



2024-2025

Community Handbook

Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering
MASE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Rodrick Gaston
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The Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering maintains an Internet website that contains the information listed above, with interesting facts and references available regarding the Board of Directors, administration, school calendar, athletic schedules, and other programs. The website address is <http://www.discovermase>.

Message from the Executive Director



MASE is a community of learners that is committed to academic excellence and student achievement. We are committed to providing the broadest possible set of educational opportunities for our students and access to the best curricular and pedagogical tools available for our faculty. While our accomplishments over the last few years have been noteworthy, we are still a long way from achieving our goals, and we rededicate ourselves each day to reaching them.

We believe that every student is gifted with unique potential and has the ability to achieve academic excellence. We know that by setting high expectations, providing an instructional environment that is rigorous and supportive, and meeting each student where she or he is as a learner, they can accomplish anything to which they are committed. MASE is a student-centered community. We embrace the reality that we are citizens of a global community, and that its success will depend on the work and creativity of a highly-educated population. The work of the Academy is to prepare our students to be active and engaged in the process of creating a brighter future for everyone.

As a faculty, we understand that we are senior partners in the learning process. We are part of a team that includes students and parents. A measure of our success is how we meet our most challenging students on their most challenging days. We will work tirelessly to nurture our students, parents, and colleagues. Our goal is to teach students to become critical thinkers and life-long learners.

We recognize that academic achievement without charter growth is a fleeting accomplishment. To that end, we dedicate ourselves, and are committed to the Academy's core values:

- **Respect-** *Treating others with care, and courtesy and representing yourself, family, and school with pride.*
- **Integrity-** *Always doing the right thing even when no one is watching.*
- **Community-** *Collectively working hard to ensure a positive culture and academic achievement in a safe and supportive environment.*
- **Excellence-** *Commitment to high-quality education and high-expectations in all that we do.*

I look forward to working with all of you as we work toward an academically successful school year.

Sincerely,

Rodrick Gaston, Executive Director

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Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering

MASE is a student-centered community of learners. We are dedicated to helping each student realize their unique potential through academic achievement and community engagement.

Vision

As a community of learners, we embrace the diversity and inherent dignity of each individual. A MASE education is a partnership among students, faculty and parents, in which the academic growth of our students is nurtured in an environment that is supportive, rigorous and which sets high expectations.

Core Values

Respect- Treating others with care & courtesy; representing yourself, family, & school with pride.

Integrity- Always doing the right thing even when no one is watching.

Community- Collectively working hard to ensure a positive culture and academic achievement in a safe and supportive environment.

Excellence- Commitment to high-quality education and high-expectations in all that we do.

Philosophy

To ensure every student experiences a school culture that:

- Provides a safe, healthy learning environment

- Nurtures a climate founded on positive expectations
- Promotes risk-taking
- Accommodates the needs of various learning styles
- Stimulates critical-thinking skills
- Promotes equality and celebrates diversity
- Values social responsibility in terms of self, others, school, community and environment
- Encourages students to identify and meet personal learning goals
- Recognizes the importance and value of co-curriculum learning experiences
- Celebrates individual student successes
- Connects learning to the “real world”

Mission

The mission of MASE is to produce lifelong learners, critical thinkers, effective communicators, and productive members of the global community

MASE Culture

The MASE community respects the thoughts, feelings, physical safety, and rights of others and demonstrates consideration of property. Our shared goal is to create a positive learning environment enhanced by the contributions of every member.

Student Behavior

To guarantee a good social and educational climate, it is important that students understand that acceptable standards of behavior will be expected at all times. Discipline will be administered when any individual's actions interfere with teachers teaching and students learning. Students are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly, respectful and courteous manner at all times. However, in the event a student acts inappropriately, there will be consequences in order to make it clear that this behavior is not acceptable and cannot be tolerated.

Rights and Responsibilities

One of the goals for MASE's students is the development of self-discipline. Students and parents must learn that the student is responsible for his or her own actions. Administrators, teachers, students, and parents are active partners in establishing and implementing the school rules. The following is a table of students' rights and responsibilities.

Rights

1. To be treated with respect. To be dealt with according to uniform standards.

2. To go to and from school safely.

Responsibilities

- a. To behave in a manner that is appropriate and is a credit to the student, his/her family, and the school.
 - b. To respect others.
 - c. To show respect by removing all head coverings during and throughout the school day.
 - d. To treat others as you would like to be treated.
 - e. To dress appropriately for school.
- a) To use appropriate behavior when waiting at the bus stop or parent/guardian car.
 - b) To wear protective gear if biking to school.
 - c) To walk all bikes, skateboards, etc. when on school grounds.
 - d) To be orderly on the bus.
 - e) To go directly to school.
 - f) To respect crossing guards.
 - g) To respect other people's property.

3. To attend a school that is in good physical condition.
 - a) To refrain from any behavior that results in the destruction of personal or school property.
 - b) To refrain from eating candy or gum during school hours.
 - c) To dispose of any trash in the proper receptacles.
 - d) To refrain from eating or drinking outside the cafeteria without the supervision of a staff member.
 - e) To not take the property of others without their permission.
 - f) To assist in keeping cafeteria tables clean.
 - g) To assist in keeping classrooms, the media center, hallways, and the cafeteria clean.
 - h) To not deface in any way personal or school property (books, desks, walls, lockers, etc.).

4. To have classrooms and hallways that are conducive to effective learning.
 - a) To arrive on time for classes.
 - b) To allow each person (teacher and student) to speak without interruption.
 - c) To develop listening and study skills.
 - d) To remain at your desk or seat unless permission is granted to do otherwise.
 - e) To complete assignments.
 - f) To not cheat.
 - g) To not distract others in classes.
 - h) To not use laser pointers, headphones, CD players, beepers, cell phones, pagers, electronic games, etc. while on school grounds.

5. To have sufficient time and space to eat lunch in a pleasant atmosphere.
 - a) To talk in moderate tones in the cafeteria.
 - b) To dispose of trash in the proper

receptacles.

- c) To place any unwanted food in the proper receptacles.
- d) To use appropriate behavior in the auditorium.
- e) To show respect for all individuals, including presenters and performers.

6. To enjoy and participate in assemblies.

- a) To use appropriate behavior in all school-related activities. All school activities are an

extension of the school and all school rules apply.

7. To enjoy and participate in school- related activities (dances, field trips, plays, sporting events, etc.)
8. To have an orderly and safe environment in and around the building at all times during school hours, including after-school programs.
 - a) To walk and keep to the right in hallways and stairs when passing. To walk and not run in the building.
 - b) To observe all playground guidelines and restrictions that pertain to skateboards, rollerblades, etc.
 - c) To have no physical contact with other students.
 - d) To not jump, climb, or throw objects in the building.
 - e) To remain on school grounds at all times while school is in session.
 - f) To remain under teacher supervision when present after school hours.
9. To evacuate the building safely under teacher supervision in the event of a fire or emergency situation including all drills and building evacuations.
 - a) To maintain silence.
 - b) To follow all teacher/staff directions.
 - c) To remain with your class at all times.
 - d) To join a class as soon as possible if walking through the hall during an alarm.
10. To expect that if your rights have been violated, the offender will be sought and action will be taken.
 - a) To expect that if you are in violation of others' rights, you will accept the consequences.

MASE's Rights and Responsibilities Objectives:

- Self-Control
- Good Citizenship
- Learning environment that supports student-centered, interactive, hands-on learning.

Process For Determining Consequences For Inappropriate Behavior:

- Each case will be decided on its own merits.
- Staff will make every effort to resolve problems informally.
- Staff will immediately engage parents and guardians for repeated inappropriate behaviors.
- Staff will immediately engage the administration for serious offenses as outlined below.
- The MASE Senior Leadership will review serious offenses and will make recommendations for appropriate consequences, and will follow-up consultation with internal and external resources, assessment, etc.

“Short-range” Measures For Solving Student Behavior Problems May Include the Following:

- Individual follow-up discussion and agreement, with parent notification.
- Teacher/Counselor/Student meeting to develop a plan of action.
- Prompt after-school make-up of lost instructional/learning time with the teacher.
- Behavior contract.
- Exclusion from class activity if the student's attendance at the activity is likely to threaten the safety of self and others, or causes disruption of the learning environment.
- Lunch/Recess restrictions.
- Restricted bathroom/hallway passes.
- Restricted field trip, class activities, and adventure trek participation.
- Temporary loss of all after-school privileges: athletics, clubs, activities, etc.
- Restoration of property, including replacement compensation, as appropriate.

