

**CANDEO SCHOOLS**

*Accrescens Fulgore*

**FAMILY  
HANDBOOK**

*Revised October 2022*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to Candeo Schools! Whether you are a returning family or joining us for the first time, we are glad you have chosen us. As a charter school, we offer a specific type of education to our students. There are charter schools for all types of students, and ours is for students who are looking for a classical liberal arts education and a return to the tried and true methods of education that used to be commonplace in American public education but are now increasingly rare. Since our founding in 2008, we remain ever-faithful to our mission: to grow wisdom and virtue for a life well lived through rigorous knowledge-based schooling in the classical liberal arts.

Choosing our school is choosing its philosophy, its mission, and the hallmarks of its programming. This handbook is designed to provide you with essential information about these core elements, as well as the accompanying policies, procedures, and that govern our work. Please take the time to read and discuss it with your family, as agreement and adherence to its content are necessary to enact our Charter as it is defined. A signature of this agreement is required. Throughout the year, updates to policies or procedures may be made. You will be notified of any such changes, and an updated copy will always be available on our website for your reference.

We look forward to a wonderful year together.

Sincerely,  
Candeo Administration

## ABOUT US

### Classical Education Explained

*(adapted from Classical Academic Press)*

#### **What is classical education?**

It is a curriculum built upon a classical liberal arts tradition and a revolutionary approach to school itself, cultivating the hearts and minds of students in the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty.

The goal of a classical education is to cultivate wisdom and virtue. Students are held to strict conduct standards and taught to take the lead and learn from the great thought leaders in history.

#### **Why is it effective?**

The effectiveness is largely because of its sequential approach to how and when students are taught. Children learn in phases: grammar, logic, and rhetoric, known as the trivium.

The grammar stage comprises the years in which the building blocks for all other learning are laid. In this stage, children find memorization fun. During this period of education, the focus is not on self-expression, but more on the learning and memorization of facts such as rules of phonics, grammar, the study of history, and descriptions of animals, etc. While in this stage, if you have children sing or chant something, they will remember it forever.

In the logic stage, children become more naturally curious and argumentative and begin to question authority and ask for the “why” of something and the logic behind it. They begin to pay attention to cause and effect - to how the relationships between different fields of knowledge relate, and to the way facts fit together into a logical framework. During this stage, they learn to reason and how to argue with wisdom and eloquence.

The final stage is rhetoric, when students become independent thinkers. They study and practice the art of persuasive speaking and effective writing. It is this sequenced approach based on human developmental stages that make the classical education approach so effective.

Classical education is more than a strategic, structured pattern of learning. Classical education is language-focused where learning is accomplished through words, written and spoken. Classical education has produced countless great thinkers in the areas of science, writing, philosophy, theology, medicine, law, and the arts. The approach never disappeared completely, but it did start to get replaced in the early 1900's with the development of the progressive education movement. However, classical education is the most proven form of education and has been growing in popularity again over the last several decades.

## OUR PHILOSOPHY

We believe college preparation begins in elementary school. We understand the rich, cognitive growth that occurs in the early years of life and take full advantage of the opportunity to build breadth of knowledge and a true love for learning through formal education. We delve into the rich content of the core classical liberal arts to deepen our understanding of the human condition, learn from the wisdom of the ages, increase our ability to think well and deeply, and problem solve in an ever changing world. We believe what we study should invite us to contemplate goodness, truth, and beauty and allow these to work in our lives as we grow, learn, serve, and lead.

## OUR MISSION

To grow wisdom and virtue for a life well lived through rigorous knowledge-based schooling in the classical liberal arts.

## WHY WE EXIST

As a charter school, we exist to be different. In our charter agreement with the state, we identify our target population (those students who will best be served by our program) and detail our plan to meet the needs of those students. Our program is specifically designed to meet the needs of children who thrive in an environment of academic rigor, challenge, and knowledge that spurs curiosity, wonder, and critical thought. We commit to delivering our program with intention and fidelity, unapologetically holding to the highest of academic and behavioral standards for every student.

## OUR SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

The Candeo Code of Conduct is a deliberate index of ten tenets with specific behaviors and examples that we expect our community of learners, staff, and families to embrace and foster daily. We believe by defining, modeling, and cultivating these behaviors, we demonstrate strong character, ethical judgment, and integrity while creating a culture of virtuous leadership.

### **I am responsible.**

I am willingly accountable for what I do and say and take actions for my own good and the good of others. I maximize my learning by gaining wisdom from my mistakes and striving to meet the high expectations before me.

### **I persevere.**

I strive to complete tasks to the best of my abilities, regardless of the difficulty. I respond creatively to overcome obstacles and ask for help when necessary.

### **I act with integrity.**

I have strong ethical values; I make consistently good choices in keeping with my knowledge of right and wrong.

### **I am honest.**

I am truthful in what I say and do. I understand the importance of trust and conduct myself in a way that cultivates an environment of honesty.

### **I am courageous.**

I do what I know to be right despite fear, hardship, and opposition. I resist negative peer pressure, defend my rights and the rights of others, and encourage others to do the same.

### **I demonstrate citizenship.**

I respect the rules and laws of my school and community and conduct myself accordingly. I uphold liberty and equality through adherence to the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as guaranteed by the American frame of government.

### **I practice humility.**

I do not brag or compare myself to others. I strive to do my best and to bring the best out in others.

### **I foster friendship.**

I look for the good and beautiful in all who are around me and demonstrate compassion while being polite, considerate, kind, and fair. I treat others the way I wish to be treated.

**I display wisdom.**

I act with knowledge and virtue. I look to the great thinkers of the past for guidance as I develop my gratitude, fortitude, joyfulness, and temperance.

**I exercise civility.**

I am constantly aware of others and weave restraint, respect, and consideration into the very fabric of this awareness. I demonstrate an active interest in and concern for the well-being of our community.

**SCHOOL HOURS**

**Candeo Peoria Campus**

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 7:30am-3:45pm

Wednesday: 7:30am-12:45pm (early release)

School gates open at 7:45am

Arrival times are as follows:

- 7:45-7:55am for Middle School students (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) and their siblings
- 7:56-8:10am for K-5 students (with no Middle School siblings)

Instructional Hours:

- Half-day Kindergarten AM 8:15am-11:45am
- Full-day K-5 8:15am-3pm (11:45am on Wednesday)
- Grades 6-8 8am-3:15pm (noon on Wednesday)

*School releases early every Wednesday at 11:45am (K-5) and noon (6-8)*

**Candeo North Scottsdale Campus**

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 7:30am-3:45pm

Wednesday: 7:30am-12:45pm (early release)

School gates open at 7:40 pm

Arrival times are as follows:

- 7:40-7:55am for Middle School students (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>) and their siblings
- 7:56-8:10am for K-5 students (with no Middle School siblings)

Instructional Hours:

- Full-day K-5 8:15am-3pm (11:45am on Wednesday)
- Grades 6-8 8am-3:15pm (noon on Wednesday)

*School releases early every Wednesday at 11:45am (K-5) and noon (6-8)*

School pickup is between 3-3:30pm M/T/TH/F and Wednesday between 11:45am-12:15 (MS). Parents are considered late for student pick up when students are not picked up within their allotted release/pickup time. Students who are not picked up by 3:30pm and 12:15pm (half days) will be taken to the front office. If you arrive after dismissal, please park and walk into the front office to get your child. Repeatedly picking up students late from school is inconsiderate of those who are waiting with your student. If a

student has not been picked up an hour after the conclusion of dismissal and the parents cannot be reached, the school will need to call the nearest police precinct to make arrangements for the child.

If you require an after-school program, services are available through a third-party company. These are fee-based services available from dismissal to 6pm daily. Information on these fee-based services may be obtained on the Parent Portal or in the front office.

## EXTRACURRICULAR AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Students will be provided opportunities to participate in extracurricular clubs and activities designed to enrich the academic experience outside of the regular school day. Candeo offers a variety of after school activities:

- Fee-based after school programs
- Fee-based special interest classes/clubs
- Fee-based school sponsored sports and academic clubs (*eligibility requirements*)

A list of programs, classes, and activities, as well as registration information, will be available on the Parent Portal. Students participating in extracurricular programs are expected to follow the same behavioral guidelines that apply during the day. School wellness and uniform policies are in effect during all after school programs (unless clothing changes are required for specific activities). Extracurricular activities have a fee assigned that covers the cost of the instructor(s), materials, and facilities. Eligibility for participation in school-sponsored extracurricular activities is subject to established guidelines for academic and behavioral conduct. Details will be communicated by the club sponsor.

Participation in school extracurricular activities, both athletic and non-athletic, is a privilege and not a right. Students can be suspended from extracurricular activities for academic and behavioral reasons at any time by the decision of the supervising staff member, the athletic director, or school administration.

**If a student is absent from school for a half day or more, he/she may not participate in any school-sponsored extracurricular event until he/she returns to school.**

**Middle School students' grades will be checked bi-weekly. If a student has two "Ds" or an "F" in *any* class, he or she will be placed on an improvement plan until the next grade check. Failure to complete any component of the improvement plan will result in ineligibility to practice, compete, or perform in any school-sponsored extracurricular activity.**

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT, ENGAGEMENT, AND SUPPORT OF THE SCHOOL'S MISSION

**The Role of the Parent.** The role of the parent is to actively and intentionally support the school's mission in the domain of the home. This includes supporting the work of the teacher in the home with your student, ensuring daily work and study is performed, positive, and productive; fostering positive attitudes toward the school, the classroom, and learning; establishing systems that promote your student's success in daily homework; establishing fruitful habits of learning and study; building virtues in the home that correspond to the learning at school; exercising civility when dealing with problems or concerns, directing all questions straight to the staff member responsible for the area of concern (e.g., classwork and progress: teacher; school decisions and communication: Head of School).

We provide multiple opportunities to be informed and involved. These opportunities include, but are not limited to

the following:

- **Candeo Connect.** Candeo Connect gives you the opportunity to get to know Administration, other parents, and various other stakeholders. In this environment, you have the opportunity to engage in conversation about Candeo’s academic program and ask clarifying questions. Dates and times will be communicated through the weekly parent email sent every Friday.
- **School and community-wide events.** A variety of fun and highly-anticipated events, designed to bring families together, are offered throughout the year on our campus.
- **Volunteering.** Candeo approaches volunteer work in an organized, purposeful fashion to create the best possible experience for all. The Head of School, through the Family and Community Relations Specialist (FCRS) and/or Assistant to the Head of School, will reach out to parents throughout the year to assist with various tasks at hand. Some volunteer opportunities are performed in the home and not on site. Some volunteer commitments may require a fingerprint clearance card or food handler’s permit, but we encourage all to obtain them.

The best way to get information on volunteering is to contact our Family and Community Relations Specialist. When volunteering on site, younger siblings are not able to accompany parents. For more information on volunteer opportunities, please contact your FCRS via email.

Candeo Peoria- [peoria.info@candeoschools.com](mailto:peoria.info@candeoschools.com)

Candeo North Scottsdale- [ns.info@candeoschools.com](mailto:ns.info@candeoschools.com)

## COMMUNICATION

Candeo communicates with parents, and parents to Candeo, through established channels.

### Teacher Communication

Teachers communicate with parents mainly through monthly newsletters, daily student agendas, and weekly graded work. Your teacher will communicate regarding his or her communication procedures. In communicating with your teacher, please reach out via email, and allow up to 24 hours (1 business day) for a response. “Carline” communication or during arrival or dismissal is not the time to communicate with your teacher.

Please make sure all important information is communicated to your children prior to the start of the school day. Notes to the teacher in a backpack upon arrival are helpful. If you need to communicate with your teacher, please use his or her school email, which is checked once in the morning, once at midday, and once after school.

### School Communication

Candeo Schools Website: General information about the school and its structure, as well important links, school calendar, school handbook, uniform policy, supply lists, and instructional staff education and experience are available on our website for parents to access at any time. Please see <https://candeoschools.com/>

PowerSchool: Daily bulletins, the Parent Portal, and access to the gradebook to keep you informed and connected.

Candeo Weekly Email: A weekly email message to families will be sent out every Friday. The information included will assist families in staying updated and informed. Please take the time to read these important communications.

Classroom Email: Teachers will send a monthly email communication that includes the general curriculum plan for the month, as well as regular emails to keep parents updated on specific classroom activities, requests and/or



events.

