

Bluffview Montessori School Family Handbook



2025-2026

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Winona, MN 55987

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Bluffview Montessori School

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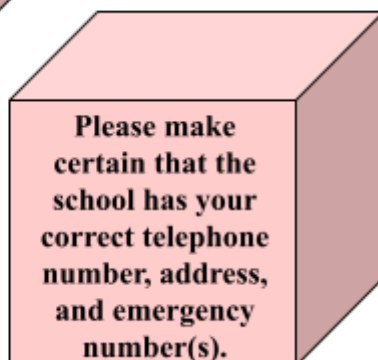
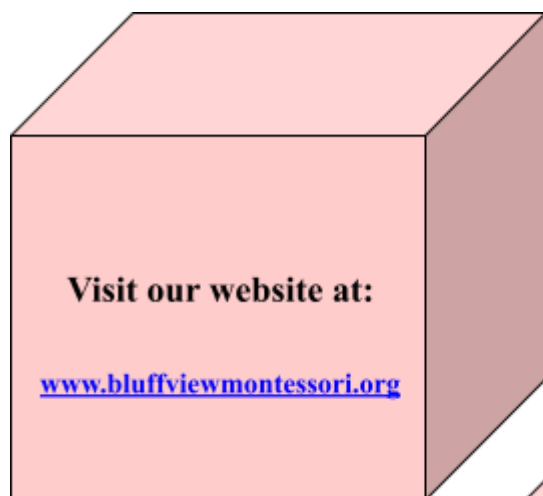
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Our goal is to ensure that your child has a successful school experience and that involves a close relationship between home and school. Please review the information in this handbook and keep it for future reference. If you have any questions or desire further information, please contact the school. We look forward to partnering with you to provide an amazing educational experience for your child.



Board of Directors

2025-2026

Anna Aarre

Vice Chair

aaarre@bluffviewmontessori.org

Kim Bell

Teacher Member

kbell@bluffviewmontessori.org

Meghan Booth

Chair

mbooth@bluffviewmontessori.org

Stephanie Schartel Dunn

Parent Member

sdunn@bluffviewmontessori.org

Kevin Mahoney

Community Member

kmahoney@bluffviewmontessori.org

Jessica McIlrath

Secretary

jmcilrath@bluffviewmontessori.org

Shelly Merchlewitz

Treasurer

smerchlewitz@bluffviewmontessori.org

Regular meetings of the school board are normally held on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the band room. There is a schedule on the bulletin board next to Children's House One. Meeting dates are also published on the school [website](#). The public is welcome.

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Welcome to Bluffview Montessori School

Brief History

Bluffview Montessori School was established in 1967 as a private preschool. In 1987, it expanded to include elementary students. In March 1993, Bluffview Montessori became the first Montessori Charter School in the United States, District 4001. Bluffview Montessori School is sponsored by the Volunteers of America and must meet requirements specified in the charter agreement, which is renewed every five years. In 1998 Bluffview Montessori School expanded its program to include middle school students.

Bluffview Today

Bluffview Montessori School offers a unique educational choice to families in Winona and the outlying community. Bluffview provides public education using the teaching methods and philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori.

Children attend classes in mixed age learning environments. 1st through 3rd grade students learn together in our Lower Elementary classes. Our Upper Elementary classes include 4th through 6th grade students, and 7th and 8th grade students learn together in our Erdkinder program (junior high). Bluffview Montessori School also offers a fee-based preschool program known as Children's House for children ages 33 months through 6 years. Kindergarten children enrolled in the charter school are included in the mixed age Children's House program.

Each classroom has a lead teacher and teaching assistant. Within the Montessori environment, teachers present lessons, but most of the student's education is introduced on an individual level using manipulable Montessori materials known as "didactic materials." Curriculum is divided into five main areas: language arts, mathematics, geometry, cultural studies (science and history) and geography. These subjects are often integrated with one another. Art, music (instrumental and vocal), and physical education, are taught by teachers certified in those specialty areas. Bluffview Montessori School also provides Special Education, Title I, ADSIS, and Student Health Services.

The Children's House preschool program is a five day per week program. The Montessori curriculum, using Montessori methods and materials, is presented to children by Montessori trained staff. The program includes practical life activities, sensorial (learning through the senses), language, math, cultural, and social activities. Children's House students may enroll in a half-day (7:45- 10:45) or 2, 3, or 5 full- day program (7:45 a.m. to 2:10 p.m.).