Attendance

Regular attendance is of vital importance to an effective instructional program. It allows for continuity of instruction, classroom participation, learning experiences, and study, all of which are necessary to attain the goal of maximum educational benefits. There is also a direct relationship between poor attendance and poor academic performance. Students with good attendance records generally achieve higher grades and enjoy school more. Thus, **attendance is required of all students enrolled at MASE during the days and hours that the school is in session, unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the School Director that an acceptable cause exists to justify the student's absence**

Absences

A student is considered absent from a class if he or she is not in that class for more than ½ of that class period. Parents of students who will miss at least ½ of their first period class should call the school office: (901-333-1580) to inform the school if the student will or will not be coming to school that day. Students are allowed 10 “written absence notes” during the course of the school year. Students are allowed unlimited doctor's notes for the school year, but may still qualify for chronically absent.

Excused Absences

The following absences **may** be excused if the documentation listed by each is provided within two (2) school days of the absence occurring:

- a. Illness – Note from doctor’s office/hospital confirming visit on day of illness
- b. Illness lasting more than one day – Note from doctor’s office/hospital confirming visit on first day of illness, as well as form from doctor’s office stating when student is allowed to return to school
- c. Funeral of a family member – Obituary before the funeral; Program from the funeral when child returns to school
- d. Wedding of a family member – Program of the wedding
- e. Attendance at a school-sponsored function

Unexcused Absences

An absence for which no documentation (see above) is provided, or for which a parent writes a note, will be considered unexcused. **A parent-written note will not guarantee that the absence will be excused.**

Compulsory Attendance

All children are required to attend school if they are between the ages of six (6) and sixteen (16). Failure to attend school on a regular basis [fifteen (15) or more unexcused absences in one academic calendar] may result in that child being retained in his or her current grade. The school reserves the right to contact the Department of Children and Family Services after the fifth (5th) and tenth (10th) unexcused absence.

Attendance and School Functions

Any student who is absent during the entire school day, whether that absence is excused, unexcused, or mandated from the school (i.e., suspension), is not allowed to attend or participate in any school-related or school-sponsored function that morning or evening (e.g., sporting events, dances, etc.)

Assignments for Absent Students

Assignments will be given to students who are absent only after that absence occurred and was **excused**. Students have one (3) days to make-up any missed work for each day that they were absent.

Checkout

Attendance in all classes is part of the Commitment to Excellence that was agreed to and signed by both parents and students. The school personnel at MASE does recognize that there are certain circumstances for which checking out a student is necessary. MASE does, however, recommend that parents and guardians make such instances rare. In the case of appointments with doctors or dentists, we ask that parents schedule these during the weekends or breaks during the school year. If a child must check out, please abide by the following. **There are NO check outs Monday – Thursday after 2:30pm and on Friday after 12:30 pm.**

Checkout Policy

Students will be allowed to check out of school when one of the following circumstances occurs:

1. Pre-approved appointment – A doctor’s or dentist’s note has been submitted to the school prior to the time of the appointment. If possible, please get these in at least one day before the scheduled appointment.
2. Severe illness in the immediate family*
3. Death in the immediate family*
4. Any other reasons will be granted on a case-by-case basis. These will be decided prior to the student’s absence from school by the School Director.

Students will be allowed to check out three (3) times per quarter before parents are notified of excessive absences from school. Any extenuating circumstances should be cleared with the grade-level administrator

*Each student is allowed one exception (failing to have information on hand regarding the reason for checkout). At that time, the party checking the student out must sign a document stating that they will provide the information either by fax or by bringing it in before the student returns to school. If the information is not provided, the student’s ability to check out will be forfeited. If the information is provided to the school, the student will then be allowed another exception.

Special Note: At the end of the academic school year, each student’s file will be audited. In the event that appropriate documentation, relating to the reason(s) for a student’s checkout, has not been forwarded to the school, a violation of the Commitment to Excellence contract will be noted on the student’s record, and will be considered when student transfers are renewed. A violation of the Commitment to Excellence contract may result in a denial of future transfer renewal applications.

Checkout Procedures

In order to ensure your child’s safety, MASE has put in place certain procedures that **MUST** be followed:

The school-issued “Parent ID” must be presented at the front desk at the time of checkout. After providing the ID:

1. If the person is the parent pictured on the ID, he or she must provide documentation that will be placed in the student's file that verifies the reason for the checkout (unless this information was already provided and is on file). Should the person not be able to submit such documentation at the time of checkout, he or she must sign a "Student Release Form," which will be placed in the student's file. This form will stay in the student's file until proper documentation, provided in a sufficient amount of time, is submitted. Should no documentation ever be submitted, a parent may not check out his or her child without *prior* documentation unless that parent signs a withdrawal form and transfers the child to another school.

OR...

2. If the person checking the student out is not the parent pictured on the ID, the person must provide a state-issued picture identification card (i.e., driver's license), which must be copied for the student's file. The student's file must be checked to ensure that the person is on the list of approved persons able to check the student out. **All persons must be at least 18 years of age in order to be placed on the approved list of persons able to check a student out.** This person must also provide proper documentation at the time of checkout. Should no documentation be available, the school office must contact the parent or guardian of the child to explain that this person must sign the "Student Release Form" on the parent's behalf, and that the form will remain in the student's file until such time as proper documentation is provided. Should no documentation ever be provided, no person other than the parent may check the student out, and the student will be released only when the parent has signed a withdrawal form and transferred the student to another school.
3. Student drivers may be checked out remotely if an email from the email on file is sent directly to Ms. Howe prior to check out. Students must also have a student driver form on file prior to remote check out.

Tardiness

Here at Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering we are committed to improving student's achievement. We are concerned when students miss part of a lesson, for any reason. The process of education requires instruction based on skill building, class participation, learning experiences, and study. Frequent tardiness and absences affect your student's learning opportunities.

A student is considered tardy to school if he or she arrives after 7:30 am. All tardy students must report to the main office to check in before proceeding to class.

A student is tardy to class if he or she is not in that class by the time that class is scheduled to start (see grade schedules).

Parents of students who will be tardy to school should escort their child to the school office to sign them in. No child can be checked into school after 10 am without a Doctor's excuse.

Excused Tardies

The following tardies may be excused if the documentation listed is provided when the child is brought to school:

Illness, doctor or dentist appointment – Note from doctor’s office/hospital confirming visit on day of tardy

Unexcused Tardies

A tardy for which no documentation (see above) is provided, or for which a parent writes a note, will be considered unexcused. **Being tardy to school because of traffic *will not be considered excused.* A parent-written note does not guarantee that the tardy will be excused.**

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Tardy Policy/Intervention

- 3 Tardies will equal to 1 absence, Student Intervention with Parent
- 5 Tardies will result in 1-Day After-School Detention
- 7 Tardies will count as 1 absence and 1-Day ISS (In-School Suspension)
- 9 Tardies will count as 1 absence and a 1-Day Out of School Suspension
- 10 or more Tardies will be referred to the District Attorney’s Office

Absentee Policy/Intervention

Tier I (2-4 unexcused absences) a conference with the student and the student’s parent/guardian.

- An attendance contract, based on the conference, to be signed by the student, the parent/guardian, or other person having control of the student, and the school leader or designee. The contract shall include:
 - A specific description of the school’s attendance expectations for the student;
 - The period for which the contract is effective; and
 - Penalties for additional absences and alleged school offenses, including additional disciplinary action and potential referral to juvenile court; and
 - Regularly scheduled follow-up meetings, which may be with the student and the parent/guardian, or other person having control of the student, to discuss the student’s progress

Tier II (4-6 unexcused absences) if the student accumulates additional unexcused absences in violation of the attendance contract required under Tier I, the student will be subject to Tier II. Tier II shall include an individualized assessment by a school employee of the reasons the student has been absent from school. This may result in referral to counseling, community-based services, or other in-school or out-of-school services to address the student's attendance problems.

Tier III (6-10 unexcused absences) If the truancy interventions under Tier II are unsuccessful and the student continues to accumulate additional unexcused absences, Tier III shall be implemented. Tier III may consist of one (1) or more of the following interventions, as determined by a team formed by the school:

- School-based community services;
- Participation in a school-based restorative justice program;
- Referral to a school-based teen court; or
- Saturday or after school courses designed to improve attendance and behavior.

Please make sure that your student attends school every day and is on time. Discuss this issue with your student, pointing out the importance of being in the classroom and ready to learn when school begins. Do not hesitate to contact us to assist you and your student in any way to improve school attendance.

Emergency Contact Form

At the beginning of each academic year, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of each student enrolled at MASE must fill out an information sheet, providing such information as contact numbers for the parent(s)/guardian(s), allergies that the student may have, and who to contact in case of an emergency. All persons listed on the “Emergency Contact Form” are able to make decisions regarding the child if the school is unable to contact the parent at any of the numbers provided. The listed persons are also able to check the student out, provided he or she has the appropriate identification (see MASE Identification Badge section). Since these persons are able to take the actions listed above, everyone listed on the “Emergency Contact Form” must be at least 18 years of age. Copies of the “Emergency Contact Form” are available in the office.