Parent-Teacher Conferences - Each year, Candeo holds Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences, which allow the parent, child, and teacher to meet. In Grades K-8, we hold fall and spring conferences. The goals of the fall conference are to demonstrate learning and progress and set academic and behavioral goals. In the spring, one conference day is dedicated to an examination of classroom learning in an open-house format. Should a parent desire an individual conference at any time, appointments may be made with the teacher. School hours during conference weeks are typically shortened to accommodate the added time with parents. Special hours will be communicated. **School uniforms are required for students at conferences.**

Digital (Social) Media: Our Candeo official facebook pages and private parent group will give you timely and accurate information on all things Candeo, as well as pictures and content focused on daily life at our schools. Communication meant just for Candeo families will be posted on our private page. You also have the ability to ask questions and receive responses directly from our staff. To access our official social media channels, please click on the following links:

Candeo Peoria **Facebook:**

Public Candeo Peoria page - [facebook.com/CandeoPeoria](https://facebook.com/CandeoPeoria)

Private Candeo Peoria group for enrolled families - [facebook.com/groups/candeopeoria](https://facebook.com/groups/candeopeoria)

@CandeoPeoria **Instagram:** [instagram.com/candeopeoria](https://instagram.com/candeopeoria)

Candeo North Scottsdale **Facebook:**

Public Candeo North Scottsdale page - [facebook.com/CandeoNorthScottsdale](https://facebook.com/CandeoNorthScottsdale)

Private Candeo North Scottsdale group for enrolled families - [facebook.com/groups/candeonorthscottsdale](https://facebook.com/groups/candeonorthscottsdale)

@CandeoNorthScottsdale **Instagram:** [instagram.com/candeonorthscottsdale](https://instagram.com/candeonorthscottsdale)

Candeo Schools **LinkedIn:** [linkedin.com/company/candeo-schools](https://linkedin.com/company/candeo-schools)

Need to reach us? Email is our main source of receiving and sending information and the best way for you to communicate with us, as it is checked periodically throughout the day. We will respond within 1 business day (24 hours).

Candeo Peoria- [peoria.info@candeoschools.com](mailto:peoria.info@candeoschools.com)

Candeo North Scottsdale- [ns.info@candeoschools.com](mailto:ns.info@candeoschools.com)

Need something a little more urgent? Please contact via the “chat” button on our website ([candeoschools.com](https://candeoschools.com)). This goes immediately to our FCRS at the front office, and you will typically have a response within minutes.

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### General School Policies

**Visitors/Public Conduct on Campus.** All visitors, parents, guardians, etc. who visit the school for any reason (i.e. volunteering in a classroom, observation, meeting with school staff, etc.) are required to enter the school through the main/front doors, report to the school office, sign in, present identification, and wear a visitor badge at all times. In order to ensure the safety of the campus community, entrance to the school through other entrances is not permitted by visitors unless expressly communicated by the school.

No person shall visit or audit a classroom or other school activity, nor shall any person come upon or remain upon school premises without prior approval by the Head of School or an authorized representative; nor shall any person conduct or attempt to conduct any activity on school premises without prior approval by the Head of School or authorized representative.

Any member of the general public considered by the Head of School or authorized representative to be in violation of these rules shall be instructed to leave school property. Failure to obey the instruction may subject the person to criminal proceedings pursuant to A.R.S. § 13-2911 and to any other applicable civil or criminal proceedings, or to tribal ordinance.

Persons who engage in disorderly conduct of any kind may be subject to removal and exclusion from the school. No person shall possess or engage in the use of medical marijuana on school property or at school-sponsored events.

No person shall engage in conduct that may cause interference with or disruption of an educational institution. Interference with or disruption of an educational institution includes any act that might reasonably lead to the evacuation or closure of any property of the educational institution or the postponement, cancellation or suspension of any class or other school activity. For the purposes of this policy, an actual evacuation, closure, postponement, cancellation, or suspension is not required for the act to be considered interference or disruption.

A person commits interference with or disruption of an educational institution by doing any of the following:

- Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly interfering with or disruption of the normal operations of the school by either:
  - Threatening to cause physical injury to any employee or student of the school or any person on the property of the school.
  - Threatening to cause damage to the school, the property of the school, or the property of any student or employee of the school.
- Intentionally or knowingly entering or remaining on the property of the school for the purpose of interfering with or denying lawful use of the property to others.
- Intentionally or knowingly refusing to obey a lawful order given by the Head of School or another person designated to maintain order at the school.

The above identified acts need not be directed at a specific individual, the school, or specific property of the school to constitute a violation of this policy. Restitution for any financial loss caused by a violation of the policy may be required. Furthermore, an individual who interferes with or disrupts an educational institution may be subject to misdemeanor or felony charges as provided in (A.R.S. § 13-2911).

A person may also interfere with or disrupt the operation of the school by committing any of the following:

- Any conduct intended to obstruct, disrupt, or interfere with teaching, research, service, administrative, or disciplinary functions, or any activity sponsored or approved by the School Board.
- Physical or verbal abuse or threat of harm to any person on property owned or controlled by the school or at school-sponsored functions.
- Forceful or unauthorized entry to or occupation of school facilities, including both buildings and grounds.
- Illicit use, possession, distribution, or sale of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs, other controlled substances, or other illegal contraband on school property or at school-sponsored functions.
- Use of speech or language that is offensive or inappropriate to the limited forum of the public school educational environment.

- Failure to comply with the lawful directions of school officials or of law enforcement officers acting in performance of their duties, and failure to identify oneself to such officials or officers when lawfully requested to do so.
- Knowing violation of a school rule and/or policy. Proof that an alleged violator has a reasonable opportunity to become aware of such rules and regulations shall be sufficient proof that the violation was done knowingly.
- Any conduct constituting an infraction of any federal, state, or city law or policy of the School Board.
- Carrying or possessing a weapon on school grounds unless the individual is a peace officer or has obtained specific authorization from the appropriate school administrator.

**Parking Lot.** For safety reasons, children of any age may not be left in a vehicle in the parking lot. If you are picking up a student or leaving your car for any length of time, you must bring other children with you. Parents and staff are encouraged to report any vehicle on campus that has unattended children inside, and the front office will act immediately. Action may include calling the police. If you are experiencing a situation where you need assistance (such as a sick or contagious sibling in your car) please call the front office from your car. We encourage parents to program their school's number into their cell phone. We will assist you if at all possible.

Candeo Peoria: 623 979 6500

Candeo North Scottsdale: 480 923 9963

Please observe a safe and overly cautious speed in our parking lot (below 5 mph) at all times, observe all signage and follow the directions of any parking attendant present. Children can be unpredictable and safety is our first priority. Given the high volume of traffic at certain times of the day, your continued patience is appreciated. We will provide as much assistance as possible to ensure a smooth drop off and pick up for your child.

A diagram showing traffic flow for drop off, pick up, and parking for your respective campus will be provided to you prior to the start of the school year and is available on the Parent Portal.

**Pickup Authorization and Child Custody.** As part of the registration process, you will be asked to provide the name of any adult authorized to pick up your child. You are highly encouraged to indicate as many adults as possible. We ONLY release to adults expressly specified by you.

Please note that we will always allow a parent to pick up their own child unless there is a court order in place that is signed by a judge. If you have sole custody papers or an order of protection that is signed by a judge, please provide copies of that document to our office staff so that we may comply. It is the policy of Candeo Schools not to get involved in custody disputes. If you have a question about our custody policy, please feel free to contact us.

**Injuries at School.** Minor injuries will be treated by school personnel. This applies to any injury requiring, at most, cleanser and a bandage. We will contact you if your child requires medical treatment. You will be required to pick up your child within 30 minutes. If the accident is serious, a staff member will call 911 to transport your child by ambulance to the nearest hospital. A staff member will accompany your child in the ambulance. We will contact you immediately if this occurs.

**Fire Drills and Lockdowns.** Fire drill procedures are conducted at various times throughout the school year. We practice this drill to familiarize students and staff with the proper fire safety procedures. Other emergency preparedness drills, including lockdown, will be conducted during the year.

In the event of a real emergency, you will be notified via email.

**Emergency School Closing.** In general, Candeo will close if neighboring schools close due to any condition

warranting such. If you question the status of the opening of the school, please call your school office. We will record a message on the voice mail system notifying you of the closure. We will also attempt to reach families by email, text, or telephone before 7:45 am.

If conditions arise that require the school to close early, we will notify you via email message (“Early closure. See email.”) Please arrive to pick up your child as soon as possible.

## ATTENDANCE

**Consistent attendance is important to keep learning on track, especially at Candeo, where our program is designed to focus on intensive classroom study and dialogue.** We are not a “worksheet-driven” school. If a student misses a day at Candeo, he or she misses critical classroom learning experiences necessary for success and advancement in our program.

Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) require the parent or legal guardian of the student to “enroll the child in and ensure the child attends a public, private, or charter school for the full time of the school.” Candeo Schools aligns with these requirements.

If your child is going to be absent, email [attendance@candeoschools.com](mailto:attendance@candeoschools.com). All absences must be emailed by 9am each day the student is absent.

If your student must miss part of a day, it is required that you sign in and out at the front office. Only authorized adults may pick up your student. Please keep your pickup authorization list updated. Student Information Change Update Forms are available on the parent portal or in the front office. Students may not go home with a friend or anyone else without prior authorization.

**Excused and Unexcused Absences.** Pursuant to A.R.S. §15-901(A)(1), “...excused absences shall be identified by the Department of Education...” The Department of Education defines an excused absence as being an absence due to illness, doctor appointment, bereavement, family emergencies, and out-of-school suspensions not to exceed 10% of the instructional days scheduled for the school year.

For absences relating to illness, doctor appointment, bereavement, or family emergencies, the school must be notified of the absence prior to the start of the school day or when the absence occurs by the parent or legal guardian who has custody of the student.

If an absence occurs relating to any other term or condition that is not specifically designated herein, the absence shall be counted as unexcused. Students absent for ten (10) consecutive school days, except for excused absences identified herein, shall be withdrawn from the school, pursuant to A.R.S. §15-901(A)(1). Additionally, if a student accumulates **ten (10) or more absences** during the entire year, the parent/guardian may be required to meet with the administration to create an attendance plan.

After 5 unexcused absences in a quarter or 10 unexcused absences throughout the year:

- The family will be mailed a habitual truant letter, stating the truancy laws and a day and time to meet with the Head of School. This meeting will be scheduled approximately 5 business days from the date the letter is sent. Parents/Guardians must call if they would like the meeting time changed and can reschedule for no more than 5 business days after the initial meeting time.
- The school official will stress the seriousness of consistent attendance and give parents/guardians an opportunity to express why their child has been absent. The school official will discuss the legal nature of

attendance and how open communication with the school about attendance issues or concerns is the law.

- **If more than 9 days are missed in a semester (two quarters), the child may not be considered eligible for promotion to the next grade level.**

**Truancy and Truancy Protocol.** A child between the ages of six (6) and sixteen (16) failing to attend school during the hours school is in session is truant unless excused pursuant to State law. Truant means an unexcused absence for at least one (1) class period during the day. This includes absence from any class, study hall, or activity during the school day for which the student is scheduled. Unexcused absences of at least five (5) school days within a school year constitutes habitual truancy and may result in a truancy citation being issued to the student, parent, or both.

**Tardy Policy.** Tardiness is taken very seriously by Candeo, as it is considered a disruption to the learning environment for both your child and his or her classmates. For us to properly perform our job of educating your child, we need to make use of every available instructional minute with minimum disruptions to the schedule. We expect students to arrive at least 5 minutes before their start time to be comfortably ready for the morning greeting. Classes begin promptly at 8 am for middle school students and 8:15 am for elementary students. The gates close at 8:15 am. If the gate is closed, parents must escort their child to the front office to sign in and receive a tardy pass. A tardy pass must be in hand for entry into the classroom, and no pass will be issued without parent signature. If you have questions about the number of tardies your child may have, please contact the office.

