slippers.
- Footwear with laces must be tied properly at all times.

### Hats/Head Covering

- No hats or head covering may be worn at any time unless pre-approved for religious reasons.
- No bandanna print headwear/accessories may be worn on campus.
- A hat may be worn when appropriate during PE or cold weather, but must be removed upon entering the building.

### Jewelry

- No large or obtrusive jewelry or piercings may be worn.

# DRESS CODE

## **Grooming**

- All uniforms must be clean and in good repair.
- Hairstyles and colors that are distracting as determined by the school administration are not permitted.

## **Free Dress Day**

There will be days during the school year when individual students, or groups of students, are permitted a “free dress” day for a variety of reasons. The following rules apply at these times:

- The rules for footwear remain the same.
- The rule for hats remains the same.
- No exposed shoulders or midriff (front, back, or sides).
- No mesh or see-through garments.
- Clothing not properly fastened or with rips that are indecent shall not be worn.
- Pants may not have rips that expose the skin.
- No wording or graphics that are sexually suggestive, violent, vulgar, or alcohol or drug related.
- Shorts, skirts, skorts, or dresses must be no shorter than 4 inches above the knee.
- Leggings may only be worn with a long shirt that covers lower body.

The administration reserves the right to prohibit any clothing items, accessories, or grooming styles that are deemed to be disruptive to the learning environment or to present a safety concern.

# STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

## Student Code of Conduct

### School Wide Discipline Plan

Discipline is a process that uses teaching, modeling, and other research-based strategies to shape behavior and provide a safe, orderly, and productive learning environment.

The faculty and staff at Pepin Academies provide students with an enriching, challenging, and nurturing learning environment. Each teacher has a classroom management plan addressing the rules and procedures applicable in their specific classroom. These rules and procedures are taught and reinforced on a daily basis to ensure our students have a clear understanding of the expectations for the learning environment.

Pepin Academies follows the Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Model. This is a framework for changing the culture and environment of a school to improve educational outcomes for students. The focus is on teaching and positively reinforcing appropriate and expected behavior.

The three pillars of PBS at Pepin are:

- Integrity
- Respect
- Responsibility

The meaning of these pillars are defined for each area of the school and taught to the students at the appropriate developmental level by every member of the school community.

The Principal or designee may take disciplinary action against any student whose conduct is judged to be unacceptable for Pepin Academies. All mitigating circumstances will be taken into careful consideration, including the student's exceptionality and how it may or may not impact their ability to comply.

Unexpected behavior is divided into two categories. Level 1 infractions tend to be minor incidents that are typically handled by the classroom teacher. These types of infractions are entered into a behavior data tracking system to determine patterns of behavior and to assist in appropriately placing students into tiered levels of support. Level 2 offenses are more serious events that are handled by a member of the administrative team and may result in a referral being written.

### Referrals

A referral is an official notification of a violation in the student code of conduct. When issued, a copy is sent home for a parent/guardian signature. If the form is not signed and returned the next school day, a phone call is made to the parent/guardian and a lunch detention may also be assigned. Any serious behavioral violations that create a pattern of misconduct may result in a suspension.

Prior to a Referral:

1. Parents and students must know teacher's rules and procedures
2. Teacher and other staff members must document minor infraction and actions taken. Several interventions should be attempted prior to administration writing a referral for persistent unexpected behaviors.
3. Teacher will communicate with parents about concerns related to their child's behavior on a consistent basis.

# STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

## Classification of Behavior Infractions

<b>Zero-Tolerance</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bringing a firearm or weapon, as defined in chapter 790, to school, to any school function, or onto any school sponsored transportation or possessing a firearm at school.</li> <li>• Making a threat or false report, as defined by ss.790.162 and 790.163, respectively, involving school or school personnel's property, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity.</li> </ul>	
<b>Level 1 Behavior Infractions</b>	<b>Level 2 Behavior Infractions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheating</li> <li>• Dress code violation</li> <li>• Failure to be in one's assigned location</li> <li>• Inappropriate language</li> <li>• Invading personal space of others (grabbing items, pushing past someone, unsafe/rough play)</li> <li>• Lying/giving false information</li> <li>• Misusing property/throwing or damaging items (students will be responsible for cost of damages)</li> <li>• Period tardiness</li> <li>• Refusal to follow school rules</li> <li>• Teasing</li> <li>• Unauthorized use of personal electronic devices on campus (including cell phones)</li> <li>• Unexpected behaviors (calling out, inattentive behavior, minor disruption, disrespect, refusing to work, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggressive physical contact</li> <li>• Bullying/Harassment (including cyberbullying)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Including racial/ethnic/gender/orientation discrimination</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Cheating or academic dishonesty</li> <li>• Credible threats</li> <li>• Direct refusal of authority</li> <li>• Driving violations (High School only)</li> <li>• Fighting</li> <li>• Inappropriate use internet or computers</li> <li>• Indecent dress</li> <li>• Major or chronic property destruction (students will be responsible for cost of damages)</li> <li>• Major or chronic refusal to follow school rules</li> <li>• Pattern of aggressive or profane language</li> <li>• Possession, use, showing effects of, or distribution of tobacco/vaping products, alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs</li> <li>• Public displays of affection</li> <li>• Repeated instances of Level 1 behaviors</li> <li>• Skipping class or leaving campus without permission</li> <li>• Theft</li> </ul>

### Response to Level 1 and 2 Behavior Infractions

- Classroom Support
- Targeted-Tiered Intervention
- Administrative Consequences

### Searches in School Buildings or on School Property

The school administration retains control over lockers and desk space loaned to students and regulates admission and parking of automobiles on school grounds. Therefore, if there is reasonable suspicion that drugs, weapons, dangerous/illegal matter, or stolen goods are likely to be found, the school principal and/or designee has the right and duty to inspect and search student lockers and desks and student or non-student automobiles. The school principal and/or designee, in exercise of the school's duty to enforce school discipline and to protect the health and safety of the student body, also has the right and duty to search the student's person if there is a reasonable degree of suspicion that drugs; weapons; dangerous/illegal matter, or stolen goods are likely to be found on the student's person. All items may be turned over to the police, resulting in possible criminal or juvenile court prosecution.

# STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

## Cell Phone/Electronic Communication Use

Cellular phones are not permitted to be used without permission anywhere on campus during school hours. If any faculty or staff sees or hears a student's phone, or if the student is caught using the device, it will be confiscated. The confiscated phone will be returned to the student after the first infraction. Repeated infractions may result in parent/guardian pickup of the confiscated phone and/or the student losing the privilege of keeping these devices during the school day. Inappropriate material on electronic devices will not be permitted. In an emergency, family members must contact the school, not the student's cell phone.

## Detention

Any teacher or staff member may issue lunch detention to a student. If a student receives repeated lunch detentions that constitute a pattern of misconduct, then this may result in a referral as well. All students assigned to lunch detention will receive a school lunch. This includes foods from a menu approved by the National School Breakfast/Lunch Program. Students will not be permitted to purchase additional items from the cafeteria. They may eat a lunch brought from home.

## Suspension

A suspension is a disciplinary action imposed upon a student who, in the opinion of the administration and based on the rules and conduct code of our school, is guilty of serious misconduct.

When a suspension is issued, the parent/guardian will be notified along with the date(s) the suspension is to be served. Administration may meet with the parent/guardian and the student to discuss the situation. Suspensions may be in or out of school.

### In-School Suspension

- The student will not attend any classes on this day.
- All assignments will be completed in a designated area.
- The student may not participate in or attend any after school clubs, sports events or activities during the days of the student suspension.

### Out-of-School Suspension

- The student is not permitted on campus.
- The student will not receive credit for work he/she has missed while suspended
- The student will not participate in or attend any after school clubs, sports events or extracurricular or athletic activities during the days of the student's suspension.