Homebound

Due to the rigor and the structure of the academic program at MASE, the school does not provide homebound services to students who will be absent for extended periods of time, nor will the school accept work or grades from another school system’s homebound program. MASE will do everything in its power to make as many appropriate accommodations as possible so a student misses as few days as possible

Religious Holidays

A student's absence for a religious holiday must be pre-approved by the School Director in order for the absence to be excused. Absences for religious holidays are excused on a case-by-case basis. Without prior approval from the School Director, if a student is absent from school and claims it was for religious reasons, the absence may not be excused.

Student Release Form

A parent or guardian who wishes to check out his or her child without first submitting the required documentation must sign a "Student Release Form." This form states that the parent/guardian is using his or her one time to check out the student without having to produce documentation regarding why the student is being checked out. This absence is unexcused. This absence will remain unexcused, and the form will remain in the student's file until proper documentation regarding the checkout is submitted. Once documentation is submitted, the form will be removed from the student's file, the absence excused, and the parent/guardian will have another opportunity to check out the child without first providing documentation. Should no documentation be submitted, the form will remain in the student's file, the absence will be unexcused, and the parent/guardian will be unable to check out his or her child without prior documentation regarding the reason for the checkout unless the parent withdraws the child and transfers him to another school. **Should a parent refuse to sign the student release form, a blank copy of the form will be placed in the student's file with a notation regarding the parent's refusal to sign. This will be treated as if the parent signed the form and failed to bring proper documentation.**

Procedures

Announcements

Announcements of concern to students and teachers will be sent, when necessary, via electronic mail to each student's personal email account. Through this system, the Student Council, teachers, and administrators supply students with additional information regarding activities and organizations not mentioned in this handbook. Announcements will be sent only if they have been approved by the School Director or grade-level administrator and presented to said persons before the end of the previous school day.

Cafeteria

MASE provides a breakfast and lunch program for every student enrolled. Students opting not to eat a lunch provided by the school should bring a sack lunch from home. Students must store their lunch in a lunchbox. The lunchbox will be stored in their locker until their assigned lunch period.

Breakfast

Students who enter school between 7:00 a.m. and 7:20 a.m., will have the opportunity to eat a breakfast provided by the school. Breakfast is to be eaten in the cafeteria and must be finished before dismissal to classes. Before proceeding to classes, students must ensure that the area is clean. All garbage must be thrown away in the proper trash receptacles, and any spills must be cleaned.

Lunch

All students are offered a school-provided lunch. Under no circumstances may a fast-food lunch be brought to a student. Students who wish to bring their own lunch must store that lunch in a lunchbox. The lunch box will be stored in their assigned lockers until their assigned lunch period. There will be no eating or snacking throughout the school day.

Water Bottles

All students will need a clear, plastic, large rimmed water bottle. The school will provide watering stations where students can fill up their water bottles. These water bottles should not exceed 32oz. Students will be allotted a specific time to fill these water bottles.

General Rules and Guidelines

- Students are expected to conduct themselves in a quiet and orderly manner at all times.
- Students should not play video games, listen to music, or use their laptop computers during lunch.
- Cellular phone use is prohibited throughout the entire school day, including lunch.
- All items, including garbage, must be taken to the designated areas.

Arrival and Dismissal

All students will enter and exit the building through the front doors only.

The MASE student pick-up/drop-off area is located in the front of the school on Poplar Ave. All students will enter through the front door and proceed to the auditorium or cafeteria.

Students who ride the bus will enter through the front door and proceed to the auditorium or cafeteria. All Students will exit the building through the front door and proceed to their cars or the buses. Students should move quickly to their vehicles to speed up dismissal. Buses will leave at approximately 3:25 pm Monday-Thursday and 1:40 pm on Friday.

Bus Dismissal & Pick-Up times are as follows (please be respectful and considerate while you are waiting in line to enter the bus):

- 3:15 pm until 3:25 pm - Monday - Thursday (Eastside of Main Building on Claybrook Street)
- 1:30 pm until 1:40 pm - Friday (Eastside of Main Building on Claybrook Street)
- 12:00 pm until 12:10 pm - Saturday School (Eastside of Main Building on Claybrook Street))

Car-Riders Dismissal & Pick-Up times are as follows (please be respectful and considerate while you are waiting in line for your scholar to arrive)

- 6th and 7th Grade Students: 3:15 pm+ Monday- Thursday- Larkin Ave
- 6th and 7th Grade students: 1:30 pm- Friday - Larkin Ave
- 6th and 7th Grade Students: 12:00pm-- Saturday School- Larkin Ave
- 8th- 12th Grade Students: 3:15 pm - Monday - Thursday (Westside of Main Building on N. Montgomery Street) or (Eastside of Main Building on Claybrook Street)
- 8th- 12th Grade Students: 1:30pm - Friday (Westside of Main Building on N. Montgomery Street) or (Eastside of Main Building on Claybrook Street)
- 8th- 12th Grade Students: 12:00pm - Saturday School (Westside of Main Building on N. Montgomery Street) or (Eastside of Main Building on Claybrook Street)
- Students arriving late will need to be walked by a parent/caregiver to the front door (all grades) to be signed in.

- Students may not approach staff/the building without a parent or caregiver.
- Parents and caregivers please follow the instructions and directions of the assigned staff or faculty member assigned to your designated arrival and departure area.

Bus Rules

1. Observe the same conduct as in the school and classroom.
2. Students may only ride the bus which serves their home address and may only board or get off the bus at their assigned stop.
3. Students should be at their assigned bus stop 5 minutes before the scheduled pickup time.
4. Cooperate with the driver. Students will board, depart and cross the roadway as per instructions from the bus driver.
5. Students must remain in their seats, and the aisle must be clear.
6. Keep head, hands, and feet inside the bus.
7. Bus drivers are authorized to assign seats.
8. Be courteous, use no profane language.
9. Keep the bus clean, do not eat or drink while on the bus
10. Do not be destructive. Students will not throw any item in/out of the bus.

Failure to comply with the directives and rules of the bus will result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension from the bus for the remainder of the school year

Entering and Leaving School

- Parents of middle and high school students should not drop off their child before 7:00 a.m. Once dropped off, students are to remain on school property until dismissal, or until checked out. If Students are dropped off early, they should not enter the building before being directed to do so by a teacher or an administrator. All students arriving to School after 7:30 a.m. are to report to the main office to sign in, get a tardy slip and then proceed to class. Students are to promptly leave the school building upon dismissal. After being dismissed, students are not to re-enter the school building. Faculty and staff are required to arrive at school by 7:00 a.m. and end their day at 3:30 p.m.
- Students should not leave the building under any circumstances unless being checked out in the main office. At dismissal, students should not walk across the street to the store or other businesses. MASE is not responsible for students after they leave campus. Please pick students up on time or sign them up for R3 after school program.
- Student who exit campus without being checked out will be subject to disciplinary actions up to suspension for the remainder of the school year

Hall Pass

All students will need a hall pass when they leave the classroom for any reason.

Lost and Found

Personal property, including but not limited to, **cell phone, iPads, iPods, lasers, radios, recorders, CD and tape players, pagers, expensive jewelry, electronic games, etc., may not be brought to school** by students during normal school hours. The school will not accept responsibility for the loss of personal property. These

items will be confiscated and returned only to parents. Should a child lose an item of this nature, he or she is to inquire at the main office, where students or staff members who find items lying around are to turn them in. Items not claimed by the end of the school year are donated to a charitable organization.

Photographs/Videotapes – Public Relations

From time to time, outside media sources such as newspapers, television news crews, and public relations photographers and videographers come to the school to take photographs or film. **If you do not wish to have your child photographed or videotaped, you must complete the “Media Consent Form.”** This form does not cover photographs taken for the MASE yearbook or MASE newspaper; all students, through their enrollment at MASE, automatically give their consent to be photographed by members of the yearbook or newspaper staff for the purpose of being published in those school-approved activities.

Locks and Lockers

All students will be assigned a locker. Students are required to have a lock for that locker. Students are encouraged to have a key lock as the combination locks are difficult to remember.

Pupil Records

Parents, legal guardians, and adult pupils are advised that they have the right to review pupil records in accordance with State law. Such requests must be directed to the School Director for prior approval at least three (3) school days in advance of requested review.

School Closings

Inclement Weather All-Day Closings – Notice of school closings will be posted on the Memphis Shelby County Schools Website and Social Media Platforms. . School closings will also be available during news broadcasts of Channels 3 (WREG), 5 (WMC), 13 (Fox 13) as well as on the websites for Channels 3, 5, and 13. . This information will be available at approximately 6:00 a.m. It will also be posted on our school website and social media platforms.

Delayed Opening Pupil Time Schedules

In the event that weather conditions do not permit school to start at the normal time, but should be clear for most of the school day, school for all students will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents should make arrangements with neighbors or other responsible individuals to drop off their children should they not be able to do so in case of a delayed opening. Absences on delayed-opening school days will be considered unexcused without the proper documentation (see Attendance section).