Candeo handles student tardiness under the following guidelines:

- 6<sup>th</sup> tardy in a quarter - parent letter sent home
- 9<sup>th</sup> tardy in a quarter - parent conference and remediation plan
- All tardies are documented and recorded by the front office staff and reflected on quarterly report cards

**Student Illnesses.** If your child is ill or has had a fever in the previous 24 hours prior to the start of the school day, we ask that you keep him or her at home. This helps prevent illness from spreading and resulting in more absences in the classroom. Please keep children home if any of the following symptoms are present:

- Fever - when 99 degrees or higher within the previous 24 hours.
- Vomiting
- Respiratory symptoms - difficult or rapid breathing, severe coughing or a high-pitched, croupy, or whooping sound after coughing.
- Diarrhea - two or more abnormally loose stools.
- Sore throat - any sore throat, especially when accompanied by redness, fever, or swollen glands in the neck.
- Skin problems - skin rashes that are undiagnosed or contagious, infected sores, or sores with crusty, yellow, or green drainage.
- Pink Eye - watering, irritation, and redness of the white part of the eye and/or the eyelids with or without pus-like discharge. Pink Eye (conjunctivitis) is *extremely contagious*. This condition must be treated with medication prescribed by a physician. Signs and symptoms must be absent for at least 24 hours before returning to school.
- Head lice - head must be free and clear of all lice and nits before a student can return to school. A school health professional or authorized staff member *must* examine the student before he or she returns to class. This condition is *extremely contagious*.
- Additionally, please note the expectation is for parents to follow daily COVID-19 screening procedures:  
**Daily COVID-19 Screening Procedures**  
Students should not come to school if they have any of the following symptoms:
  - Fever or chills
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Muscle aches

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose
- Cough
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell

Parents are required to notify the office if their child is diagnosed with any of the following conditions *within 24 hours*. We will then notify other students of the presence of a communicable disease at school (with anonymity):

COVID-19 Measles German Measles Infectious Hepatitis Mumps Tuberculosis Whooping Cough  
 Fifth's Disease Strep throat Scarlet fever Diphtheria Meningitis Pinkeye Poliomyelitis Impetigo  
 Scabies  
 Head lice Chicken pox Ringworm Poison oak Athlete's foot

**Sick-at-School Policy.** If your child becomes sick at school or has any of the above-listed symptoms, we will contact authorized emergency contacts in the order you designate. Someone must always be reachable during school hours. Please keep your emergency pick up form up-to-date at all times. Always notify our office if contact information changes. We will keep your child comfortable until someone arrives, and expect someone to arrive within 30 minutes.

**Chronic Health Problems.** Students with chronic health problems, who are unable to attend regular classes for intermittent periods of one or more consecutive days because of illness, disease, pregnancy complications, or accident as certified by a health professional or registered nurse practitioner, may be excused from school. All exceptions must be certified by an appropriate health professional and will be reviewed on an individual basis. (A.R.S. §15-346). Please ask the school office for the appropriate forms.

**Student Absence and Missed Work.** In the event of an absence, a student will receive missed work and materials (as much as possible) upon returning to school. The student will have the number of school days equal to those missed to complete missing work and assignments. Work that receives a grade must be completed immediately upon return. All other work will be made up at home. Assessments (tests or quizzes) will be taken upon the morning of return unless the student is missing content necessary to complete the assessment successfully. Additionally, any assessment that is missed prior to the end of the quarter cannot be made up at the beginning of the following quarter, including Middle School Final Exams. Any missing work will be counted as incomplete and will affect the student's grade. In an emergency situation, an appeal can be made to the administration regarding missed final exams.

#### DISTANCE LEARNING

In the event that a student is absent due to extended illness or medical quarantine, students will be provided distance learning opportunities and access to the curriculum. Parents, administrators, and teachers will work together to provide fair access and reasonable accommodations to help support distance learning.

#### UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

School uniforms contribute to a safe and orderly environment and reduce competitive tendencies in students and relieve pressure to dress in expensive or trendy clothing. Consistency is important to make this policy work. Strict adherence to the policy is expected and enforced. Please do not allow your student to modify the intended appearance of the uniform.

**Dress Code Violations.** If a child is deemed to be wearing inappropriate attire, the parent will be notified and a change of clothing may be required for attendance that day. If in doubt about the appropriateness of an article of clothing, check with the school office before purchasing. Good judgment exercised at home will be a learning experience for the child and will help to avoid embarrassment or wasted time at school. Uniform violations will be written and communicated via email. Any school-issued clothing (in the event of a change-out) must be returned to the school freshly laundered.

**Where to Buy Uniform Items.** Uniform apparel is available through Anton Uniforms, Candeo's official school uniform provider. All uniform shirts, sweaters, and tops must be purchased through [Anton Uniforms](https://antonuniforms.com/) with the required Candeo Schools embroidered logo. While it is encouraged that pants, shorts, skirts, and all other uniform items are purchased at Anton Uniforms, it is not required. Any item purchased outside of [Anton Uniforms](https://antonuniforms.com/) must match the style and color description for that item on the Anton Uniforms website. To order, please visit the Anton's Uniforms website (<https://antonuniforms.com/>).

#### General Uniform Guidelines

- Baggy or tight-fitting clothing is not acceptable.
- Belts (black or brown) are required in the middle school with pants or shorts and recommended for Grade 3 and above.
- Clothing items with insignia or slogans will not be permitted.
- Undergarments may not show at any time.
- Midriffs may not show at any time.
- Modifications of the uniform are not accepted.
- Clothing must be clean and in good condition.
- Scrunchies and other hair accessories may not be worn on the wrist.
- Jewelry should be simple and non-distracting (simple gold or silver necklaces, stud earrings. Hoop or dangling earrings are not permitted for any reason). Any piece of jewelry that would be deemed distracting will need to be removed.
- Leggings and tights are permitted for girls only and should be worn under skirts or shorts.
- All uniform pieces must be purchased through Anton uniforms.
- Accessories such as backpacks, lunch boxes, water bottles, and face masks must follow uniform guidelines including:
  - Colors: any desired color
  - solid or simple geometric patterns only (plaid, polka dot) only
  - no pop culture (Pokemon, Bratz, Star Wars etc...)
  - no slogans, or sayings
  - wheeled backpacks are permitted but not recommended
- Shoes must be closed toe and free from designs, distracting patterns, embellishments, or neon colored accents. Shoes must follow the uniform guidelines including:
  - Colors (solid): white, black, gray, brown, tan or navy, or simple geometric patterns in uniform colors
  - Permitted styles: athletic, deck, loafers, or ballet flats
  - All shoes must be worn with socks that are solid in color without insignia or slogans. Sock colors are navy, white, gray, brown, tan, or black.
- Outwear must be removed inside the classrooms, with the exception of Anton jackets with school logos.
- Uniforms are required for Meet the Teacher, Orientation, Conferences, and other formal school sponsored events. Uniforms are not required for family-fun activities or events.

#### Specific Uniform Guidelines

Please visit Anton Uniforms at (<https://antonuniforms.com/>) and the following:

Appendix A for the North Scottsdale Anton Uniforms Reference Guide.  
Appendix B for the Peoria Campus Anton Uniforms Reference Guide.

## GENERAL APPEARANCE

Proper hygiene is expected. Children must come to school clean and bathed. Nails must be groomed and hands clean.

Hair must be clean, neat, and out of the face. For boys, hair must not be long enough to be able to pull into a ponytail. In addition, hair for boys must be above the collar and out of the face. For all students, hair must not be a distraction and remain out of the face.

- only natural hair colors permitted
- makeup on any student is not permitted
- no tattoos, temporary or permanent, are permitted; this includes ink drawings on the skin
- perfume and cologne not permitted
- deodorant encouraged in grades 4 and above
- no extreme hairstyles such as a mohawk or faux-hawk
- only clear nail polish is permitted (for girls only); artificial nails are not permitted

## WELLNESS (FOOD AND NUTRITION) POLICY

The impact of good nutrition on learning is widely documented. We promote whole, healthful foods that are nutrient dense and leave out preservatives, artificial colors, artificial flavors, and processed sugars and syrups. Every student at our school should have a balanced mix of fresh veggies, fruits, proteins, grains, and healthy fats like avocados, olive oil, nuts, and quality cheeses. Our policy is not “fat-free, “low fat” or “sugar-free.” We are JUNK free. We adhere to our policies throughout the instructional day. Food items for classroom Core Knowledge celebrations or other events must abide by the same nutritional standards set forth by our wellness guidelines.

### Lunches and Snacks

**From Home.** Lunches sent from home should be well-balanced and in accordance with our wellness guidelines. This ensures each child has a good start to his or her afternoon with optimal readiness for learning. For suggestions, please reference Appendix A. Please ensure packed lunches include all necessary utensils and implements, as the school does not provide these items.

**From School.** Candeo Schools partners with Myhotlunchbox.com to provide healthful lunch options through a secure, fast, and easy-to-use online ordering system that allows parents to view the lunch menu, order, prepay, and manage student lunches on the web.

To register and order, please do the following:

1. Go to myhotlunchbox.com
2. Click on “Log In/Create Account” at the top
3. Click “Sign up”
4. Click “Order Now” for customer
5. Fill out sign up information
6. Add a profile for your student
7. Select school and add school name Candeo Schools Peoria or Candeo Schools North Scottsdale
8. Order and Check out

For questions or technical problems, please email [info@myhotlunchbox.com](mailto:info@myhotlunchbox.com) or call 888.894.8295



The school will provide a forgotten lunch for students who do not have lunch at their scheduled lunch time. The fee for a forgotten lunch is \$4.00.

Parents will be notified of any disruptions to our wellness policy via email. Corrections will be expected. At times, we may send an item home with your child for consumption after school. There are unlimited ideas for packing lunches that meet our guidelines. Search “healthy school lunch ideas” on the internet as a resource for not only lunches but snacks as well.

**Snacks.** We ask that parents send one small snack item from home to keep students’ energy levels up. These snacks must also follow the guidelines of our wellness policy. A list of recommended and encouraged snacks is provided in Appendix A.

**Classroom Celebrations and Birthdays.** All classroom celebrations and events are governed by our wellness policy, which means junk food-laden celebrations are not permitted. Food items brought for curriculum celebrations may be purchased or homemade; however, parents should check with the teacher regarding any students in the class who may have food allergies.

Birthdays are recognized in a way that does not disrupt the regular schedule. Please do not bring birthday accouterments to the school from home, including birthday invitations or treats. A published school directory is provided to parents for outside communication regarding birthday parties or other personal celebrations.

#### LOCKER POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Lockers are assigned to students in Grades 6-8 for the Peoria campus and students in Grades K-8 for North Scottsdale. Each student is assigned one locker through Administration. The locker is used solely for storage of outerwear and school related materials. **The locker is NOT student property**, and students do not have a legitimate privacy interest in the locker or items kept inside it. School officials have the right to open and inspect the locker any time they have reasonable suspicion to suspect that prohibited items may be inside; and the Administration may conduct periodic inspections at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

Students are expected to keep lockers clean and free from damage. Stickers or other bondable items are not permitted. Fines may be assigned for any damage. The school is not responsible for any valuables left inside the locker.

Students will be able to use their locker between each of their classes; however, they must adhere to the passing period time frame and be seated in their classes on time. If a student is chronically late due to locker usage, it may result in having his or her locker privileges revoked.

#### PERSONAL BELONGINGS

While we make every effort to help your child be mindful of personal belongings, we ultimately cannot be responsible for lost or damaged personal effects. Labeling items such as coats, hats, backpacks, and lunchboxes with the student’s name helps us return lost items to the owner. Valuable items such as toys, electronics, cash, and anything else a student does not want to misplace should be left at home. Items will be placed in our Lost and Found for your perusal. Due to the large number of items that are collected, Lost and Found items are donated periodically.

Students are not permitted to bring personal electronic devices, **including smart watches**, “fidgets,” games, or toys on campus unless expressly approved by the teacher or Head of School for a specific instructional purpose.

#### CELL PHONE POLICY

To promote an uninterrupted academic environment, the use of cell phones/smartphones and smartwatches during the school day is prohibited. The school has a compelling interest in keeping students not just physically present on campus, but mentally and emotionally present as well. The ways in which technology can aid and abet academic dishonesty are a growing concern for college and high school educators nationwide, and while a great many schools, districts, and institutions of higher education have entirely given up on restricting personal tech use in any venue, Candeo holds that it is essential to the proper formation of the young to place limitations on it. While the ubiquitousness of personal technology is a given, the following restrictions and allowances apply at our school:

A student may keep a cell phone turned off (not merely silenced, but off) and stored in his or her backpack during the school day.