## Manifestation Determination Meeting

Once an exceptional education student has received his/her 10<sup>th</sup> day of out-of-school suspension, a Manifestation Determination meeting will be called. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether there is a relationship between the student's disability and their misconduct. At this time, the IEP Team will review the student's disciplinary history and determine how the student's disciplinary history relates to the following:

- The child's identified disability
- Intervals of suspension
- The severity of the behavior/infraction
- Patterns of misconduct



# STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

## Emergency Situation

Certain rule infraction(s) may constitute an emergency situation. An emergency situation is defined as one in which the student's presence at school poses a danger to persons, property or self. An emergency meeting of the administration will be convened to address the situation.

## Bullying and Harassment Policy

*This policy has been developed as prescribed in F.S. 1006.147 and in conformity with Florida Department of Education (FLDOE.)*

Pepin Academies will not tolerate unlawful bullying and harassment of any type. Conduct that constitutes bullying and harassment, as defined herein, is prohibited during any educational program or activity conducted by Pepin Academies, during any school- related or school-sponsored program or activity or through the use of data or computer that is accessed through a computer, computer system, or computer network of Pepin Academies.

### Definitions

*"Bullying"* means systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more student or employees. It is defined as any unwanted and repeated written, verbal or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult or student that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; unreasonably interfere with the individual's school performance or participation; and may involve:

- Teasing
- Threats
- Intimidation
- Stalking
- Cyberstalking
- Cyberbullying
- Physical Violence
- Theft
- Sexual, religious, or racial harassment
- Public humiliation
- Destruction of property

*"Harassment"* means any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal, or physical contact directed against a student or school employee that:

- Places a student or school employee in reasonable fear or harm to person or damage to personal property
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits
- Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

*"Bullying"* and *"Harassment"* also encompass:

- Retaliation against a student or school employee by another student or school employee for asserting or alleging an act of bullying or harassment. Reporting an act of bullying or harassment that is not made in good faith is considered *retaliation*.

# STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

- Perpetuation of conduct listed in the definition of bullying and/or harassment by an individual or group with intent to demean, dehumanize, embarrass, or cause emotional or physical harm to a student or school employee by:
  - Incitement or coercion
  - Accessing or knowingly and willingly causing or providing access to data or computer software through a computer, computer system, or computer network within the scope of Pepin Academies
  - Acting in a manner that has an effect substantially similar to the effect of bullying or harassment.

*“Harassment” or “Bullying”* also means electronically transmitted acts (i.e., internet, e-mail, cellular telephone, personal digital assistance (PDA), or wireless hand-held device) that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student, and the behavior both causes mental and physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s).

*“Cyberstalking”* means to engage in a course of conduct to communicate or to cause to be communicated words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication directed at a specific person, causing substantial emotional distress to that person and serving no legitimate purpose.

## Expected Behaviors

Pepin Academies expects students to conduct themselves in keeping with their levels of development, maturity, cognition, social awareness and demonstrated capabilities. This should be done with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students and school staff, the educational purpose underlying all school activities, and the care of the school facilities and equipment. It is understood that due to the nature and social limitations concomitant with the identified disabilities of many of the students, cases of suspected bullying will be diligently investigated in order to determine, to the best of the investigator’s ability, causation relative to the students disabilities. Such behavior is essential in maintaining an environment that provides an education that enables each student to excel as a successful and responsible person.

The standards for student behavior shall be set cooperatively through interaction among students, parents/guardians, staff and community members, producing an atmosphere that encourages students to grow in self-discipline. The development of such an atmosphere requires respect for self and others as well as for Pepin Academies and community property on the part of students, staff and community members. School administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers serve as role models for students and are expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior, to treat others with civility and respect, and to refuse to tolerate harassment and bullying. Students are expected to respect the person, property, and the rights of others; to obey constituted authority; and to respond to those who hold that authority.

Pepin Academies shall provide for appropriate recognition and positive reinforcement of good conduct, self-discipline, good citizenship, and academic success.

## Consequences

Consequences and appropriate remedial action for students who commit acts of bullying or harassment or who are found to have falsely accused another as a means of bullying or harassment may range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.