Electronic Use

We will be making our school a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning using a system called Yondr. Yondr has been implemented in over 1,000 schools across 21 countries to facilitate an engaged learning environment.

We believe that phones have great utility. We have also found that learning and social behavior improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates.

The Yondr Program utilizes a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone. Every student will secure their phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school. Students will maintain possession of their phones and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day. Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times.

Yondr recently surveyed over 900 school partners to measure the effects of creating phone-free educational environments. These schools achieved notable progress in multiple areas:

- **65% of schools saw an improvement in academic performance**
- **74% of schools saw an improvement in student behavior**
- **83% of schools saw an improvement in student engagement in the classroom**

How Yondr Works



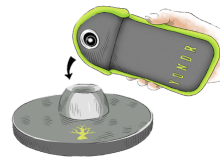
POUCH

As a student enters school, they place their phone in their assigned Yondr pouch.



SECURE

The pouch is closed and secured. Each student keeps their pouch throughout the day.



EXIT

When leaving school, the student taps their pouch to an unlocking base to release their phone.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I want to reach my child during the school day?

We want our students to be engaged in their learning. If you need to contact your child during the school day, contact the main office at 901-333-1580

What if there is a school emergency?

In case of a school emergency, we direct our students to safety first, following our school emergency preparedness protocol.

Will my student's phone be safe?

Students are in possession of their phone - in their Yondr pouch - for the entire school day. We will advise students to store the pouch in their backpacks where it is completely safe.

What if the Yondr pouch gets damaged or a student is caught on their phone?

The Yondr pouch is property of MASE. If a student damages their Pouch or is caught on their phone, Administration will collect the phone/Pouch and call home:

- The student's parent/guardian will be called to the school to come and pick up the phone.
- The parent/guardian will be required to pay a \$20 fee for a replacement pouch.

Note: Damage consists of any signs that the physical integrity of the pouch has been compromised, whether intentional or unintentional, as determined by the school or Yondr staff. Students cannot decorate/ write on the pouch. It is the property of MASE

Electronic use including cellular phone use is prohibited during the school day. In case of a problem or an emergency during the school day, students' may be allowed to make phone calls using his/her cellular phone or office phone.

Yondr Consequences

1st Offense: 1 Day Out of School Suspension

2nd Offense: 3 Days Out of School Suspension

3rd Offense: 5 Days Out of School Suspension

4th Offense: Expulsion

Visitors

State Law – By State law, all persons who are not regular members of the school personnel must report to the main office and state their reasons for being on school grounds or in the building. As to whether the person may remain is entirely up to the School Director. This law is for the protection of students and staff, and it will be enforced.

Student Visitors – Bringing visitors to school is discouraged. However, if there is a valid reason why a visitor must come to school with one of our students, this will be considered by the School Director, or another administrator. The student must complete a "Request for Student Visit Form" at least three (3) school days prior to the visit. Students are responsible for the behavior of their visitor while at school. The visitor must have a pass from the office.

Parents as Visitors – In an effort to minimize class disruption, all parent messages and/or drops for students will be held in the main office. Students may pick up messages and/or items from parents at the end of the school day if a member of the office staff was unable to take the message or item to the student during school hours. **Parents wishing to visit with their child at school must first secure permission from the grade-level dean at least one (1) school day prior to the visit.** Parents appearing at school wishing to visit with their child on the same day may be asked to wait until such a time that it will not be disruptive to the student's class schedule. **All decisions regarding parents visiting their children during school hours are made by the School Director and are final.**

Medication and Illness

MASE wishes to cooperate fully with students, parents, and the medical profession to assure that any student receives required medication during the normal school day at the time(s) the student needs it. It is preferred that medications be taken by students at home. However, MASE recognizes that certain circumstances may necessitate taking medication during school hours. Guidelines have been established to maintain control of authorized drugs within the school and to ensure the health and welfare of the students.

Administering Medication

Before any medication may be administered to or by any pupil during school hours, parents are required to submit the proper forms (see below) for such medication, and relieve MASE and its employees of liability for any actions related to the administration of medication.

Illness or Injury during the School Day

Illness – Should a student become ill during the school day, he or she must notify a teacher or other school personnel, who will, at that time, call the parent or guardian. The parent may opt to bring medication to the student, or check the student out. **If the parent chooses to check the child out of school, that parent *must* take the child to the doctor in order for the check-out to be excused.**

A parent does not need to sign the “Student Release Form” if the school called the parent regarding the child’s illness.

Injury

If a child is injured at school, an incident report will be completed and filed. Parents and guardians will be notified of the injury. The parent may opt to check the student out at that time, without having to sign the “Student Release Form.” However, **in order for the check-out to be excused, the parent must take the child to see the doctor the same day the injury occurred.**

Immunization Requirements

All students must meet Tennessee state immunization requirements. The school is required to maintain official school records indicating:

1. DTP Vaccine (diphtheria and tetanus toxoid and pertussis vaccine): A 10-year booster shot is recommended for all students in grades 6-12.
2. Polio Vaccine
3. Measles Vaccine
4. Rubella Vaccine
5. Mumps Vaccine
6. Hepatitis B Vaccination Series

School personnel will annually review records and advise students of deficiencies or updated requirements. Students transferring to MASE must submit documentation of compliance with the law in the form of official school records, records from a public health department, or a certificate signed by a licensed doctor.

Non-compliance with these requirements may result in a student being excluded from school until such time that appropriate documentation is provided.

Non-Prescription Medication

Students are permitted to carry a one-day’s supply of non-prescription medication to self-administer *if* a “**Parent’s Non-Prescription Medication Request Form**” is signed by the parent and on file in the office. Copies of this form are in the main office.

Prescription Medication

In accordance with school policy, prescription medications must be kept locked in the main office and administered by school personnel. A **“Physician’s Medication Procedure Request Form,”** as well as a **“Parent’s Medication Procedure Request Form,”** must be completed, signed, and on file in the office before any prescription medication will be given. Copies of these forms are in the main office. In rare instances, a student may be allowed to carry certain prescription medications (e.g., asthma inhalers). If the physician deems it medically necessary for the student to carry a medication with him or her, the physician will note this on the required form.

Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities

Activities

All activities are carefully planned to be age-appropriate and engaging. One of the goals for scholars’ activities is to allow the student to explore many after-school options in a non- threatening manner.

Transportation to Activities

If a scheduled activity takes place off campus, the student must have a consent form signed by the parent, allowing MASE to transport the child to and from the school and the designated area for the activity.

Attendance

Any student who is absent during the entire school day, whether that absence is excused, unexcused, or mandated from the school (i.e., suspension), is not allowed to attend or participate in any school-related or school-sponsored function that morning or evening (e.g., sporting events, dances, etc.)

Honor Roll

Students are rewarded for their hard work and determination at MASE. One of the many ways in which they are rewarded is by being placed on one of the following honor rolls:

Principal’s List – All A’s and all S’s, with perfect attendance Distinguished Honor Roll – A’s, B’s, and S’s or better

Effort Honor Roll – no minimum GPA; based on teacher recommendation; criteria include:

1. all conduct at least an S or better
2. volunteer their time to help
3. can be counted on
4. generate positive feelings through the things they say and do
5. two (2) teachers who acknowledge the student’s improvement and effort in class

Awards and Incentives

Students at MASE are rewarded for the wonderful things they do and accomplish. Students are recognized for their work at an assembly held during the school day, in front of the entire school. Parents are welcome to attend these assemblies. Some of the awards include:

Perfect Attendance – Each student who has been neither tardy or absent from school, and has neither checked in nor checked out of school, will receive a certificate and an item of value. This is awarded at the end of the year.

Honor Roll – Each student who earns the grades to be on one of the honor rolls (see Honor Roll section) will receive a certificate and an item of value. This is awarded at the end of each quarter.

Promotion and Graduation Policy

Credit Requirements: 22

Math: 4 credits – Including Algebra I, II, Geometry and a fourth higher level math course (Students must be enrolled in a mathematics course each school year.)

English: 4 credits

Science: 3 credits – Including Biology, Chemistry or Physics, and a third lab course

Social Studies: 3 credits – Including U.S. History and Geography, World History and Geography, U.S. Government and Civics, and Economics

Physical Education and Wellness: 1.5 credits

Personal Finance: 0.5 credits – Three years of JROTC may be substituted for one-half unit of Personal Finance if the JROTC instructor attends the Personal Finance training.

Foreign Language: 2 credits – May be waived for students, under certain circumstances, to allow for additional elective focus.

Fine Arts: 1 credit – May be waived for students, under certain circumstances, to allow for additional elective focus

Elective Focus: 3 credits – Math and Science, Career and Technical Education, Fine Arts, Humanities, Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB)

National Junior Honor Society

MASE joined the National Junior Honor Society in 2005. The purpose of this society is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, to develop character, and to encourage citizenship.