Personal phone use is prohibited on the campus except for the following reason and only when all three conditions are met: students may use their phone only after dismissal times, only in the designated pick-up areas or front office, and only for the sole purpose of contacting their transportation.

If a student needs to phone a parent at any time during the school day, the student must come to the front office and request staff permission to use one of the school's landlines. **In rare cases in which parents need to get an emergency message to a student before the end of the school day, they call the school's main telephone line and ask for a message to be delivered.** Parents should be mindful that texts or other messages they may send directly to their children during the school day will be picked up only after school dismissal.

Violation of the above restrictions will result in confiscation of the cell phone or other device and disciplinary action. Devices will be turned in to the office and released only to parents/guardians after confiscation. Repetition of this offense will require the student to check his/her cell phone in and out of the office daily if brought to school.

Candeo is not responsible for lost or stolen phones and discourages students from bringing cell phones/smart phones to school. To avoid misuse or theft, students who opt to bring cell phones may choose to check their phones in at the front office and retrieve them at dismissal time.

#### ELECTRONIC DEVICE USAGE POLICY

iPods or other portable music players, iPads, Tablets, e-readers, cameras, electronic games, and toys (including "fidgets") that are not part of the academic or extracurricular program are prohibited on campus unless expressly approved by the teacher or Administration for a specific instructional purpose.

The use of electronic devices for educational/instructional purposes during the course of a day or class will only be allowed at the discretion of the teacher/instructor. Students will not be permitted or allowed to utilize such devices outside the scope of the pre-established and designated hours of usage at school. Students may be disciplined, and such items will be confiscated and returned only to a parent. The school is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

**Misuse of Technology.** Misuse is defined as the disruptive and inappropriate exposure/use of cell phones, text messaging, web access, mp3 players, digital cameras, and like communication devices during the instructional day. The use of a computer or other electronic device to do the following is unauthorized and prohibited:

- Hacking into or accessing or breaking into restricted accounts or networks;
- Modifying, or destroying files without permission;
- Illegally copying software; and

- Entering, accessing, viewing, distributing, or printing inappropriate/unauthorized files, programs, pornographic sites, video games, or sites advocating hate or violence.

Failure to adhere to the school-wide Acceptable Electronic Device Usage Policy will result in disciplinary action.

## MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

School officials administer prescription medication in the school setting in accordance with specific regulations under Arizona state law. All medications must be brought to the school office by an adult and picked up from the school office by an adult. Only medications, which are needed to treat an existing ailment, are stored in a secured (locked) medicine cabinet in the school office. All medications not picked up by the end of the school year or by the date of expiration will be disposed of by school officials.

Medications that are to be given two (2) and/or three (3) times daily are to be given at home, unless specifically ordered by the doctor to be given at school.

For prescription medication, there must be a written order from the physician stating the name of the medication, the dosage and the time it is to be administered and that it must be administered during school hours. There must be written permission from the parent/guardian for the medication to be administered at school. The medication must be in the original prescription container labeled by the pharmacist. Pharmacies will typically provide a duplicate container for school use upon request. No medications in envelopes, foil, or baggies will be accepted.

Pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 15-341(A)(35),(36), students who have been diagnosed with anaphylaxis and/or breathing disorders may carry and self-administer emergency medications while at school and at school-sponsored activities. The student's name must be on the medication container and annually written documentation, which authorizes the possession and self-administration of the medication from the student's parent, is required.

Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action. Parents may sign an authorization for the office to administer acetaminophen or ibuprofen in case the need arises during the school day.

## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips, when taken, are intended to expand upon the concepts covered in the classroom and are tied to state and school learning objectives. We will provide advanced notice to parents of the activity and schedule. Participation typically involves a fee for transportation and admission that is covered by parents. Field trips do not qualify under tax credit donations. It is our policy that students travel to and from events with their class as a whole. There is no refund for missed field trips. All fees are paid in advance to the provider.

Prior written permission is required for each field trip. Permission forms will be provided in advance, and you will be given adequate time to return the signed form and fee. Students who do not have the signed form or required fee will be supervised on campus during the field trip.

Field trips are not a curricular requirement for any grade level.

## ENROLLMENT

Candeo Schools is a non-profit, non-sectarian, public charter school, and does not discriminate in any of its practices on the basis of gender, race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, athletic ability, proficiency of English language, or disability. Candeo Schools is an open-enrollment school; we do not use the content of applications to

make enrollment decisions.

Furthermore, acts of discrimination, retaliation, or harassment based upon gender, race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, athletic ability, proficiency of English language or disability are strictly forbidden by the policies of Candeo Schools. Discipline, up to expulsion of a student or dismissal of an employee, may be applied for any violation of this policy.

**Enrollment Preferences.** Per A.R.S. § 15-184, enrollment preferences are as follows:

1. Students returning to Candeo Schools for a subsequent school year
2. Students whose siblings are already enrolled at Candeo Schools
3. Students who are children, grandchildren or legal wards of any of the following:
  - (a) Employees of the school
  - (b) Employees of the Charter Holder
  - (c) Members of the Governing Board of the school
  - (d) Directors, officers, partners or board members of the Charter Holder

If remaining capacity is insufficient to enroll all students who submit a timely application, the school will select students through a lottery, except that preference shall be given to siblings of a student selected through the lottery.

Each year, currently enrolled families are required to sign a Statement of Intent to re-enroll for the upcoming school year. The statement form is made available on the Parent Portal and multiple messages and reminders are communicated. Please note that without this form, your child will not receive a place on our roster for the next school year. This is not a reapplication, just a confirmation of your intent to reenroll.

**Enrollment Procedures.** Enrolled students receive continuous enrollment every year without reapplication; however, a formal “Declaration of Return” is required from all families between January 15 and February 15 in any year. For siblings of current students, all applications are accepted online through the enrollment portal during the Open Enrollment Window (November 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> of each year). In the event there are no available spaces for a sibling, he or she will be placed on a sibling priority wait list according to lottery order, and ahead of non-priority, open enrollment applicants.

**Transfers/Withdrawals.** If you plan to move or withdraw for any reason, please let the front office staff know at your earliest opportunity. This will allow us to prepare transfer materials that will help the student transition smoothly into his or her new school. When a student withdraws from school, the parent/guardian must come to the office and sign a withdrawal form. Parents/Guardians may also request that the student’s records be sent to the new school at this time. Students are only withdrawn when an official withdrawal form is submitted with parent signature. Withdrawals that occur during the year are processed on the student’s last day of school.

**Network School Transfers.** Students may transfer between the Candeo network schools at the beginning of a new school year without having to reapply.

**Kindergarten (full-day tuition).** Half-day Kindergarten is funded by the State and is tuition-free. Candeo charges tuition to subsidize the additional expense of offering a full-day program.

- Kindergarten tuition is \$375.00 per month, per child. A \$375.00 deposit is required by July 15 to confirm your child's placement in a full day classroom. Your deposit will be credited to your account as your last month's payment.
- Monthly tuition payments will be set up through auto pay.
- Tuition will be charged on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month in the amount of \$375.00. There are 10 monthly payments

beginning July 15 (deposit) with the last payment being April 1.

- Any outstanding balance will incur a \$25 fee.
- All balances remaining after 5 days will surrender your child's position in full-day kindergarten.
- Tuition paid in advance may be refunded if a family withdraws from Candeo. Two weeks' written notice must be submitted to the front office. All refunds will take up to two weeks to process and will be refunded electronically.

## EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Federal and state laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, or disability. Candeo Schools provides a nondiscriminatory learning and work environment, ensuring that all students and staff are free from unlawful discrimination. A lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in the education programs of the school. This commitment extends to all school programs and school-sponsored events.

In the event a student experiences discrimination, the student or parent should report the incident to the Head of School within ten (10) school days. The inability of a student to speak English should not prevent the student from reporting a violation. Every reasonable measure to interpret a non-English speaker's concerns will be taken.

The following individual has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Becky Palisuri, Head of School, Candeo Peoria  
9965 W Calle Lejos, Peoria, AZ 85383  
623 979 6500 or [bpalisuri@candeoschools.com](mailto:bpalisuri@candeoschools.com)

Kelsey Meiners, Head of School, Candeo North Scottsdale  
7191 E Ashler Hills Dr, Scottsdale, AZ 85266  
480 923 9963 or [kmeiners@candeoschools.com](mailto:kmeiners@candeoschools.com)

**Procedures for Filing Complaints.** Any person who believes he/she has been the subject of or is a witness to discrimination or harassment shall immediately notify any teacher, office personnel, or the Head of School. Complaints that cannot be reported immediately must be reported within thirty (30) calendar days. The school employee receiving the report or complaint, or who personally witness discrimination or harassment, shall immediately inform the Head of School of the report or complaint and complete a Statement of Facts form available at the front office.

**Procedures for Investigation of the Report/Complaint.** The Head of School will investigate the incident personally, or designate another school employee to conduct the investigation at the discretion of the Head of School. The alleged victim or witness will be required to complete a Statement of Facts form, or if a Statement of Facts form is not available, set forth in another written form all information relevant to the complaint, including a description of the conduct alleged (i.e., specific words, statements, or actions), names of perpetrator and victim, places, times, and other witnesses. The Head of School shall contact an outside agency (i.e., Department of Child Safety or law enforcement) as required by statute or when otherwise deemed appropriate by the Head of School.

**Investigative Findings.** In all cases, regardless of whether a violation of School policy is found or a complainant no longer wishes to pursue his/her complaint, the investigation shall conclude with a written investigation report. The report shall include findings, conclusions and any possible recommendations, including any discipline referral resulting from the alleged conduct, to be prepared by the individual who conducts the investigation. The report shall be drafted as soon as possible after the investigation is closed.

**Classroom Concerns.** We promote the practice of resolving issues through direct communication between individuals directly involved. If you or your child has a concern, your student is invited and expected to discuss it

directly with the teacher via email. Your teacher may ask to meet with you in person to support the problem-solving process. We find that the majority of parent concerns are resolved at this stage. A teacher is expected to address your concern within 3 working days of being notified in writing of the concern or grievance.

If you feel that the matter has not been resolved through direct, open communication with the teacher, or you feel you *cannot* go to the teacher (due to the nature of the grievance), place your grievance in writing to the Head of School by email. The Head of School will give you a response via email within 3 working days. You may be asked to meet with the Head of School and possibly the involved party.

Allow all parties involved time to address and resolve situations through these processes. Please respect the private nature of handling disputes.

## TITLE IX

Title IX of the Federal Education Amendments Act (“Title IX”) protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. The School does not discriminate on the basis of sex and adheres to all conditions established by Title IX by recognizing the right of every student who attends the School to do so without the fear of sexual harassment. The School’s Grievance Procedure and Title IX Policy may be found on the School’s website. Inquiries about the application of Title IX or formal complaints should be directed to the School’s Title IX Coordinator:

Lisa Quintana, Title IX Coordinator  
9965 W Calle Lejos, Peoria, AZ 85383  
623 979 6500 ext 408 or [lquintana@candeoschools.com](mailto:lquintana@candeoschools.com)

Sexual harassment is defined as: Conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following: (1) An employee of the School conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the School on an individual’s participation in unwelcome sexual conduct; (2) Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the School’s education program or activity; or (3) “Sexual assault” as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), “dating violence” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), “domestic violence” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or “stalking” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).

Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, regardless of whether the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of the reported conduct or not. A report may be made in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person’s verbal or written report. Complaints of sex discrimination that are not sexual harassment will be handled pursuant to the School’s regular procedures for resolving student or employee grievances promptly and equitably. Formal complaints of sexual harassment will be handled using the grievance procedure set forth in the School’s Policy. The School shall follow grievance procedures that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of formal complaints from students and employees alleging sexual harassment.

## CONFIDENTIALITY OF STUDENT EDUCATION RECORDS

Candeo Schools has established written policies regarding the collection, storage, retrieval, use, and transfer of student educational information collected and maintained pertinent to the education of all students to ensure the confidentiality of the information and to guarantee parents’/guardians’ and students’ rights to privacy. These

policies and procedures are in compliance with federal and state laws.