Consequences and appropriate remedial action for a school employee found to have committed an act of bullying or harassment or found to have falsely accused another as a means of bullying or

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harassment shall include discipline in accordance with Academies policies and administrative procedures. Egregious acts of harassment by a certified educator may result in a sanction against the educator's State-issued certificate. (See Principles of Professional Conduct of the Education Profession in Florida-F.A.C. 6B -1006)

Consequences and appropriate remedial action for a visitor or volunteer found to have committed an act of bullying or harassment or found to have falsely accused another as a means of bullying or harassment of the act shall include discipline in accordance with Academies policies and administrative procedures, including reports to appropriate law enforcement officials.

## Procedure for Reporting

Any student or student's parent/guardian who believes the student has been or is the victim of bullying or harassment should immediately report the situation to the principal. The student may also report concerns to teachers and other school staff who will be responsible for notifying the principal. Complaints against the principal should be filed with the Executive Director. Complaints against the Executive Director should be filed with the Pepin Academies' Board of Directors. The Board of Directors contact information can be located on the Pepin Academies website.

All school employees are required to report alleged violations of this policy to the principal, Executive Director, or as described above. 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 to the principal or as directed above.

Written and oral complaints shall be considered official reports. Complaints may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action may not be based solely on the basis of an anonymous complaint.

The principal shall establish and prominently publicize to students, staff, volunteers, and parents the procedure for reporting bullying and how such a report will be acted upon. A victim of bullying and/or harassment, anyone who witnessed the act and anyone who has credible information that an act of bullying and/or harassment has taken place may file a report.

## Procedure for Investigation

The investigation of a reported act of bullying or harassment is deemed to be a school-related activity and begins with a report of such an act. All complaints about bullying and/or harassment that may violate this policy shall be promptly investigated by the Administrative Team, who are trained in investigative procedures. Documented interviews of the victim, alleged perpetrator, and witnesses shall be conducted privately and shall be confidential. The investigators shall collect and evaluate the facts including but not limited to:

- Nature of the behavior
- How often the conduct occurred
- Past incidents or a past continuing patterns of behavior
- Relationship between parties involved
- The characteristics between parties involves
- Identified disabilities of parties involved
- The identity of the alleged perpetrator, including whether the individual was in a position of power over the individual allegedly subjected to bullying or harassment
- The number of alleged bullies/harassers
- The age of alleged bully/harasser

# STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

- Where the bullying or harassing occurred
- Whether there have been other incidents in the school involving the same or other students
- Whether the conduct adversely affected the student's education or educational environment
- The context in which the alleged incidents occurred

Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of the policy requires determination based on all facts and surrounding circumstances and shall include a recommendation of remedial steps necessary to stop the bullying and/or harassing behavior and a written report to the principal. A maximum of 10 school days shall be the limit for the initial filing of incidents and completion of the investigative procedural steps. The highest level of confidentiality possible shall be provided regarding the submission of a complaint or a report of bullying and/or harassment and for the investigative procedures that are employed. The physical location or time of access of a computer-related incident cannot be raised as a defense in any disciplinary action initiated pursuant to this policy.

## Scope

The investigator will provide a report on results of the investigation with recommendations for the principal to make a determination if an act of bullying or harassment falls within the scope of Pepin Academies' authority. If the action is within the scope of Pepin Academies, stated procedures for investigating bullying and/or harassment shall be followed. If the action is outside the scope of Pepin Academies and believed to be a criminal act, the action shall be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency. If the action is outside the scope of Pepin Academies and believed not a criminal act, administration shall inform parents/guardians of all minor parties.

## Parent Notification

Administration shall report the occurrence of an incident of bullying as defined by Academies policy to the parent/guardian of all students known to be involved in the incident on the same day an investigation of the incident has been initiated. Notification shall be by telephone, personal conference, and/or in writing by email and shall be consistent with the student privacy rights under applicable provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). The notice shall advise the individuals involved of their respective due process rights including the right to appeal any resulting determination or action to the State Board of Education.