Students do not apply for membership. Rather, it is an honor bestowed upon a select group by the faculty and administration. The selection for membership is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the **responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities**. A cumulative GPA of 3.5 is to be maintained. If a student falls below this, he or she will be given a warning to improve. If a student does not bring the GPA back up to an acceptable level by the end of the next quarter, he or she will forfeit membership. Each member must also complete at least four hours of approved community service each semester.

Students in the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades are eligible for membership in the National Junior Honor Society.

Students who transfer to MASE who were members at their previous school are automatically members, provided they maintain membership status (see above).

Eligibility – To be eligible for membership, a student must have been in attendance at MASE for at least the equivalent of one semester. In all cases, only those students who have a cumulative GPA of 3.6 or better meet the scholarship requirement for membership. The GPA is based on the quarter grades in all subjects. Students whose grades qualify are then considered on the basis of leadership, service, and character.

Once selected, members must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5; a check will be done at the end of each quarter. If a member's GPA falls below 3.5, a warning letter will be sent to the member, and he or she will have one quarter to raise his or her cumulative GPA. If the student fails to meet the minimum GPA requirement by the end of the next quarter, then the faculty and administration will meet to determine if the student will continue as a member of the honor society on probationary status, or will be removed from membership. Once a member has been removed from membership, it is very difficult to re-enter the honor society, and it may affect a student's eligibility to become a member of the National Honor Society.

Evaluation – Students fill out a Student Activity Information Form and a Student Personal Evaluation Form. To be considered for membership, a student must be actively involved in at least two extra-curricular activities (whether or not they are school-related) during the current year. The faculty members who have been involved with any of the students being considered for membership will fill out an evaluation form for each student. These forms examine the student's leadership, character, and service. The faculty and administration review the various information and evaluation forms, as well as any verifiable information about each candidate. A point system is used to

Evaluate students. Students who earn the required number of points are inducted into the Society.

Induction – Students who meet the necessary requirements will be admitted into the Society after an interval of approximately six weeks. During this period, students are considered probationary members. If the student continues to uphold the ideals of the Society, he or she is inducted at the end of the probationary period. The induction ceremony, which takes place during the school day in front of all members of the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades, occurs in the Spring.

NJHS Activities

The MASE Chapter of NJHS annually determines a project the group will undertake. The NJHS is an active service organization, contributing to the welfare of our school and community. Thus, this service project does not count toward the required four hours of approved community service that each student must perform each semester. Members are expected to be active in supporting the ideals of scholarship, character, and leadership.

Discipline

A Culture of Performance

MASE is an academically-challenging, college-preparatory middle/high school. MASE has established a culture of hard work, academic curiosity, and excitement around each student's ability to contribute to our environment. This "culture of performance" focuses on the school's administration, faculty and students. As a result, students are expected to behave in an appropriate manner, with self-discipline as a matter of routine.

General Statement

To develop self-discipline, students must assume increasing responsibility for their own behavior. They are expected to obey all rules and regulations, which have been developed by the school to ensure the orderly operation of the educational program. When a student violates these rules and regulations, the parents and school personnel have a shared responsibility in taking necessary action to correct a student's behavior. Every reasonable effort shall be made to change a student's inappropriate behavior through alternative means before implementing more severe action, such as suspension or expulsion. It is hoped that all MASE students will demonstrate their dedication to high moral standards. Adherence to high moral standards indicates a student's willingness to take responsibility for his/her actions and education.

MASE's Expectations of Proper Conduct

- Students are expected to attend school regularly and to be in class on time with proper materials, prepared to work.
- Student behavior should not hinder or disrupt the teaching/learning environment.
- Students are expected to be respectful, courteous, and cooperative with school personnel and fellow students.
- Students should care about the appearance and reputation of their school, and work diligently to maintain a positive image.

Conducive Environment

The policies outlined in this section, which adhere to the State's zero-tolerance policies, will ensure a safe and efficiently-operated school environment. A safe school environment includes the classrooms, hallways, and common areas. All students will be instructed via a student handbook concerning the results of violating school policy. Students who violate these policies will be segregated from offenders immediately, in the manner described later in this section. Moreover, MASE is committed to the idea that the learning process should, at no time, be interrupted. Discipline and classroom disruptions will be handled by both teachers and the administrator(s). Students and instructors will respect each other and their surroundings.

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying or Cyberbullying Policy

MASE prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation, bullying, and cyber-bullying. A safe and courteous environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve. Harassment, intimidation or bullying, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, is conduct that disrupts both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate students in a safe and orderly environment; and since students learn by example, administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers should be positive role models in demonstrating appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment, intimidation or bullying. All MASE teachers and administrative personnel are responsible for ensuring this policy is faithfully implemented in all areas under their purview or direct supervision.

MASE Disciplinary Matrix

- Verbal warning/Proper documentation of incident
- Teacher/Student Conference
- Conference with Parent (call home)
- Detention
- Referral to Counselor
- Referral to Deans
- Parent/Student/Administrator Conference
- In-School Suspension
- Suspension
- Expulsion

Student Expectations

Parents and students will sign a contract promising to honor the code of behavior drawn up for MASE. The behavior policies will be distributed to students and parents, and reviewed during orientation. This code of behavior, in addition to stipulating standards of conduct, will specify disciplinary measures to be taken in the event of misbehavior.

Suspension

There are two types of suspension: in school and out of school. When a student is suspended, he/

she will not be allowed on campus during the suspension period. When suspended in school, he/she is assigned to an isolated room for the day or period, and may not leave the room during the times other students are out of class. In both forms of suspension, the student will be permitted to make up any missed assignments, presentations, or exams. Parents of a student who is to be suspended will be notified. The school's administration may require that a parent conference take place before the student returns to regular school activities.

Expulsion

Parents of students recommended for expulsion will be notified by the administration. A meeting of the school's Disciplinary Board will take place. At that meeting, the student and his or her parent(s) have the opportunity to make a presentation to the board before a final decision is rendered. The board's decision is **final** and will be communicated to the parent(s) and the student directly and in writing within forty-eight hours of the meeting. The following are examples of the cause for an expulsion but are *not limited* to this list:

- Breach of Disciplinary and/or Attendance Contract
- Chronic flagrant disrespect and insubordination
- The use of (or the providing of) explosive devices, such as fireworks
- Instigating or participating in group rebelliousness
- Harassment of a teacher. *Harassment* means disturbing or irritating persistently. *Harassment* implies systematic persecution by besetting with annoyance, threats, or demands.
- Serious misconduct while on disciplinary probation
- Stealing, malicious damage, or destruction of an individual student's or the school's property
- The use and/or possession of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or drug paraphernalia
- Possession of weapons on campus
- Hazing, racist acts, or persecution of other students

A student who is expelled will have the option to return to his or her neighborhood city school, or to seek private-school placement.

SCHOOL-RELATED DISCIPLINARY OFFENSES

Below is a description of school-related disciplinary offenses for which a student may be subject to detention, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or expulsion. A school-related disciplinary offense refers to the violation of this code occurring:

- while the student is on school grounds or school-related transportation;
- during a school-sponsored activity; or
- during events sufficiently linked to school.

Level 1 Offenses:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Not following directions● Running in hallways● Excessive talking● Interrupting● Consistent tardiness● Name calling● Misuse of materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Derogatory notes/pictures● Teasing/put downs● Inappropriate language● Eye rolling● Wandering● Mocking
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Level 2 offenses are handled by the teacher. Documentation of behavior and action in the behavior log is highly suggested. All behavior log documentations must be emailed to parents through PowerSchool. Parent contact via phone is highly suggested. Discipline/Interventions procedures range from parent notification to In School Suspensions (ISS).

Level 2 Offenses:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Repeated behavior of level 1 offenses● Back talking/arguing● Inappropriate gestures/language Taunting● Refusing to work● Open defiance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Cheating/Plagiarism● Throwing objects● Horse-playing
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Level 3-5 offenses are handled by the administration. Direct Discipline referral through discipline log with detailed, word to word narrative of behavior and action is required. Administration will make parent contact. Discipline/Interventions procedures range from parent notification, Out of School Suspensions (OSS) and/or expulsion.

Level 3-5 Offenses Zero Tolerance:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Repeated behavior of any offense level● Fighting● Ethnic slurs● Cutting class● Obscene gestures● Leaving school/class without permission● Trespassing● Inappropriate touching● Damaging property/ Vandalism● Direct and willful disobedience of school rules and policies● Disruptive clothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Disrespect for authority● Bullying● Threatening/taunting● Threatening bodily harm● Weapons/facsimile of a weapon/dangerous instrument● Gambling● Attempt to sell unauthorized product● Stealing● Use of profanity● Pulling fire alarm● Excessive truancy
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Drugs ● Forgery ● Extortion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Harassment, including sexual harassment ● Assault with intent to fight with another student ● Gang activity
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Fraternalities, Sororities, Gangs, Etc.