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords families and majority age students rights to their education records. Notice of these rights is available, upon request, on audiotape, in Braille, and in languages other than English. You may contact the Arizona Department of Education at (602) 542-3111.

These rights are as follows:

1. Right to Inspect and Review

Parents have the right to inspect and review a student's education records within 45 days from the day the school receives a request for access. Requests should be submitted in writing to the Head of School and clarify the records to be inspected and/or reviewed.

2. Right to Amend Education Records

Parents may request to have their student's educational records amended if they believe the information is inaccurate or misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights. The request should be made in writing to the Head of School, clearly identifying the part of the record the parent(s) want changed and specifying why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested, the parent(s) will be notified of their right to a hearing with the governing board regarding the request for amendment.

Additional information regarding the hearing procedure will be provided to the parent(s) when notified of the right to a hearing. After the hearing, if the School still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view regarding the contested information.

3. Right to Consent to Disclosure

Parent(s) or eligible students have the right to require their consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records by the prior written consent of the parent(s) or eligible student(s), except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

4. Right to File a Complaint

A parent or eligible student has the right to file a complaint with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Office in Washington D.C., if they believe that the district has violated the provision of FERPA. If a family or majority age student wishes to file a complaint alleging a FERPA violation, he or she should first contact the Head of School. If a reasonable solution is not made at the school level the complainant has the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

**Directory Information.** A school may designate information in education records as "directory information" and may disclose it without parent consent unless the parent/guardian notifies the School of their decision to "opt-out." The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the School to include this type of information from your

child's education records in certain school publications.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. ***If you do not want the School to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the School, in writing at the time of your Student's enrollment.***

Candeo Schools has designated the following information as directory information:

Student's name  
Participation in officially recognized activities/sports Honors and awards  
Telephone listing  
Electronic mail address Grade level  
Photograph

#### ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Arizona law requires that children with a home language other than English be assessed using the Arizona English Language Learner Assessment (AZELLA) for proficiency in oral language, reading comprehension, and written communication. Following parent/guardian notification, students who are identified as limited English proficient may receive various forms of instructional support focused on English acquisition. Candeo Schools offers an English Language Learning Program to serve students who need assistance in learning English. Full inclusion of English Language Learners is practiced.

#### HOMELESS EDUCATION POLICY

This policy is intended to be in direct compliance with the Arizona Revised Statutes, Arizona Administrative Code, and McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001 (the Act) and should be read as consistent with those documents.

**Definitions.** The term "homeless students" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes:

- Students who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement.
- Students who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- Students who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- Migratory students who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described above.
- The term "unaccompanied youth" includes a youth who is not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian.



**Liaison for Homeless Students.** The Head of School will serve as the liaison for homeless students and will carry out pertinent duties. Such duties include:

- Identifying homeless children and youths as identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies.
- Ensuring homeless children and youths are enrolled in school and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed.
- Ensuring homeless families, children, and youths receive educational services for which they are eligible including referrals to health care services, dental services, and mental health services; referral to the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AZEIP); and referral to Head Start and preschool programs.
- Ensuring the parents or guardians of homeless children and youths are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.

- Disseminating public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths. ●

Mediating enrollment disputes.

- Informing the parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth of all transportation services to the school and assisting with providing these services.
- Reporting to the State Coordinator for Homeless Education necessary information to assess the educational needs of homeless children and youths at Candeo Schools.

**Enrollment.** Before enrollment, it shall be determined that the student first meets the definition of a homeless student under the Act. The Act guarantees a child qualified as homeless the right to attend one of two schools: the school of origin or the school of residency. As a charter school, Candeo Schools has the obligation to enroll homeless students as a “school of origin.” The school of origin is defined as the school that the child last attended before experiencing homelessness or the school where the student was last enrolled. The school of residency is defined as the neighborhood school identified by the attendance area in which the student is currently residing. Therefore, only homeless students for whom the last school of attendance or enrollment was Candeo Schools will be immediately enrolled. All other homeless students will be referred to their school of residency or their last school of origin for enrollment.

When Candeo Schools is the school of origin, the School will keep students in homeless situations to the extent feasible, unless it is against the parent/guardian wishes. Students will be allowed to stay in the school the entire time they are homeless and until the end of the academic year in which they move into permanent housing.

## SECTION 504 SERVICES

In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, no otherwise qualified individual with disabilities, shall solely by reason of his or her disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity in Candeo Schools.

The law also requires that facilities be readily accessible for use by individuals with disabilities. Candeo Schools complies with the requirement of this law. Questions concerning the law may be addressed to the Head of School.

**Grievance Procedure.** Any person who believes she or he has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of disability by a student, staff member, or third party may file a grievance under this procedure. Examples of disability discrimination can include, but are not limited to, disability-based harassment; limiting or denying a qualified individual with a disability in the enjoyment of any right, privilege, advantage, or opportunity enjoyed by others receiving an aid, benefit or service; treating a student differently on the basis of disability; denying a student with a disability a free and appropriate education; and failing to make modifications of "policies, practices or procedures" when such modification is necessary to accommodate individuals with disabilities.

Candeo Schools prohibits retaliation against anyone who files a grievance or cooperates in the investigation of a grievance.

- Grievances must be submitted to the Section 504/ADA Coordinator within sixty (60) calendar days of the date the person filing the grievance becomes aware of the alleged discriminatory action.
- A complaint should be in writing, containing the name and address of the person filing it. The complaint must state the problem or action alleged to be discriminatory and the remedy or relief sought. If the Complainant is unable to put the complaint in writing, the School shall provide reasonable accommodations to assist the Complainant with submission of his/her complaint. (Note: Please contact the School office for a Complaint form which may be used to file a complaint in conformance with these procedures).
- The Section 504/ADA Coordinator (or his or her designee) shall conduct an investigation of the complaint. This investigation may be informal, but it must be thorough, affording all interested persons an opportunity to submit evidence relevant to the complaint, including the opportunity to present witnesses. The Section 504/ADA Coordinator will maintain the files and records of the School relating to such grievances.
- The Section 504/ADA Coordinator will issue a written decision on the grievance no later than thirty (30) school days after its filing unless extenuating circumstances require an extension of the 30 day timeline. In such a case, the Section 504/ADA Coordinator (or her/his designee) will communicate with the Complainant concerning the need for an extension.
- The person filing the grievance may appeal the decision of the Section 504/ADA Coordinator by writing to the Governing Board within fifteen (15) calendar days of receiving the Section 504/ADA Coordinator's decision. The Governing Board shall issue a written decision in response to the appeal no later than thirty (30) school days after its filing.
- The School shall maintain confidentiality as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- The availability and use of this grievance procedure does not prevent a person from filing a complaint of discrimination on the basis of disability with the U. S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

The School will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, if needed, to participate in this grievance process. Such arrangements may include but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of material for the blind, providing a scribe for submission of the complaint, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. The Section 504/ADA Coordinator will be responsible for making such arrangements.

#### SERVICE ANIMALS/PETS ON CAMPUS

Pets may be brought on campus with prior approval from the Head of School.

Service animals are allowed on campus at any time. Service animals are any dog or miniature horse that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual or other mental disability. Service animals do not include other species of animals, whether wild or domestic or trained or untrained.

Candeo Schools does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities who use service animals if the work or tasks performed by the service animal are directly related to the individual's disability. Work or tasks include assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to

individuals with mobility disabilities and helping individuals with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort or companionship do not constitute work or tasks.

Individuals with disabilities shall be permitted to be accompanied by their service animal in all areas of the School's

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facilities where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or invitees are allowed to go. A service animal may be excluded from the School if one or more of the following apply:

- The animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.
- The animal fundamentally alters the nature of the School, services or activities provided.
- The animal poses an undue burden.

A service animal shall be under the control of its handler. A service animal shall have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash or other tether or use of the harness, leash or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be under the handler's control.

The School shall not be responsible for the training, feeding, grooming. The School must approve any person who is authorized by the owner to assist in care and supervision of the service animal while on school property.

A request for an individual with a disability to be accompanied by a service animal must be submitted to the Head of School at least three (3) days prior to bringing the service animal to school or to a school function. Forms are available by contacting the School Office.

Service dog requests must provide proof of the following vaccinations: DHLPPC (distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parainfluenza, parvovirus, and coronavirus) bordetella, rabies. Miniature horse requests must provide proof of the following vaccinations: Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins Test), rabies, tetanus, encephalomyelitis, rhinopneumonitis, influenza, and strangles.

All service animals must be: spayed or neutered; treated for and kept free of fleas and ticks; and kept groomed to avoid shedding and dander. Owners of the service animal are liable for any harm or injury caused by the animal to students, staff, visitors, and/or property.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Candeo Schools makes available special education and related services to all eligible students. For more information about our special education programs, please contact the Head of School.

**ChildFind.** In compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the School is required to provide a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) for all students who enroll in the School.

**All new students will be screened within 45 days of their initial enrollment.** The classroom teacher will complete the screening after reviewing the student's abilities in the areas of vision and hearing; cognitive or academic; communication; motor; social or behavioral; and adaptive development. If any concerns are noted, the student will be referred for additional screenings and/or Response to Intervention (RTI).

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**RTI.** Candeo utilizes Response to Intervention (RTI), a tiered process set forth by the State used to address academic or behavioral concerns or challenges that may be present in students. The instructional team will write a goal and intervention plan using school data to address the area(s) of concern. Progress monitoring will be ongoing as interventions are implemented. If the interventions are unsuccessful and sufficient progress is not made, the team will meet to determine the success of the intervention plan and make appropriate recommendations for next steps. The RTI process is enacted prior to referrals for Special Education assessment.

**Referral & Evaluation.** A special education evaluation will be considered after the team has made a referral and suspects that the student may have a disability. Before any testing is scheduled, written parental consent will be obtained. Candeo Schools contracts with private specialists to conduct formal assessments and to provide services for students requiring related services. Services include but are not limited to school psychologist, speech therapy, and occupational therapy. Results from the evaluation will then be shared with the Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team (MET), which consists of the student's parents, school administration, classroom teacher, school psychologist, special education teacher, and any other needed personnel (i.e., speech therapist, occupational therapist, etc.). The results of the evaluation determine a student's eligibility for special education services, but do not automatically qualify a student for these services. The federal IDEA sets out the rules and regulations regarding eligibility and the determination of whether a student qualifies for special education services. By law, Candeo Schools must follow these rules and regulations.

**Procedural Safeguards.** Parents of a student with a disability (or suspected of having a disability) are entitled to a Procedural Safeguards Notice, which explains the rights of the parent and student to ensure they are protected through the special education process. A copy of the procedural safeguards notice is offered to parents annually and in specific instances; however, copies are always available by contacting the School Office.

**Individualized Education Plan (IEP).** If it is determined by the MET that the student qualifies for special education services under the definition and guidelines of the IDEA, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) will be written for the student, setting out specific goals, accommodations, services, and placement. The IEP is reviewed at least annually or at the request of an IEP team member.

## CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

### Schoolwide Discipline Program

Candeo is committed to a culture that sustains learning, sharpens the mind, and develops the heart. We hold high, clear, and consistent expectations for behavior for all students to that end. Our policies and procedures provide guidance and direction of acceptable behavior in order to develop a child's own sense of self-discipline, accountability, and governance.

Students are expected to demonstrate appropriate conduct in the classroom, on campus, and at off-campus school-sponsored events. Accordingly, students are prohibited from engaging in behavior that (1) obstructs, disrupts, or interferes with any educational, administrative, disciplinary or other activity sponsored or approved by the School; (2) endangers or threatens the safety of any person; or (3) inflicts or threatens to inflict damage on property of the School, school employees, students, or others.

School rules apply, and students are subject to discipline, during: (1) any school activity/event, home or away, day or night; (2) coming to and going from school or school activity; (3) in classrooms, on campus or on any school property; or (4) in any other situation in which the School may lawfully exercise jurisdiction over a student, such as students who have committed or who are believed to have committed a crime. For any imposition of discipline, due process procedures will be closely followed.

Any behavior deemed counter to a safe, ordered, joyful, and peaceful learning environment is subject to the disciplinary process. Prohibited misconduct, as classified by and reported to the State Department of Education, is

as follows:

<b>Academic Cheating</b>	
Lying	To make an untrue statement with the intent to deceive, to create a false or misleading impression.
Cheating	Wrongfully securing and/or using information or assisting others to do so.