According to the level of infraction, the victim's parents will also be notified by telephone and/or in writing of actions being taken to protect the child. The parent/guardian of the perpetrator will also be notified. The expediency of notification will depend on the seriousness of the bullying or harassment incident.

If the bullying incident results in the perpetrator charged with a crime, the principal shall inform the parent/guardian of the identified victim involved in the bullying incident about the voucher program.

Upon the completion of the investigation and if criminal charges are to be pursued against the perpetrator, the appropriate law enforcement agencies shall be notified by telephone and/or in writing.

## Counseling Referral

Pepin Academies shall provide a referral procedure for intervening when bullying or harassment is suspected or when a bullying incident is reported. The procedure will include:

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- A. A process by which the teacher or parent may request informal consultation from school staff (e.g. school mental health counselor, school psychologist, etc.) to determine the severity of concern and appropriate steps to address the concern
- B. A referral process to provide professional assistance or services that may include school intervention with a problem-solving focus to consider appropriate services (parent/guardian involvement required) or, if a formal discipline report or formal complaint is issued, a student referral for such school intervention as counseling support or other action (parent/guardian involvement required.)
- C. A school-based action to address intervention and assistance as determined appropriate by the intervention team than includes
  - a. Counseling and support to address the needs of the victim(s) of bullying or harassment,
  - b. Intentions to address the behavior of students who bully and harass others (e.g. empathy training, anger management, etc.)
  - c. Intervention which includes assistance and support for parents as may be deemed necessary or appropriate.

## Data Report

Pepin Academies will utilize Florida's School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR) Statewide Report on School Safety and Discipline Data as prescribed. If the bullying and/or harassment incident occurs, it will be reported in SESIR coded appropriately using the relevant incident code and the related element code. Discipline and referral data will be recorded in Student Discipline/ Referral Action Report and Automated Student Information System. In a separate section, Pepin Academies shall include each reported incident of bullying or harassment that does not meet the criteria of a prohibited act under this policy with recommendations regarding such incidents.

Pepin Academies will provide bullying incident, discipline, and referral data to the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) in the format requested, through Survey 5 from Educational Information and Accountability Services and at designated dates provided by the Department.

## Training and Instruction

Students, parents, teachers, school administrators, counseling staff, and school volunteers shall be provided instruction at least annually on Pepin Academies' policy and administrative procedure regarding bullying and harassment. The instruction shall include evidence-based methods of preventing bullying and harassment as well as information about how to effectively identify and respond to bullying in schools. Instruction regarding bullying, harassment, and violence prevention and school safety efforts shall be integrated into Pepin Academies' curriculum at the appropriate grade levels. Additionally, specific, targeted instruction will be provided in the prevention of bullying/harassment aimed at students (as well as by students) with disabilities as well as accurate identification of what constitutes bullying/harassment and what does not.

## Immunity

A school employee, school volunteer, students, parents/guardian, or other persons who promptly reports in good faith an act of bullying or harassment to the appropriate school official and who makes this report in compliance with the procedures set for in Pepin Academies policy is immune from cause of action for damages arising out of the reporting itself or any failure to remedy the reported incident.

Submission of a good faith complaint to report bullying or harassment will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, learning or working environment, or work

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assignments. Such immunity from liability shall not apply to an employee, student, volunteer determined to have made an intentionally false report about harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

# SCHOOL PROGRAM

## School Program

### Aftercare

#### Registration

All students must be registered in our aftercare program to attend. If you have registered previously, you will need to verify the information on file. Registration can be completed at any time during the school year.

#### Hours

Aftercare is offered Monday through Friday from 3:30 – 6:00 pm. Any students picked up after 6:00 pm are subject to late fees. Aftercare will be available on early dismissal days from 12:30 – 6:00 pm. Aftercare is not available on school holidays, vacations or on the last day of the school year.

#### Charges/Payments

Aftercare cost is \$11 per day regardless of the amount of time the student is in aftercare. Payment is required weekly. Delinquent payments can result in your child being removed from the aftercare program and may result in ineligibility for field trips. Payments can be made by; cash, check, or money order in the aftercare classroom. Credit or debit card payments can be taken over the phone or in the front office. You can also make payments online or authorize auto-debit.