Students may not wear specific gang colors, hats, bandannas and/or other paraphernalia is not allowed in school. Any form of related graffiti is equally unacceptable. Consequences include ten (10) days OSS, referral to the police, a parent conference, and possible recommendation for expulsion.

Computer Usage

Maliciously damaging or tampering with a school-issued laptop, either the student’s own or another student’s, or the use of unauthorized/inappropriate websites. Consequences may include a warning, ISS, restitution, and possible OSS.

Theft

Theft of school, staff or student property, from stores on the way to and from school, or possession of any stolen property. Consequences range from OSS to expulsion.

Weapons

Consequences will be applied if the student is using the weapon/item OR if the student is in possession of the weapon/item. A student shall not possess, handle or transmit any object that may reasonably be considered a weapon or instrument capable of inflicting harm.

Examples of such devices include but are not limited to: knives, firearms, clubs, mace, brass knuckles, chains, firecrackers, lighters, and matches. Possession of a weapon includes but is not limited to a student’s locker, book bag or person. Weapon violations are zero-tolerance offenses; expulsion will be recommended. If expulsion does not occur, the student may receive 10 days OSS.

Bomb Threat/False Fire Alarm/Arson

Consequences may include 10 days OSS, possible recommendation for expulsion, and/or referral to the police.

Note: Students suspended from school (OSS) are not permitted to be on campus or to attend school functions during the time they are suspended. Violation of this may result in police arrest and additional school suspension

MASE Uniforms

Uniform Requirements: (General Guidelines)

- SPIKNER/VILLAGE MART MASE Blazer (MS students wear Black, HS Students wear Burgundy)
- SPIKNER/ VILLAGE MART White Oxford Shirt with MASE logo
- SPIKNER/VILLAGE MART gray long pants (Dickies and Cargos pants are prohibited)
- SPIKNER/ VILLAGE MART purchased tie
- Black dress belt with no ornamentation.
- Black or gray dress socks (No athletic socks)
- Black formal/casual shoes
- SPIKNER/VILLAGE MART MASE Blazer (MS students wear Black, HS Students wear Burgundy)
- SPIKNER /VILLAGE MART White Oxford Shirt with MASE logo
- SPIKNER/VILLAGE MART plaid pleated skirt
- SPIKNER/VILLAGE MART purchased gray pants
- SPIKNER/VILLAGE MART purchase cross tie
- White, gray, burgundy, or black knee-high socks
- Black formal/casual shoes (heel shoes should not exceed 2-inches in height)
- White, gray, burgundy, or black hair accessories

Uniforms:

1. All uniforms will be purchased through SPIKNER Uniforms/VILLAGE MART and, with the exception of black formal shoes, black belt and gray pants (Dickies and Cargos pants are prohibited).
2. Students must attend school in full uniform, failure to do so will result in non-attendance.
3. SPIKNER/ VILLAGE MART will hold fitting sessions to insure the proper fit of uniforms.
4. Pants purchased from another source should fit appropriately. If a student continues to wear pants that do not fit, they will be required to purchase appropriately fitted pants through SPIKNER or VILLAGE MART. Pants must be worn at the waist. Sagging pants and/or tight pants are NOT allowed.
5. Students should be well-groomed at all times. Uniforms are to be cleaned, pressed and in good repair.
6. **Student's Name should be stitched on the front of their blazer, First and Last Name.**
7. Oxford uniform shirts must be tucked in completely at all times.
8. Shoes must be black dress shoes, closed-toed, and must have a back. No tennis/bowling/walking/jogging shoes are allowed. Heels are limited to two inches.
9. Only black belts are allowed.
10. Any undershirts must not be visible. Students may not wear printed t-shirts underneath their blouses/shirts.
11. Skirts should fall no higher than one inch above the knee.
12. Tights are acceptable in solid black, gray or burgundy. Tights are not to have any design or patterns.
13. NO hats, caps, beanies, do rags, head wraps, scarves or bandanas can be worn.
14. MASE blazers must be worn at all times throughout the school day.
15. For a student's benefit, all uniforms and personal property should be clearly labeled. The school cannot be responsible for lost articles,

16. Students are not allowed to wear any coats or jackets with a hood. No hoodies are allowed in the building. Students should purchase a SPIKNER/VILLAGE MART MASE sweater to wear under the SPIKNER/VILLAGE MART MASE blazer to dress in layers during winter months

Jewelry:

1. Earrings are limited to one pair of matching earrings no larger than one inch. Studs are preferred. No body piercings are allowed to show.
2. Boys are not allowed to wear any earrings.
3. Students may wear one bracelet, one watch and one necklace, but must be worn under their oxford shirt. Students are not permitted to wear excessive or faddish jewelry.

Grooming:

1. Tattoos must be covered at all times.
2. All hair must be a natural color. (**Blue, Pink, Red, Green, Orange, Yellow and other unnatural loud colors are not allowed**)
3. No bleached hair

Bags:

1. Purses of a reasonable size are allowed, but their access may be restricted. If a book fits in the purse, it will be classified as a book bag, not a purse.
2. Backpacks must be clear, for safety purposes.

Students are required to have their school uniform on the first day of school

Out of Uniform/Dress Out Days

- Crocs or shoes with the heel out are not allowed.
- **Shorts are not allowed for boys or girls.**
- No tight fitting clothes, leggings, jeggings, tights, athletic tights.
- Belts must be worn, no sagging pants.
- Skirts must be knee-length.
- Blankets cannot be worn as jackets.
- No holes or cuts in clothing unless it is covered by tights or leggings.
- No halter tops or shirts that show excessive cleavage, skin, back or stomach.

*****The school reserves the right to make decisions about any items or styles not specifically addressed here, and to send any student home who does not comply with these regulations*****

Search and Seizures

To maintain order and discipline in the schools, and to protect the safety and welfare of students and school personnel, school authorities may search a student, student lockers and desks under the circumstances outlined below, and may seize any illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials discovered in the search.

Student desks are school property and remain at all times under the control of the school. However, students are expected to assume full responsibility for the security of their desks. Students should not expect privacy regarding items placed in school property, because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Periodic, general inspections of desks may be conducted by school authorities for any reason. This may occur at any time, without notice, without student consent and without a search warrant.

A student's person or personal effects (e.g. purse, car, book bag, or athletic gear) may be searched whenever a school official has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is in possession of illegal, unauthorized or contraband material. If a search yields illegal or contraband materials, such findings shall be turned over to the proper legal authorities. A student's failure to permit searches and seizures as provided by this policy will be considered grounds for disciplinary action and potentially permanent expulsion.

Officers of the law, appearing with duly-processed search warrants, should be accorded the right to search or inspect according to the order. The School Director shall be notified of such searches as soon as possible, and the parents of the student shall be informed.

Complaint Procedure for Parents

The purpose of this guide is to aid parents in securing—at the lowest possible administrative level— prompt and equitable resolution of student or parent complaints. Complaints about school personnel will be investigated fully and fairly. Anonymous complaints will be disregarded.

Whenever a complaint is made directly to the MASE Board of Directors as a whole, or to a Board member as an individual, it will be referred to the School Director for study and possible solution. An employee who is the object of a complaint will be informed promptly and afforded the opportunity to present the facts as he/she sees them.

The goal of this section is:

- To establish a simple framework for addressing concerns.
- To provide for prompt resolution of concerns.
- To ensure that all parties will participate in a cooperative manner to resolve concerns.
- To ensure that most concerns will be handled without resorting to this procedure beyond Step 1
- To assure that the system has a procedure to receive citizens' concerns in an orderly fashion to achieve the best possible educational program for students.

Step 1 – Direct Conversation

If a parent has a disagreement or misunderstanding with a teacher, the parent should address the concern to the specific teacher directly involved with the circumstances surrounding the concern. The staff member will meet with the parent as soon as possible, but in no case longer than five (5) calendar days after the teacher has been notified of the concern (subject to change by mutual agreement).

Step 2 – Fact and Possible Resolution

If a parent or the teacher is not satisfied with the outcome of Step 1, or the parent/teacher is unwilling to meet independently, without the presence of an administrator, a meeting with the teacher, appropriate administrator, and parent will be arranged at a mutually convenient time, but in no case more than five calendar days after the meeting in Step 1. This step is to be informal and verbal. No further action will be taken beyond Step 2, unless the parent submits **in writing** a signed and dated statement of facts giving rise to this concern, the name of the accused teacher, and the remedy sought.

Step 3 – Formal Process

If a parent's concern is not satisfactorily resolved at either the first or second level, the parent should then refer this concern to the School Director in writing. At that time, another meeting will be arranged at the convenience of the parent and staff member directly concerned, but in no case later than ten calendar days (subject to change by mutual agreement). The staff member has the right to be part of all meetings, with or without a representative as he/she so determines. The School Director or his/her designee will supply written dispositions to all parties within five calendar days. Copies of the disposition will be sent to the Board of Directors. The disposition may also be placed in the teacher's personnel file when deemed appropriate by the School Director. The teacher and parent shall be informed if the letter is to be placed in the personnel file.