Forgery	Falsely and fraudulently making or altering a document, writing or using the signature or initials of another person.
Plagiarism	To steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own.
<b>Aggression</b>	
Verbal Provocation	Use of language or gestures that may incite.

Minor Aggressive Acts	Non-serious but inappropriate physical contact, i.e., hitting, poking, pulling or pushing, running in the building, hallways, pulling a chair from underneath another person, or other behaviors that demonstrate low level hostile behaviors.
Disorderly Conduct	Intent to disturb the peace or quiet of others.
Recklessness	Unintentional, careless behavior that may pose a safety or health risk for others.
Endangerment*	Recklessly endangering another person with a substantial risk of imminent physical injury.
Fighting*	Mutual participation in an incident involving physical violence, where there is not major injury.
<p>Assault* Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causing any physical injury to another person; intentionally placing another person in reasonable apprehension of imminent physical injury or knowingly touching another person with the intent to injure, insult or provoke the person.</p> <p>Aggravated Assault** An assault in which a person causes serious physical injury to another or an assault on a peace officer, teacher or other employee of the charter.</p>	
<b>Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs</b>	
Alcohol** Distribution, Share Distribution and share means the act of giving alcohol, including passing of alcohol from one person to another.	
Alcohol** Possession, Use Possession, use of or being under the influence of alcohol.	

Alcohol** Sale Tobacco* Distribution, Share	Sale or intent to sell alcoholic substances or substances represented as alcohol. Distribution and share means the act of giving tobacco from one person to another.
Tobacco* Possession, Use	Possession or use of tobacco substances, products, or substances represented as tobacco.
Tobacco* Sale	Sale of tobacco substances, products, or substances represented as tobacco.
Drug Paraphernalia**	All equipment, products, and materials of any kind which are used, intended for use, or designed for use in growing, manufacturing, producing, packaging, concealing, injecting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing into the human body a drug.
Drug	To include over-the-counter medications, prescribed drugs and non-prescribed drugs.
Drug** Distribution, Share	Distribution and share means the act of giving drugs, including passing of drugs from one person to another.
Drug** Possession, Use	Possession, use, or purchase of drugs.
Drug** Sale	Sale, intent to sell, or manufacture of drugs.

Arson**	Attempting to or intentionally burning of a building, structure, or property.
<b>Attendance Policy Violation</b>	
Tardy	Unexcused lateness to class.
Leaving School Grounds Without Permission	Leaving school grounds or being in an “out of bounds” area during the regular school hours without permission.
<b>Harassment Threat or Intimidation</b>	

Harassment* Nonsexual	Communication with another person anonymously or by verbal, electronic, mechanical, telegraphic or written means with the intent to harass based on and/or motivated by race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, or disability.
Bullying*	Use of language or conduct that is threatening and/or intimidating that involves an imbalance of power or strength, and that is repeated over time.
Intimidation*	Use of language or conduct to frighten, attempt to frighten or coerce another person into submission or obedience.

Threatening*	Use of language or conduct to make or attempt to make another person fearful of physical injury.
Hazing* Any activities that can be considered any type of initiation of another student.	
<b>School Policy Violations</b>	
Defiance, Disrespect Towards Authority and Non-Compliance	Student engages in refusal to follow directions, talks back, or delivers socially rude interactions.
Combustibles	Student is in possession of a substance or object that is readily capable of causing bodily harm or property damage, i.e., matches, lighters, firecrackers, gasoline, and lighter fluid.
Contraband	Items that may disrupt the learning environment.
Disruption	Student engages in behavior causing an interruption in a class or activity. Disruption includes sustained loud talk, yelling, or screaming; noise with materials; horseplay or roughhousing; or sustained out-of-seat behavior.
Gambling	To play games of chance for money or to bet a sum of money. Student delivers verbal or written messages that include
Inappropriate Language	swearing, name calling, or use of words in an inappropriate way.
Public Display of Affection	Holding hands, kissing, sexual touching, or other displays of affection.
Gang Activity/Involvement	To include flashing of gang signs, inappropriate verbal comments

	or physical gestures, gang clothing colors or symbols worn on the body or symbols or gang words drawn on books or material.
<b>Sexual Offenses</b>	
Pornography	Possession, distribution, or sale of any pornographic materials.
Indecent Exposure* or Public Sexual Indecency	The intentional exposure of one's body's privates in a manner that gives offense against accepted or prescribed behavior.

**Sexual Harassment\*** Sexual harassment is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that denies or limits a student's ability to participate in or to receive benefits, services, or opportunities in the school's program. It can include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Does not include legitimate nonsexual touching or other nonsexual conduct.

**Technology**

Computers, Network, or  
Electronic Devices

Any violation of the Electronic Device or Technology  
Usage Agreement or the School Wide Acceptable Use  
Policy.

**Theft**

<p>Theft</p> <p>Petty Theft</p> <p>Extortion*</p>	<p>Taking or attempting to take money or property belonging to another person or the school.</p> <p>Thefts under \$100.</p> <p>Knowingly obtaining or seeking to obtain property or services by means of a threat.</p>
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**Trespassing**

<p>Trespassing</p>	<p>To enter or remain on a school campus without authorization or invitation and with no lawful purpose for entry. This includes students under suspension or expulsion and unauthorized persons who enter or remain on a campus after being directed to leave by the administrator or designee of the facility.</p>
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**Vandalism**

<p>Graffiti or Tagging</p>	<p>Writing on walls, drawings, or words that are scratched, painted, or sprayed on walls or other surfaces in public places.</p>
<p>Vandalism of Personal Property*</p>	<p>Willful destruction or defacement of personal property.</p>
<p>Vandalism of School Property*</p>	<p>Willful destruction or defacement of school property.</p>

**Weapons and Dangerous Instruments**



Firearms (including destructive devices)**	Possession or use of loaded or unloaded, operable or inoperable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Handgun or pistol</li> <li>● Shotgun or rifle</li> <li>● Starter gun</li> <li>● Destructive device( bomb or grenade)</li> <li>● BB/pellet/airsoft gun</li> <li>● Other firearm or destructive device</li> </ul>
Other Weapons**	Possession or use of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Billy club</li> <li>● Brass knuckles</li> <li>● Knife with blade</li> <li>● Nunchucks</li> <li>● School items (e.g., chairs, pencils, rulers, etc.)</li> </ul>
Dangerous Items	Possession or use of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Laser pointer</li> <li>● Mace</li> <li>● Paintball gun</li> <li>● Razor blade or box cutter</li> <li>● Simulated knife</li> <li>● Taser or stun gun</li> <li>● Tear gas</li> <li>● Other dangerous item</li> </ul>
Simulated Firearm	Any simulated firearm made of plastic, wood, or any other material that is a replica, facsimile, or toy version of a firearm or any object such as a stick or finger concealed under clothing and is being portrayed as a firearm.

*\*For these categories, school officials are required to report them to the Arizona Department of Education.*

*\*\*These problem areas also violate state law. For these categories, school officials are required to report them to the Arizona Department of Education and to local law enforcement.*

**Office Referrals.** Students who receive an office referral report are sent to the office to meet with the Head of School, where facts are gathered, and incidents are discussed thoroughly. It is an opportunity for the student to develop and shift where needed, to accept individual accountability and responsibility, and to learn, grow, and problem-solve through careful guidance.

Outcomes are determined by the Head of School and/or another administrator and the teacher. Consequences for violations depend on the severity of the action and can result in a suspension or recommendation for expulsion as determined by the team. The parent/legal guardian will be notified of the behavior and consequences via email. At no time will a student's disciplinary record be discussed with another student or parent. However, other students or parents may be consulted regarding an incident in an attempt to discern truth and gather information.

**Middle School Detention.** A disciplined and respectful learning environment is fundamental to our success. Our disciplinary policy in middle school includes the use of detention as a consequence for any of the following actions:

1. The accumulation of 3 tardies
2. Dress Code Violation
3. Any behaviors listed in the table above, including problems of defiance, disrespect towards authority, non-compliance, or disruption to the classroom.

Detentions are issued at the discretion of the teacher, the Head of School, or both. Detention is considered an

available tool for discipline and not a requirement or prerequisite to other disciplinary actions. Egregious or repeated behaviors are subject to suspension.

Detentions are scheduled and served after school hours. Attendance is mandatory for any referred student. Any student who fails to report to detention at the scheduled time will receive additional penalties (typically an additional detention). Detentions are by their very nature inconvenient, and students should view the inconvenience that detention causes to be a direct result of the misbehavior that incurred the punishment in the first place.

#### SHORT- AND LONG-TERM SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION\*

**Short-Term Suspension.** A short-term suspension is any suspension for ten (10) days or less. There is no appeal available for short-term suspensions. A parent/guardian must be notified before the student is allowed to leave campus. If no parent/guardian contact can be made, the student may be isolated until dismissal time and then given a written message to the parents.

A letter to the parent/guardian will be written within a reasonable time after the incident to explain the terms (including the possibility that a long-term suspension and/or expulsion is being recommended, if applicable) and reasons for the suspension and to request a meeting to solicit their help. The following procedures will be followed for all short-term suspensions:

**Step 1:** The student will receive notice, written or oral, of the reason for possible disciplinary action and the evidence the school authorities have of the alleged misconduct. After having received notice, the student will be asked for an explanation of the situation. The Head of School, or other designated staff member, shall make reasonable efforts to verify facts and statements prior to making a judgment.

**Step 2:** A written record of the action taken is kept on file. The Head of School or other administrator may:

- Suspend the student for up to ten (10) days.
- Choose other disciplinary alternatives.
- Exonerate the student.
- Suspend the student for ten (10) days pending a recommendation that the student be given a long-term suspension, expulsion or both.

A parent will be given notice of the disciplinary incident and decisions through email.

**Long-Term Suspension.** A long-term suspension is any suspension for more than ten (10) days. A parent/guardian must be notified before the student is allowed to leave campus. If no parent/guardian contact can be made, the student may be isolated until dismissal time and then given a written message to the parents. In all cases of long-term suspension, it shall be for good cause and shall be reported within five (5) days of the infraction to the Governing Board by the Head of School or Administrator imposing the suspension.

The long-term suspension or expulsion of students with disabilities shall be in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and federal regulations issued pursuant to the IDEA, as well as the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The following procedures will be followed for all long-term suspensions (and in addition to Steps 1 and 2 outlined above for a short-term suspension):

**Step 3:** A formal hearing will be arranged and conducted by a hearing officer designated by the Governing Board.

**Step 4:** A formal letter to the responsible parent or guardian will be mailed by certified mail with return receipt requested or delivered by hand (with an adult witness present) at least five (5) working days prior to the formal hearing. A copy of this letter will also be sent via email and will remain on file. The letter should contain the following information:

- The charges and the rule(s) violated.
- The extent of the punishment to be considered.
- The date, time, and place of the formal hearing.
- A designation of the School's witnesses.
- That the student may present witnesses.
- That the student may be represented by counsel, at his/her own expense.
- The name of the hearing officer or Administrator assigned to act as a hearing officer. ● Nothing in these procedures shall be construed to prevent the students who are subject to the action and their parents or legal guardians and legal counsel from attending any executive (closed) session pertaining to the proposed disciplinary action, or from having access to the minutes and testimony of such session or from recording such a session at the parent's or legal guardian's expense.
- The student is entitled to a statement of the charges and the rule violated.
- The student or counsel may cross-examine witnesses presented by the School.
- The burden of proof lies with the School.
- Either the hearing must be recorded on tape or an official record must be kept in some other appropriate manner. In addition, parents are to be allowed to tape-record the hearing at their own expense.
- The School has the right to cross-examine witnesses and may be represented by an attorney.

Upon the conclusion of the hearing, in which a decision of long-term suspension is made by the hearing officer, the decision may be appealed to the Governing Board. To arrange such an appeal, the parent(s) of the suspended student must deliver to the Head of School and the president of the governing board a letter directed to the Governing Body within five (5) working days after receiving written notice of the long-term suspension. The letter must describe in detail any objections to the hearing or to the decision rendered.

The appeal to the Governing Board will be considered part of the record of the hearing. The decision of the individual serving in the capacity of the hearing officer will be deemed final, unless the Governing Board determines, by majority vote within five (5) working days of the appeal, that the student was not afforded his/her due process rights or that this policy was not followed in all substantive respects.