There will be no refunds for credits on aftercare accounts, if you choose to pay ahead and do not use your balance the only option is to transfer your funds to the student's lunch account. For this reason we encourage you not to carry more than a \$50 credit on your account.

Students with a past due aftercare balance will not be permitted to attend field trips until the full balance is paid.

#### Late Fees

Students picked up after 6:00pm will be charged as follows:

\$1 per minute for the first 5 minutes

\$2 per minute after the first 5 minutes

Three late pick-ups may result in your child being removed from the aftercare program.

#### Procedures

- Aftercare begins promptly at 3:30pm. Any student not picked up by 3:30pm will be sent to aftercare and will be charged accordingly.
- No students are allowed to wander the campus after 3:30pm. Failure to report to aftercare will result in administrative action.
- Students will receive a light snack and drink each day. Help with homework will be available if needed. All standard school rules apply and will be followed during aftercare.
- When picking up parents should ring the doorbell outside the first set of double doors (closest to Hillsborough Ave).
- All students must be checked out by an adult. Only adults listed on the student's aftercare registration will be allowed to pick up the student. In the case unforeseen emergencies, please call 813-236-1755, extension 154.

# SCHOOL PROGRAM

## Health

### Immunization Requirements for School Entry

- Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades who are making their initial entry into a Florida school must present a record of a physical examination within the last twelve months.
- The immunization record must show that the child has met the minimum state requirement.
- Third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students are required to have the following immunizations:
  - 5 doses of DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus)
  - 4 doses of polio vaccine (IPV, OPV)
  - 2 doses of MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
  - Hepatitis B series (HBV)-given over a 6 month period
- For every student entering 7th grade, the record must show the student has received one dose of the Tdap vaccination. A student may not start 7th grade without this additional shot required by the state.

### Medication

Prescription medication shall be administered at school by the school nurse. Students must have a Physician Authorization Form on file in order to receive over-the-counter medications. All medications must be brought to school by a parent or guardian. No child should bring medication to school. NO student is permitted at any time to self-administer medication(s).

Medication must be brought to school in the container in which it was purchased.

A separate supply of medication must be kept at school. Medication shall not be transported between home and school on a daily or weekly basis. The medication label must indicate the student's name, name of medication, physician's name, dosage, and time (frequency)

If medication requires equipment for administration (cup, spoon, dropper), the parent is responsible for supplying the articles labeled with the student's name.

New parental authorization forms may be requested periodically. When medication is discontinued or the end of the school year arrives, medication not taken home by the parent shall be destroyed.

### Illness

Students too ill to remain in class must request permission from their teacher for admittance to the clinic. Parent or guardian shall be contacted and a determination made whether the student shall go home or return to class.

The clinic is available to students from 7:30AM to 3:30PM. Once school begins, students must have a pass to see the school nurse and are not permitted to see the nurse between classes.

### Emergency Illness Procedures

If a student becomes ill at school, every effort shall be made to notify parents, guardians, or an emergency contact person. An emergency information card must be on file in the school office. Students will be released to persons on the emergency card ONLY unless otherwise notified by the parent/guardian. It is extremely important to keep your emergency card up to date with all current phone numbers and contact information.



# SCHOOL PROGRAM

## Internet and Computer Use

Pepin Academies provides its teachers and students with access to a variety of resources on the Internet. In an effort to educate students about efficient, ethical, and appropriate use of the Internet, the following policies are in place:

- The school has additional software to further block inappropriate sites.
- Students are supervised/monitored at all times while using the Internet.
- Students are able to access the Internet in computer labs, classrooms, and in the media center.
- Students are not permitted to use the Internet without adult supervision.
- Any student using the Internet is held fully responsible for his/her actions. If he/she acts irresponsibly, his/her consequences depend on the violation. Consequences range from school disciplinary actions (lunch detention, in-school suspension, out-of-school, in-school suspension, dismissal) to law enforcement and/or other appropriate agencies.