Step 4 – Discipline Review Board

If either party is still dissatisfied with the outcome of Step 3, the problem will be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled discipline review board, on which one member of the Board of Directors sits. The meeting will be held in executive session, with only the discipline review board members and the affected persons present.

Step 5 – Executive Session

If either party is still dissatisfied with the outcome of Step 4, the problem will be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting. The meeting will be held in executive session, with only the Board of Directors members and the affected persons present.

Dispositions

Dispositions of all meetings will be rendered in writing within five (5) school days of the meeting, with reasons stated.

Repeat Concerns

If a parent believes there has been a repeat of the previous concern, they may go directly to Step 3 - "Formal Process."

Grievances Protocol for Parents

Formal Grievance Process:

- Submit a formal grievance in writing. You can do this via email: ngomez@discovermase.org
- Include specific details, such as dates, incidents, and any relevant evidence.

Acknowledgment and Timeline:

- Upon receiving your grievance, we will acknowledge it within 24 hours.
- We commit to resolving all grievances within 24 to 48 hours.
- If additional time is needed due to the complexity of the issue, we will keep you informed.

Investigation and Resolution:

- We will thoroughly investigate the matter, including gathering input from all parties involved.
- Our goal is to find a fair and satisfactory resolution.
- You will receive a written response outlining the outcome and any actions taken.

Appeals:

- If you are dissatisfied with the resolution, you have the right to appeal.
- Contact the district office for further guidance.

We value your feedback and appreciate your partnership in creating a positive learning environment for our students. Thank you for entrusting us with their education

Code of Conduct for Parents/Guardians

At MASE, we believe that good parent/guardian relationships build invaluable bridges. The faculty and staff are earnestly working toward improving parent-teacher-student relationships to ensure a supportive learning environment for all stakeholders at MASE. As a condition of enrollment at MASE, parents/guardians of a student are expected to conform to standards of conduct that are consistent with the principles of the school, as determined by the school in its discretion.

These principles include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Parents/guardians are expected **to work courteously and cooperatively with the school** to assist the student in meeting the academic and behavioral expectations of the school.
2. Parents/guardians **may respectfully express their concerns** about the school operation and personnel. However, they may not do so in a manner that is discourteous, scandalous, rumor-driven, disruptive, threatening, hostile, or divisive.
3. These expectations for **parents/guardians include but are not limited to, all school-sponsored programs and events** (e.g. extended school enrichment, field trips, athletics, etc.)

The school reserves the right to determine, at its discretion, which actions fall short of meeting the principles of the school. Failure to comply with these principles will typically result in a verbal or written warning to the parent/guardian. It will first result in disciplinary action short of a requirement to withdraw from the school (suspension of the parent/guardian's privilege to be present on campus grounds and/or participate in school activities, volunteer work, etc.). The school reserves the right to determine when conduct is of such a severe nature as to warrant immediate action without a warning and/or without an intermediate step short of withdrawal.

Artificial Intelligence Policy

Introduction

Policy Objective

This policy aims to provide a robust framework for the ethical and efficient use of generative AI technologies within the Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering (MASE). Its principal intent is to empower both educators and learners by integrating AI into the teaching and learning processes while emphasizing responsible and safe use, inclusivity, and the maintenance of high ethical standards.

We understand that generative AI holds incredible potential for enhancing pedagogical methods, customizing learning experiences, aiding administrative efficiency and driving educational innovation. Harnessing this technology effectively necessitates a comprehensive set of guidelines to uphold our shared values and ensure the successful incorporation of AI into our school community.

Applicability and Scope

This policy applies to all staff, pupils, governors, volunteers, and visitors who utilize our generative AI resources both on and off the premises. It covers all forms of generative AI technology that support learning, teaching, assessment, pupil wellbeing and

administrative processes.

Users Should adhere to this policy whenever they engage with the generative AI tools provided by the school, ensuring the predictive text and content generated aligns with our educational objectives and ethical standards.

This policy will also extend to any party intending to introduce a new generative AI tool to our school system. The tool will be scrutinized in accordance with our evaluation processes to ensure compliance with academic standards, usability, privacy considerations, and accessibility needs before being deployed for use.

In the next sections, we will detail roles and responsibilities, ethical standards, data privacy and security, and steps ensuring accessibility and inclusivity aligned with our continuous learning and improvement ethos. Each of these essential elements will help reinforce our collective understanding of a technology that promises to nurture an innovative, engaging and inclusive learning environment.

Roles and Responsibilities

Senior Management Team

The Senior Management Team holds the ultimate responsibility for the implementation and oversight of this policy. The body ensures that the school's use of generative AI aligns with its educational objectives, legal obligations, and ethical standards. It will also guarantee that reasonable human and financial resources are allocated to facilitate safe and effective AI usage, where reasonable to do so.

The Senior Management Team is also responsible for promoting organizational culture that values responsible AI usage, maintaining a balance between innovation and ethical considerations. They will work collaboratively with teachers, pupils, and experts, ensuring that all AI processes adhere to the laid down policy. The team will also be responsible for addressing any concerns related to the use of generative AI brought to their attention by any member of the school community.

Teaching Staff

Teachers play a pivotal role in the successful implementation of generative AI technology. They should use the AI tools provided for enhancing pedagogical techniques and improving pupil engagement. It is their responsibility to guide pupils in using these tools responsibly, while encouraging a climate of academic integrity. Furthermore, they need to stay informed about advancements in the field of generative AI and adapt their teaching practices accordingly.

Pupils

Pupils are central stakeholders in this policy, with their intellectual curiosity, creativity, and learning experiences shaping the need for generative AI in our school. They are expected to use AI-generated resources responsibly and abide by the ethical use guidelines outlined in this policy. They are encouraged to embrace the concept of originality while using generative AI and to report any misuse or concerns to the relevant authorities in school.

It is essential for everyone involved to play their part to ensure the harmonious integration of generative AI technology into our school environment, maintaining its focus on enriching learning experiences and upholding ethical standards. As generative AI continues to evolve and mature, so should our understanding of its potential benefits and challenges. The team strives to make our educational establishment an example of excellent, inspirational 'generative AI-enhanced' learning.

Ethical Use of Generative AI

Responsible Use by Teachers

Teachers are expected to model responsible and ethical use of generative AI technologies. This includes the appropriate integration of these technologies into their lessons, in a manner that enhances teaching and learning, without compromising academic integrity. Moreover, teachers should strive to use these tools to inspire creativity and original thinking among pupils, rather than for direct content creation. Teacher's discretion is key in ensuring that the use of generative AI aligns with our school's educational objectives and ethical standards.

Use by Teacher	Considerations
Drafting ideas for lesson plans and other activities	The output may be factually incorrect or lack sound pedagogical foundations. Nonetheless, it may be a useful starting point
Help with design of quiz questions or other exercises.	Generative AI can quickly generate multiple choice quizzes and assessment ideas, but they should be reviewed carefully as above
Customizing materials (simplifying language, adjusting to different reading levels, creating tailored activities for different interests)	Generally, when asked to customize material, generative AI won't introduce new concepts, and so is less likely to introduce factually incorrect information
Providing custom feedback to pupils.	Generative AI should not be used to mark pupil work.
Writing reports.	Our parental body expects reports to be written by their teachers and not by generative AI. Teachers must not use it for this purpose.

Detecting whether work is written by AI	ChatGPT might claim it can detect whether it wrote text, but it can't.
Anything involving personal information	You should never put personal information into any system where we do not have a proper contract in place and have made a full assessment of its data privacy policies etc. Generative AI services like ChatGPT are no exception

Responsible Use by Support Staff

Support staff, including administration and ICT teams, should also adhere to responsible use of generative AI technologies. They play a vital role in managing and overseeing the correct application of these technologies within the school's operations. Any interaction with the generative AI tools should prioritize the protection of pupil data and respect for privacy. It's crucial for support staff to understand their responsibilities for ethical use and to ensure these tools are employed in a secure manner that benefits the school community.

Responsible Use by Pupils

Generative AI technologies hold great potential for enhancing learning, but this also brings responsibilities. Pupils are expected to use these tools in a manner that respects our academic and ethical principles. This includes acknowledging the sources of AI-generated content and using these tools to support, rather than replace, their original thinking and creativity.

Use by Pupil	Considerations
To formulate ideas,for example, creating essay structures	Generative AI tools are generally effective in producing outlines as a starting point for an assignment
To provide feedback on writing	Generative AI will proofread and correct text for Pupils, in a similar way to grammartools. It will also provide feedback on style and content. Pupils will need clear advice on when this should be declared
As a research tool	A good understanding of the tool and its limitations is crucial here, particularly the tendency for generativeAI to give misinformation
Generating images to include in assignments.	The best image-generation tools come at a cost, and Pupils need to be aware of copyright concerns

Integrity and Avoidance of Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious offense in our academic community. While generative AI technologies can provide beneficial insights, it is important that the work pupils produce is reflective of their understanding and knowledge. Pupils must not represent AI-generated

content as their own original work. Instead, it should serve as a tool to stimulate their ideas and enrich their assignments while upholding the values of honesty and integrity. Any breach of these rules will be dealt with in line with our behavioral policies.