**Expulsion.** Expulsion is the permanent exclusion of a student from school and all school activities unless the Governing Board reinstates the student's privileges to attend the School. A recommendation for expulsion shall be made by the Head of School and forwarded to the Governing Board. A recommendation for expulsion may be made before, after or in conjunction with a long-term suspension hearing, if one is to be held. The authority to expel rests solely with the Governing Board and the Board's decision is final.

The long-term suspension or expulsion of students with disabilities shall be in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and federal regulations issued pursuant to the IDEA, as well as the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Under current Arizona law (A.R.S. § 15-841(B)), students may be expelled for the following reasons:

1. Continued open defiance of authority, continued disruptive or disorderly behavior.

2. Violent behavior that includes use or display of a dangerous instrument or deadly weapon.
3. Use or possession of a gun.
4. Actions other than those listed . . . as the school deems appropriate.

In cases where the student has committed a crime or violation of local, state or federal law, law enforcement authorities will be notified.

In each case in which a recommendation for expulsion has been presented to the Governing Board, the following steps shall be followed:

**Step 1:** The student and parent/guardian will receive notice, written or oral, of the reason for the recommendation and the evidence the school authorities have of the alleged misconduct.

**Step 2:** The expulsion hearing should be scheduled so that it may be resolved, if reasonably possible, during the period of any suspension.

**Step 3:** A formal letter to the responsible parent or guardian will be mailed by certified mail with return receipt requested or delivered by hand (with an adult witness present) at least five (5) working days prior to the formal hearing. An email copy of the letter will also be sent. A copy of this letter will remain on file, and the letter should contain:

- A statement of the charges and the rule violated.
- The extent of the punishment to be considered.
- The date, time, and place of the formal hearing.
- A designation of the School's witnesses.
- That the student may present witnesses.
- That the student may be represented by counsel, at his/her own cost.
- The name of the hearing officer.
- Copies of this policy and (A.R.S. §§ 15-840) and (15-843) unless previously provided in connection with the same infraction.
- Nothing in these procedures shall be construed to prevent the students who are subject to the action and their parents or legal guardians and legal counsel from attending any executive (closed) session pertaining to the proposed disciplinary action, or from having access to the minutes and testimony of such session or from recording such a session at the parent's or legal guardian's expense.
- The student is entitled to a statement of the charges and the rule violated.
- The student or counsel may cross-examine witnesses presented by the School.
- The burden of proof lies with the School.
- Either the hearing must be recorded on tape or an official record must be kept in some other appropriate manner. In addition, parents are to be allowed to tape-record the hearing at their own expense.
- The School has the right to cross-examine witnesses and may be represented by an attorney.
- The hearing will be conducted in a private session with the attendance of only the hearing officer, administrative representatives, the student and parent(s), counsel for the parties, and witnesses necessary to the proceedings, unless the parent(s)/guardian(s) request in writing that the hearing be in an open session.

**Step 4:** A formal hearing will be held within 5 (five) working days and the recommendation of the hearing officer will be sent to the Governing Board for the final decision. The decision of the Governing Board is

final. Per Arizona State law, there is no appeal of an expulsion decision. If the Governing Board decides to expel the student, the expulsion becomes effective the next business day.

\*Any suspension or expulsion of a student in Kindergarten through 4th Grade will be issued in accordance with A.R.S. § 15-843 (k).

## SEARCH AND SEIZURE

School officials may conduct searches of a student's person when there is reasonable suspicion that the search will yield evidence of the student's wrongdoing or when there is evidence that students and/or staff are in imminent danger of injury on school grounds. Items provided by the School for storage (e.g., cubbies, desks) or personal items are provided as a convenience to the student but remain the property of the school and are subject to its control and supervision. Students have no legitimate expectation of privacy in their cubbies, desks, storage areas, etc., and these areas may be inspected at any time with or without reason, or with or without notice, by school personnel.

School officials conducting a search or seizure will follow these guidelines:

1. The search will be restricted to the information that justified the search in the first place.
2. General searches of school property (including personal items found in and on school property) may be conducted at any time when there is reasonable suspicion for school officials to believe that something violates the law or school rules is on school property. This search of school property may be made without the student being present.
3. Illegal items (firearms, explosive devices, weapons, tobacco, alcohol, drugs) or other possessions reasonably determined to be a threat to the safety, security of others, or might possibly interfere with school purposes shall be seized by school officials.
4. Items that are used to disrupt or interfere with the educational process may be temporarily removed from a student's person.
5. A student's person may be searched by school employees when there is reasonable suspicion to believe that the student has on his/her person illegal items or other items that may interfere with any school purpose.

**Student Interviews.** School officials may question and/or interview students regarding matters related to the health, safety, and welfare of students and staff without limitation. The parent will be contacted if a student interviewed is then subject to discipline for violation of the School's behavioral standards and expectations.

## BULLYING/HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION

Candeo is committed to providing all students with a safe school environment where everyone is treated with respect. Students have a right to be free from any form of bullying. Students, parents, and school employees have a right and a responsibility to report incidents of bullying.

**Confidential Reporting.** Students and parents/guardians have the right to confidential reporting in writing to school administrators, teachers, or other staff members in instances of bullying, harassment, and intimidation, under A.R.S. § 15-341(A)(37). These reports will be shared with appropriate school officials so that appropriate steps can be taken to ensure that all students have a learning environment that is safe emotionally, mentally, and physically. Reports must be made within thirty (30) calendar days of the last incident.

## Definitions

**Bullying:** Bullying of an individual or group can occur through written, verbal, physical, emotional, or psychological methods. Bullying may occur when an individual or group engages in any form of behavior or aggression that includes such acts as intimidation and/or harassment that:

- has the effect of physically harming an individual, damaging an individual's property, or placing an individual in reasonable fear of harm or damage to property;
- is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that the action, behavior, aggression, or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile or abusive environment in the form of physical or emotional or psychological harm or distress;
- behavior, aggression or threat occurs repeatedly over time;
- occurs when there is a real or perceived imbalance of physical, emotional or psychological power or strength; or
- may constitute a violation of law.

**Harassment:** Harassment is behavior by an individual or group that consists of systematic and/or continued unwanted and annoying actions, including threats and demands. Harassing conduct may take many forms, including verbal acts and name-calling (e.g., bullying); graphic and written statements, which may include use of cell phones, social media or the Internet (e.g., cyberbullying); or other conduct that may be physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating. Harassment does not have to include intent to harm, be directed at a specific target, or involve repeated incidents. Harassment creates a hostile environment when the conduct is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent so as to interfere with or limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by a school. Harassment based on race, disability, sex, religious orientation, sexual orientation, cultural background, economic status, size or personal appearance may violate an individual's civil rights when such harassment is sufficiently serious that it creates a hostile environment and such harassment is encouraged, tolerated, not adequately addressed or ignored.

**Cyberbullying:** Cyberbullying is, but not limited to, any act of bullying or harassment committed by use of electronic technology or electronic communication devices, including telephonic devices, social networking, and other internet communications, on school computers, networks, forums and mailing lists, or other district-owned property, and by means of an individual's personal electronic media and equipment.

**Intimidation:** Intimidation is intentional behavior by a student or group of students that place another student or group of students in fear of harm to person or property. Intimidation can be manifested emotionally or physically, either directly or indirectly, and by use of social media.

**Reporting Incidents of Bullying or Harassment.** Students and others should report any incidents of bullying to a teacher, school administrator or any other school employee (i.e., educational assistant, receptionist, etc.). It is mandatory that school employees report any incidents of bullying in writing to the Head of School. Students who cannot immediately file a report must do so within thirty (30) calendar days of the last incident.

The school employee receiving the report/complaint who believes a student has been subjected to bullying or personally witnesses bullying shall:

- Check to see if an outside agency needs to be contacted (i.e., Department of Child Safety or law enforcement).
- Have the student make a report. An adult may assist the student in making the report, if necessary.
- At a minimum, the report shall be put in writing containing the identifying information on the complainant and such specificity of names, places and times as to permit an investigation.

- At a minimum, the school employee shall put the report in writing containing the identifying information on the complainant and such specificity of names, places, and times as to permit an investigation.
- When a school employee receives the information, the employee will give the information to the school administrator no later than the next school day following the day of the report/complaint.

All violations of the policy shall be treated in accordance with the appropriate procedures and penalties provided for under the Behavior Standards and Expectations section of this student handbook and A.R.S. § 15-341(37). Any student who has committed the act of bullying/harassment/intimidation, intentionally files a false report or has retaliated against another who has participated in any manner in an investigation, proceedings or hearing conducted in response to an investigation of bullying, will be subject to consequences.

**Procedures for Investigation of the Report/Complaint.** A school administrator shall investigate the incident or the activity with a threat assessment team of at least three staff members within ten (10) instructional school days upon receipt of the report. Extension of the timeline may only be by necessity as determined by the Head of School. A school administrator shall check to see if an outside agency needs to be contacted (i.e., Department of Child Safety or local law enforcement authorities). A school administrator shall complete a Behavior Incident Referral (in PowerSchool) if the student is found to have violated the policy.

All violations of this policy shall be treated in accordance with the appropriate procedures and penalties provided for in school policies related to the conduct and discipline of students, staff, and others.

A complaint may be withdrawn at any time. If the person chooses to re-file the complaint, it must be re-filed within 30 calendar days of the original incident. Knowingly submitting a false report under this policy shall subject the student to discipline up to and including suspension or expulsion. Where disciplinary action is necessary pursuant to any part of this policy, relevant district policies shall be followed.

## WEAPONS AND VIOLENCE POLICY

**Weapons are Prohibited.** All students are prohibited from possession of any weapon at any time on school property or during any school activity and/or event on or off campus. A weapon may be an item a student may use to physically threaten, assault, attack or harm another person such as guns, knives, razors, explosive devices, and/or any other item a student may bring to school and use to defend him/herself or harm another person. Misuse of school items such as chairs, pencils, rulers, etc. to assault and/or harm another person will also be considered as use of a weapon.

A student who violates this policy by carrying or possessing a firearm shall be placed in an alternative education program for a period of not less than one (1) year, suspended for a period of not less than one (1) year, or expelled and not be readmitted within a one (1)-year period, if ever. The Governing Board, in its sole discretion, may modify the one (1)-year duration of such disciplinary action on a case-by-case basis.

A student who violates this policy by any means other than carrying or possessing a firearm shall be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to expulsion. Disciplinary action against a student with disabilities shall be applied on a case-by-case basis in accordance with School policies and state and federal special education laws.

Any employee who observes any person in possession of a weapon or simulated weapon on school premises shall immediately report the matter to the Head of School. The Head of School shall immediately take appropriate safety and disciplinary actions in accordance with school policies and shall immediately report a violation of this policy to a peace officer, pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-515, if the weapon is a deadly weapon or the student is a minor in possession of a firearm.

**Violence is Prohibited.** All students are prohibited from displaying violent acts that result in injury to another person and/or destroy or damage school property. Further students cannot, through verbal or written expression, threaten to destroy or damage school property and/or cause injury or death to students, staff or visitors. In the event of such an action, law enforcement authorities will be contacted. Any student who commits an act of violence will be immediately suspended and may be recommended for expulsion.

Consequences for acts of violence depend upon the student's intent to cause personal injury, the behavior resulting in personal injury, the behavior resulting in destruction or damage of school property, student's verbal or written threat to destroy school property, and student's verbal or written threat to injure and/or kill students, staff and/or visitors.

**Gang Activity/Involvement is Prohibited.** All students are prohibited from involvement in gang activities at any time on school grounds or during any school activity and/or event on or off campus. Gang activity includes but is not limited to inappropriate verbal comments, physical gestures, behavior, and possession of gang paraphernalia or clothing used to promote or advertise gangs. Any student that displays gang activity/involvement will be immediately suspended and may be recommended for expulsion.

Gang activity or involvement may include flashing of gang signs, inappropriate verbal comments or physical gestures, gang clothing colors or symbols worn on the body or symbols or gang words drawn on books or materials.

#### DRUG AND TOBACCO FREE CAMPUS

**Candeo is a Drug and Tobacco Free Zone.** Arizona law specifically disallows any type of tobacco on public school campuses. This includes outside on the grounds or in the parking lot. This also includes all forms of tobacco. No parent/guardian, student, staff member or other person may smoke or have tobacco products anywhere on the campus at any time.