It is important to understand that using the Internet is a privilege. This privilege may be revoked if a student violates the Internet or Computer policies set forth below.

## Inappropriate or Unacceptable Uses of the Internet/Computer

- Using the Internet for any and all illegal activities or financial interactions
- Setting up, accessing or reading e-mail without permission
- Entering chat rooms and playing on-line games without permission
- Attempting to access vulgar or pornographic sites/materials
- E-mailing chain letters
- Conducting any and all activity and use that violates the mission and purpose of the school
- Degrading or vandalizing computer equipment or changing/disrupting computer system performance
- Accessing the school network or DOS without permission
- Downloading viruses
- Conducting and activities and use that violates the mission and purpose of the school

The school will make every effort to ensure that students are using the Internet appropriately but cannot be held responsible for the following:

- The reliability of the content of a source received. Student should evaluate and cite sources appropriately
- Costs that a student may incur if he/she requests a product or service for a fee
- Any consequences of disruption in service that may result in a lack of resources
- Guaranteeing privacy of access or mail; the media specialist, teachers, and administrators reserve the right to investigate possible misuses or monitoring any activity that comes through or Internet connection.

## Media Center Policy

Pepin Academies is a school with a very diverse population of students. As a result of a wide spread of age, interest, and ability, the collection must develop to maintain interest for all students equally. Both the 1st and 14th amendments to the U.S. constitution, as well as court rulings such as *American Amusement Machine Association, et al., v. Teri Kendrick, et al.*, 244 F.3d 954 (7th Cir. 2001); cert. denied, 534 U.S. 994; 122 S. Ct. 462; 151 L. Ed. 2d 379 (2001), have established that a minor is entitled to many of the same freedoms from government interference regarding materials they might access.

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We wish to ensure that you, the parent/legal guardian, understand that you are the only one that can legally decide as to your child's, and only your child's, access to content available here at the school media center. "Library Collection and Checkout Policy Waiver" must be signed in order for your child to check out books from the upper interest level sections. Any special needs as indicated in your child's IEP will also be considered regarding any material restrictions as agreed upon by you and the school staff. If you have any questions and concerns, you may contact the media specialist.

## Pepin Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

Parents and teachers are encouraged to be an active participant in this organization in order to assist with fundraising events and other activities each year. All parents are encouraged to participate and support the school.

## Arrival Procedures

Students may arrive after 7:00 a.m. and must report directly to the designated area. Please do not drop your child earlier than this time as there is not adequate supervision before this time. Once students enter the property, supervision must be present in order to ensure their safety.

## Early Release of Student

We expect our families to make every attempt in arranging all appointments for their children after school hours. If this is not possible, a parent or guardian must report to Pepin Academies main office to properly check their child out of school. Any person signing out a student must be on the child's Emergency Contact Card. Students will not be released to individuals not listed on the Emergency Contact Card. Any changes made to the Emergency Contact Card must be done in person. Please do not call ahead and request to have your child waiting in the office. Students cannot be signed out after 2:30 pm. At this point, they must wait for general dismissal.

## Dismissal Procedures

Pepin Academies students are required to remain in their designated areas while waiting to be picked up. For the safety of your child, and to ensure a quick flow of traffic, please remain in your vehicle. Parents are not permitted to pick up their child from the classroom or outside the campus gates. Dismissal time is not an appropriate time for a parent/teacher conference. If you would like to speak with your child's teacher, please make an appointment in advance. All students remaining on the school grounds after 3:30 p.m. will be sent to aftercare and families will be charged accordingly.

## Observers on Campus

Pepin Academies welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with qualified private providers in order to meet the needs of its students. In order to facilitate the many requests made for school observations in a timely manner, please follow the procedure outline below:

- Before scheduling any observation, the provider must be cleared through the Jessica Lunsford Act compliance procedures. For more information on the application process, please call the Hillsborough County School District Jessica Lunsford Act office at 813-840-7178.