Embracing Originality

Generative AI is an incredibly powerful tool for aiding learning but should not overshadow the importance of original thought. Pupils may use AI to help generate ideas and structure assignments, but the critical analysis, reasoning and argumentation should be demonstrably their own. If using generative AI, pupils should aim to enhance their original contributions, not replace them.

These provisions ensure that all members of the school community, including teachers, support staff and pupils, use generative AI technologies ethically and responsibly. As we navigate the digital age, we reaffirm our commitment to uphold our core values and promote a culture that respects academic integrity and champions original thinking. Things to avoid:

Data Privacy, Security and Compliance

Data Protection Measures

The implementation of generative AI technologies necessitates the collection and processing of a variety of data. Our school is committed to protecting this data with robust security measures consistent with technological advancements. These measures include encryption, secure network infrastructures, controlled access permissions, and regular security audits. To ensure seamless GDPR compliance, regular training will be conducted for staff, particularly those who interact directly with generative AI technologies. This training will be designed to equip them with the skills required to handle data responsibly and to recognize potential data protection issues proactively.

Compliance with Privacy Regulations

We recognize and respect our obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and other UK data protection laws to safeguard pupil and staff data privacy when deploying generative AI technologies. Accordingly, the school ensures that all data is processed within the rights of data subjects, including the right to access, correct, or erase personal data.

In line with our commitment to ethical conduct and best practices, we adhere rigorously to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) for the safe and responsible handling of data within our generative AI technologies. Given the intrinsic data-driven nature of these technologies, safeguarding personal information becomes paramount.

Data is collected for legitimate purposes, such as enhancing learning experiences and improving administrative efficiency, and is retained only as long as necessary for these purposes. Generative AI tools often require access to a large dataset to function effectively. While we strive to enhance the educational experience through AI, we equally prioritize the privacy of our staff, pupils, and all stakeholders involved. Data collected for AI processes will be limited to what is necessary for the stated educational or administrative purpose. Explicit consent will be sought from all individuals whose data will be processed by any generative AI tool. This includes, but is not limited to, staff, pupils, and parents. Any data processing undertaken will align with the consent provided, and individuals reserve the right to withdraw consent at any point.

Data used or generated by generative AI tools will be anonymized where possible and stored securely. Retention periods will be kept to an absolute minimum, with data deleted once it has served its purpose and is no longer required. Individuals have the right to access their personal data processed by these technologies, as well as the right to correct inaccurate or incomplete information.

Pupil Data Storage and Management

Generative AI technologies often necessitate storage of vast amounts of data, which includes sensitive personal information of pupils. The school recognizes the importance of careful data management. Data obtained from the use of generative AI tools is securely stored on protected servers and only shared with trusted third parties, if necessary, in line with our data protection policies.

Ensuring data privacy and security is not a one-time activity but a continuous process that must evolve with technological advancements and expanding regulatory frameworks. This policy outlines the school's commitment to maintaining a secure and trusted learning environment where generative AI technologies are employed responsibly. The school strives to balance the benefits of innovation with the necessity of privacy, setting a strong foundation for the pupils' digital future.

Accessibility, Inclusivity and Personalized Learning

Support for Pupils with Learning Differences

Generative AI technologies present new opportunities for supporting pupils with learning difficulties. Personalized content and interactive features can cater to varied learning styles and pace, thus facilitating a more inclusive learning environment. Our school is committed to leveraging these technologies to support diverse learning needs and ensure equal access to educational resources.

Catering to Individual Learning Needs

With generative AI, we can create personalized learning pathways that consider each pupil's unique attributes, abilities, and learning preferences. The technology allows us to provide individualized learning materials that can adjust to the pupil's progression, thereby boosting engagement levels and improving academic outcomes. All educators and pupils should strive to harness the potential of generative AI to enhance the school's learning environment.

Our goal is to ensure that generative AI technologies are used in a way that benefits all pupils, irrespective of their abilities or learning styles. We believe that all pupils should have the opportunity to achieve their full potential, and with generative AI, we are well-positioned to make this possible. The continuous endeavor to ensure accessibility and inclusivity is part of our commitment to equal opportunities and will remain a priority in our educational approach.

Evaluation and Quality Assurance

Assessing Accuracy, Relevance and Appropriateness

The adoption of any generative AI tool in our school setting requires careful evaluation. We must assess the accuracy, relevance, and appropriateness of both the tool itself and the content it generates. These evaluations are critical to ensure that these technologies align with our educational objectives and uphold our commitment to providing quality education to our pupils.

Data validity and accuracy are paramount; therefore, any discrepancies or inconsistencies found in AI-generated content should be diligently reported and rectified. The appropriateness of AI-generated content must also be assessed against our school's curriculum standards, ethical guidelines, and the diverse cultural and personal backgrounds of our pupils.

Feedback Mechanism

A feedback mechanism is vital for the iterative development of generative AI adoption within our school. Teachers, Pupils, and parents should be encouraged to provide feedback on their experiences, possible areas of improvement, and any concerns with the generative AI tools utilized. This feedback will guide the modification and improvement of the AI tools for enhanced learning outcomes.

The school's commitment to the continuous evaluation of generative AI tools ensures that the technology's capabilities align with the educational, ethical, and personal needs of our pupils, effectively benefiting teaching and learning processes. It further ensures the school's generative AI initiative remains dynamic, responding efficiently to changes and advancements in AI technology.

Continuous Learning and Policy Improvement

Professional Development and Learning Resources

As generative AI continues to evolve, it's crucial for the educational community to stay updated with the latest developments. To this end, the school will provide ongoing training and resources for teachers, ensuring they understand how to use generative AI technologies and incorporate them into their teaching methods effectively and ethically. At the same time, pupils will be educated on the ethical use and potential of generative AI in learning.

Regular Policy Review

This policy will not remain static; it will evolve alongside advancements in generative AI technologies and changes in regulatory landscapes. The member of SMT responsible for the policy, in collaboration with the wider school leadership team, will regularly review and update this policy to reflect new knowledge, learnings, and best practices in the field of generative AI in education.

The school's commitment to continuous learning and improvement goes beyond the classroom. It integrates into our processes, our methodologies, and our policies. This approach will ensure that our school remains at the forefront of technological advancements in education, leveraging the significant benefits of generative AI to deliver enriched, engaging, and personalized learning experiences for all our pupils.

Authorized Generative AI Tools

Our school acknowledges the need for specific, authorized tools that align with our educational goals and uphold our commitment to data privacy and ethical usage. The following list details the generative AI tools currently approved for use within our school community. It's important to note that this list is subject to change as we regularly review and evaluate the suitability of these tools in light of advancements in generative AI technologies, amendments to data privacy regulations, and the evolving needs of our diverse pupil and staff body. We are committed to maintaining a dynamic list that best serves our educational objectives and technical requirements and supports our pupils' and staff's safe and responsible use of generative AI tools.

Before any engagement with third-party vendors for generative AI tools, thorough due diligence will be performed to ensure their compliance with GDPR and other relevant legislation.

Text Generation	Image Generation
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ChatGPT (<https://chat.openai.com/>)
Google Bard (<https://bard.google.com/>)
Anthropic Claude
(<https://claude.ai/chat/>)
Microsoft Bing Chat
(<https://www.bing.com/>) Perplexity
(<https://www.perplexity.ai/>)

Midjourney
(<https://www.midjourney.com>) Dall-E
(<https://labs.openai.com/>)
Stable Diffusion (<https://stability.ai/stable-diffusion>) Gamma (<https://gamma.app/>)
Ideogram (<https://ideogram.ai/>)

MASE Community Code of Conduct Handbook Please

Return This Page:

For Students: I understand that I must sign the MASE Community Code of Conduct HandBook. I agree to abide by the school's rules and policies. I understand that if I choose not to abide by the school's rules and policies, a change of my classroom/school placement may occur and that I may be asked to voluntarily withdraw from the school. I also realize that if I break the rules, I will be subject to immediate discipline as outlined in the MASE Community Code of Conduct Handbook.

Student Signature

Date

For Parents or Guardians: I understand that I must sign the MASE Community Code of Conduct HandBook with my scholar. I agree to support the school's rules and policies. I understand that if I choose not to support the school's rules and policies, a change of my classroom/school placement may occur and that I may be asked to voluntarily withdraw my scholar from the school. I also realize that if my scholar breaks the rules, he/she will be subject to immediate discipline as outlined in the MASE Community Code of Conduct Handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date