All students are prohibited from possession, use and distribution of any and all drugs (prescribed, non-prescribed, over-the-counter), alcohol, and tobacco (any type) on school grounds or during any school-sponsored event or activity on or off campus. In the event of such an action, law enforcement authorities will be contacted. Any student who possesses, uses or distributes any drugs, alcohol or tobacco will be immediately suspended and may be recommended for expulsion.

#### MANDATORY REPORTING

Child abuse will not be ignored at Candeo Schools. According to Arizona State law (A.R.S. § 13-3620), school employees are mandated to report suspected child abuse and/or neglect to the Department of Child Safety (DCS) in the Department of Economic Services or to law enforcement authorities. This generally includes suspected non-accidental physical injuries, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect.

#### RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION POLICY

We strive to create positive relationships and a respectful environment. We believe a student's emotional and physical well-being enhances or diminishes learning, and expect all interactions among members of the Candeo Schools' community to be respectful. If necessary, to protect persons from imminent, serious physical harm to self or others, behavior management techniques such as restraint, seclusion, temporary removal from the classroom and confinement shall be utilized in accordance with the following standards:

**Temporary Removal.** Teachers are authorized to temporarily remove a student from a class. A teacher may temporarily remove a student and send him or her to the Head of School, or to another administrator, as long as the



removal is done in accordance with:

- The rules established for the referral of students, as outlined in the school's behavior management and expectations policy as described herein; or
- The conditions of (A.R.S. § 15-841), when applicable.

**Confinement.** Under (A.R.S. § 15-843), the Head of School shall ensure that disciplinary practices involving the confinement of students left alone in an enclosed space shall include the following:

- Prior written parental notification that confinement may be used for disciplinary purposes is included in the family handbook.
- Written parental consent (handbook signature page) has been obtained before confinement is allowed for any student in the school.
- An exemption to prior written parental consent exists if a Head of School or teacher determines that the student poses imminent physical harm to self or others. In this instance, the Head of School or teacher shall make reasonable attempts to notify the student's parent or guardian in writing by the end of the same day that confinement was used.

A parent will be notified via email (Tyler SIS) of a restraint or seclusion incident involving the child within 24 hours of the incident.

**Definitions and Requirements for Use.** The use of restraint or seclusion is not to be limited, by policy or practice, to students with disabilities. Restraint and Seclusion are defined in (A.R.S. § 15-105) as follows:

"Restraint" means any method or device that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to move the student's torso, arms, legs or head freely, including physical force or mechanical devices. The following are *not* considered to be a restraint:

- a) Methods or devices implemented by trained school personnel or used by a student for the specific and approved therapeutic or safety purposes for which the method or device is designed and, if applicable, prescribed.
- b) The temporary touching or holding of the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder or back for the purpose of inducing a student to comply with a reasonable request or to go to a safe location.
- c) The brief holding of a student by one adult for the purpose of calming or comforting the student.
- d) Physical force used to take a weapon away from a student or to separate and remove a student from another person when the student is engaged in a physical assault on another person.

"Seclusion" means the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room from which egress is prevented.

Seclusion does not include the use of a voluntary behavior management technique, including a timeout location, as part of a student's education plan, individual safety plan, behavioral plan or individualized education program that involves the student's separation from a larger group for purposes of calming.

Restraint or seclusion techniques may be used on any student if both of the following apply:

1. The student's behavior presents an imminent danger of bodily harm to the student or others; and
2. Less restrictive interventions appear insufficient to mitigate the imminent danger of bodily harm.

If a restraint or seclusion technique is used on a student:

- The use of restraint or seclusion is to be used only in an emergency to protect persons from imminent, serious physical harm to self or others.
- The restraint or seclusion technique shall be used only by school personnel who are trained in the safe and effective use of restraint and seclusion techniques unless an emergency situation does not allow sufficient time to summon trained personnel.

- School personnel shall maintain continuous visual observation and monitoring of the student while the restraint or seclusion technique is in use. If seclusion is utilized, school staff must reassess the child every thirty (30) minutes and if the need for seclusion extends beyond one hour, an administrator's approval is required for continued seclusion.
- Any area used for seclusion must be free of objects that could cause harm, must provide for adequate visual and audio supervision of the student, must provide adequate lighting and ventilation, and must not be locked.
- The restraint or seclusion technique shall end when the student's behavior no longer presents an imminent danger to the student or others.
- The restraint technique employed may not impede the student's ability to breathe.
- The restraint technique may not be out of proportion to the student's age or physical condition.
- A debriefing with affected staff and parents and, if appropriate, the student must be conducted within forty-eight (48) hours. During the debriefing, a determination should be made regarding the need for a Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA).
- A student who has required crisis management on the part of the school staff more than three (3) times in a semester must have an FBI and, if appropriate, a behavior intervention plan (BIP) developed within a reasonable time following the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) restraint or seclusion incident.

Candeo Schools requires the following procedures to be adhered to when a restraint or seclusion technique has been used on a student:

1. School personnel shall provide the student's parent or guardian with written or verbal notice on the same day that the incident occurred unless circumstances prevent same-day notification. If the notice is not provided on the same day of the incident, notice shall be given within twenty-four hours after the incident.
2. Within a reasonable time following the incident, school personnel shall provide the student's parent or guardian with written documentation that includes information about any persons, locations or activities that may have triggered the behavior, if known, and specific information about the behavior and its precursors, the type of restraint or seclusion technique used and the duration of its use.
3. Schools shall review strategies used to address a student's dangerous behavior if there has been repeated use of restraint or seclusion techniques for the student during a school year. The review shall include a review of the incidents in which a restraint or seclusion technique was used and an analysis of how future incidents may be avoided, including whether the student requires a functional behavioral assessment.
4. If the need to contact and request support from law enforcement instead of using a restraint or seclusion technique on a student is determined necessary, the school shall comply with the reporting, documentation and review procedures established under the paragraphs above.

## CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

For the purposes of this Policy, corporal punishment is defined as the deliberate infliction of pain intended to discipline or reform a person's bad attitude and/or behavior. Candeo Schools prohibits the use of corporal punishment.

## GRADING

**Homework.** The purpose of homework is to reinforce concepts taught in the classroom, extend or enrich knowledge, encourage excitement about learning, and help secure lifelong study habits. Our homework policy comports with our commitment to the academic rigor required to be successful in our program, high school, college, and beyond. We begin with careful use of instructional time during the day, every day of the school year. We strive to be good stewards of the time we are allotted with our students while they are on campus and expect them to give time, care, and attention to the work that is designed for home. Our most successful students are those who take homework seriously and come prepared each day having thoughtfully extended and intervened at home with family members.

Homework time guidelines are set for the **typically performing student** at Candeo. A student may take longer depending on his or her level of understanding of a skill or concept. For the daily math, reading, and history or science review components of our program, you can expect at least 10 minutes of solid, productive homework time per grade level (e.g., 3rd grade = 30 minutes) in addition to the following daily Core Skills Practice:

- independent or parent-led reading time as assigned by the teacher
- math facts practice
- keyboarding practice (beginning in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade until proficiency requirements are met)

Special projects will be included throughout the year that may be worked on at home and shared in the classroom. For special projects, time is typically added to the workload.

Research shows that the most effective way to promote academic learning and build skills is through simple family time and authentic activities - thoughtful discussions, academic discourse (talk about the learning of the day), playing board games (such as Monopoly, Yahtzee, Racko, Blokus), or even quiet days spent with family.

It is important to know that teachers use homework to make instructional decisions; therefore, it is designed to be completed independently by the student with minimal support of the parent. Students require a quiet, distraction-free space and a regular schedule for work to be completed. Parents may serve as facilitators of thought by asking clarifying questions, providing encouragement, and assisting with organization of time and materials, but should never do the homework for the child.

Your teacher will communicate and clarify specific roles and expectations regarding homework assignments.

## RETENTION AND PROMOTION

Students are promoted or retained based on the recommendation of the classroom teacher and Dean of Academics, per Arizona State Law (A.R.S. §15-521). The Head of School makes the final decision. Students must demonstrate mastery of Candeo curriculum targets in order to be considered for promotion to the next grade level. Teachers use the following criteria to make their decision:

- Achievement on class assignments
- Projects, tests
- Attendance
- Achievement on state assessments

A student is considered to have met the standard for promotion at 80% proficiency of grade-level standards. Students who fall below proficiency in the Candeo Curriculum are placed on “Academic Watch” and parents are notified quarterly. In the spring, parents will be informed of progress regarding promotion and/or retention. For students who are not progressing in grade level curriculum, a “Retention Consideration” letter is provided. Retention determinations are made at the end of the year and are the decision of the Head of School.

**Third Grade Promotion.** Per state law (A.R.S. §15-701), any third-grade student who scores far below on the English Language Arts portion of the AzMerit state assessment shall not be promoted from the third grade. The Governing Board may decide to promote a student who scored far below on the English Language Arts state assessment only when the student:

- is an English learner and has had fewer than 2 years of English language instruction.
- is in the process of a special education referral, has been diagnosed as having a significant reading impairment (including dyslexia), or has a disability and the IEP team and parents/guardians agree that promotion is appropriate.
- has demonstrated or subsequently demonstrates sufficient reading skills or adequate progress towards sufficient reading skills of the third-grade reading standards as evidenced through a collection of approved reading assessments.
- receives intervention and remedial services and demonstrates adequate progress in reading skills.

#### PHOTOS AND VIDEO USE

Media Release: Photographs/video is often taken on campus for use in a variety of media receptacles covering Candeo Schools. Candeo Schools has the right to use, at no cost, photos or video of your child for official websites, promotional materials, social media and other collateral communication and marketing methods.

**If you wish to opt out of this media release, please contact the front office.**

## APPENDIX A – SUGGESTED SNACKS

In short, we promote whole, healthful foods that are nutrient dense and leave out preservatives, artificial colors, artificial flavors, and processed sugars and syrups. Every student at our school should have a balanced mix of fresh veggies, fruits, proteins, grains, and healthy fats like avocados, olive oil, nuts, and quality cheeses. Our policy is not “fat-free, “low fat” or “sugar-free.” We are JUNK free.

### SAMPLE ITEMS - RECOMMENDED

Raw fruit  
Raw vegetables (example: carrots, red/green peppers, celery, grape tomatoes)  
All natural nuts/soybeans/seeds  
All natural yogurts (no artificial ingredients)  
Baggie of whole grain, unsweetened cereal  
All-natural cereal bar (Trader Joe’s sells all-natural bars with different fruit fillings)  
String cheese, cheese sticks, cheese cubes  
Crackers (Trader Joe’s sells several varieties of crackers made without hydrogenated oils)

### SAMPLE ITEMS - ALLOWABLE

Pretzels  
Granola bars without chocolate chips (look for ones made with whole grain and low sugar)  
All natural fruit leather (100% fruit is best)  
Fig newtons (Paul Newman makes an organic version, available at Fry’s.)  
Chex Mix (unsweetened)  
Trail mix without candy  
100% fruit juice (no added sugar, colors, or flavors)

### SAMPLE ITEMS - NOT ALLOWED

Candy  
Chips (Doritos, Cheetos, etc.)  
Snack cakes (Twinkies, Ding Dongs, etc)  
Cookies/cakes  
Rice Krispy treats  
Artificial “fruit” snacks, including gummy fruits, or “fruit” roll up (100% fruit or all-natural is acceptable)  
Soda, Gatorade, chocolate milk  
“Cheese-n-crackers” packaged cheese kits  
“Diet” foods

## HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Acceptance of enrollment and acknowledgement of receipt of this handbook imply agreement to policies contained.

**DISCLAIMER:** The Family Handbook provides you with important information about Candeo Schools' school community. It also serves as a reference for looking up critical policies and procedures that will affect you and your child during your time at Candeo Schools. These policies, procedures, and benefits as described in the Family Handbook do not constitute a contract or implied contract with students or personnel. Candeo administration reserves the right to interpret, revise, amend, or withdraw the policies and procedures described in the Family Handbook at its discretion.

All Candeo families are required to acknowledge receipt of the Family Handbook electronically on the Parent Portal via PowerSchool.