# SCHOOL PROGRAM

- After receiving clearance and the official badge, qualified private providers must submit a Pepin Academies Requests for Observations Form, at least one week in advance of requested observation date, to the main office.
- Each Classroom Observation Request will be considered on an individual basis based on its purpose, duration, and frequency. Every effort will be made to accommodate the request; however, our first priority is maintaining the learning environment for our students. To minimize classroom disruptions, the duration of observations may be limited based on purpose as well as staff availability. Observations will be scheduled based on classroom schedule, school personnel schedule, and the requests of the parent or private provider.

## Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conference Nights will be held twice yearly. If you would like to schedule additional conference, these must be scheduled with the teacher. Please contact the teacher via email, phone or written notice.

## Changes to Emergency Contact Card

It is imperative we have current phone numbers, addresses and emergency contacts for students. Any changes made to the Emergency Contact Card, including approved persons to pick up your child, must be done in person.

## Field Trips

All field trip forms and payments will go through the Script online program. Students with a lunch, aftercare, or library balance will not be permitted to attend field trips until the balance is paid. In the event your child is unable to attend a field trip, please note that a refund cannot be given. Students not attending field trips will follow their regular schedule.

A parent signature is required through Pepin Academies' online field trip program: Script (telephone permission is not accepted). Chaperones are an integral part of our field trips to help with supervision. When on a field trip, chaperones are to act in a supervisory position with students. Any parent chaperoning for a field trip must complete the online Hillsborough County Public School Volunteer Application at least one week prior to the permission slip deadline listed on Script. Parents will not be able to chaperone or volunteer until verification has been received and approved.

## Food/Beverage Policy

Students must consume all food and beverages in the cafeteria/patio during designated breakfast and lunch times. Students may only have water in the classroom.

## Non-School/Personal Items

Pepin Academies is not responsible for the loss or damage to personal items that are brought to school and therefore, students are encouraged to leave these articles at home.

## Parties

Birthday parties for individual students are not allowed. If you would like to bring in items to celebrate your child's birthday, it must be preapproved. Invitations to parties at a student's home are not to be distributed at school unless all members of the class are invited.

# SCHOOL PROGRAM

## Playground Safety

The playground areas at Pepin Academies are unsupervised before and after school, and should not be used during this time.

## Emergency Warnings/Drills

Safety drills are conducted on a regular basis. Students and teachers are to follow the procedures outlined in the Pepin Academies' Safety Manual. Each campus has a designated location should the campus need to be evacuated.

## Inclement Weather

If it should be necessary to close school for any reason, the announcement will be sent to parents and/or made over local radio/TV stations. It is our policy to follow Hillsborough County School District's determination of school closings (such as hurricanes).

## Volunteer Commitment

Parent volunteers are essential to the success and viability of our school. Parents are strongly encouraged to help out at school in a variety of ways: such as securing donations of goods and services in support of our various community events, or personally donating time in service to the school. Parent volunteer hours will continue to be monitored and tracked. The Pepin PTO will be key in helping organize volunteering initiatives.

# STUDENT NUTRITION SERVICES

## Student Nutrition Services

### School Lunch Program

Pepin Academies is an approved sponsor and participates in the National School Breakfast/Lunch Program. Pepin follows all federal and state laws and guidelines regarding nutrition and free and reduced priced breakfast and lunch for qualifying families. Application for the federal free and reduced program are in your pre-enrollment packet and also available at school. Students may bring their lunch. Our school lunch program offers a wide variety of food items; however, if your child is not eating during lunch, we respectfully ask that you provide food items that they will eat from home. The prices are as follows and are subject to change:

Breakfast: Free for all students

Lunch: Free for approved students  
\$.40 for approved reduced price students  
\$4.00 for full pay students.

Parent and guardians may send breakfast/lunch money daily, weekly, monthly or annually. Please send lunch money in an envelope with your child's name on it and turn it in the office. Checks should be made payable to Pepin Academies. Parents/ guardians may also make on-line payments through our website via the "My Student Account" link.

A la carte drinks and snacks are also available. These items must be paid for in cash or may be put on the child's breakfast/lunch account only if a permission form is completed and on file with the lunch staff. This form is in your enrollment packet and also available at the school.