Governing Organization

Bluffview Montessori School is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501C-3 organization incorporated in 1970. The Bluffview Montessori School's Board of Directors (BOD) consists of a community member, parents, and teachers. The majority of seats must be held by licensed teachers. The staff and parents of the school elect members for three- year terms at the Annual Membership Meeting each May. All BOD meeting minutes are posted on the school's [website](#). The dates of board meetings are shown on the school website calendar, posted on the Children's House I bulletin board, and published on the website. Board meetings are open to the public. Parents are encouraged to attend.

Copies of the complete By-laws of Bluffview Montessori School are available in the school office and on the school [website](#).

Authorizer

Volunteers of America – Minnesota (VOA) serves as Bluffview Montessori School's charter school authorizer. For more information, see the [website](#).

Vision Statement

Empowered learners unfolding their full potential as whole and unique persons.

Mission Statement

Bluffview Montessori cultivates curious, independent learners and fosters respect while promoting community engagement for academic, civic, and personal fulfillment.

Core Values:

- **Culture of Montessori:** *Delivering a distinctive education grounded in Montessori philosophy that embraces individualized instruction, mixed-age environments, a prepared classroom, and specialized materials to nurture the intellectual, social, emotional, physical, and spiritual development of each child*
- **Celebrating the Individual:** *Honoring and embracing the unique development of each person where all individuals are free to be themselves on their path to achieving independence and personal fulfillment*
- **Community:** *Promoting inclusion and fellowship through collaboration and mutual respect, knowing that our collective success depends on the unique actions and contributions of each individual*
- **Peace:** *Cultivating integrity and social justice within the school and beyond to create an environment where peace is a conscious and active practice*
- **Respect:** *Acting with profound regard for the dignity, feelings, wishes, rights, and traditions of all people and communities while honoring the values of oneself and the natural world*
- **Independence:** *Fostering the ability of all individuals to learn and act autonomously by building confidence, self-discipline, and the capacity for making responsible choices*

PART I - INFORMATION

Admission Requirements

1. Preschool children must be 33 months of age to enroll in the Children's House and should also be toilet trained.
2. Preschool children should have language development sufficient to meet their needs in a classroom environment.
3. Children must be age 5 by September 1st of the current school year in order to enter Kindergarten. Bluffview does not offer early kindergarten enrollment.
4. The following forms must be on file prior to the first day of school:
 - Enrollment form (for new students)
 - Health form including immunization records
 - Emergency Information
 - Contract form and deposit (Children's House Preschool)
 - Early Childhood Screening records (Kindergarten only)
 - Previous school records, or a signed *Release of Information Form* allowing Bluffview to obtain a copy of these records (for transfer students)
 - Information regarding Individual Education Plans (IEP) if applicable

After School Programs

After school programs are available at Bluffview Montessori School from 2:10 p.m. to 5:30 p.m and are run by the YMCA for grades K-6. For further information, please contact the Y at 507-454-1520. Preschool aged students can sign up for After School Care through Bluffview at the rate of \$5.00/hr. This program runs from 2:10 until 5:00.

Parents and guardians are required to sign their children out of the after school programs in order to assure the safety of children and to enable accurate billing of fees. In addition, parents or guardians must designate specific persons who will be authorized to pick up their children from after school programs.

Arrival and Dismissal Hours

School is in session 7:45 am to 2:10 pm. Students should not arrive at school earlier than 7:15 a.m. Students riding the bus will be dismissed first. Parents picking up students should arrive between 2:20 and 2:30. Parents will be called for any student not picked up by 2:30 p.m.

Bicycles

Bicycles are permitted and encouraged as a mode of transportation to and from school. For the safety of all students, bicycles may not be ridden on school grounds. Students must walk bicycles on school grounds and park them in the bike rack. Parents and guardians should be aware that students bring bicycles to school at their own risk and that bicycles

should be locked up during the school day.

Billing

Parents or guardians of preschoolers will receive invoices each month for tuition. Reminders for past due fees will be mailed home.

Birthday/Holiday Treats

Because food allergies pose a life-threatening risk to some students, homemade birthday and holiday treats may not be distributed in classrooms. All birthday and holiday treats must be commercially manufactured and be delivered in the original packaging for distribution to students. Peanuts and snacks containing peanuts are not allowed in the Children's House classrooms.

Please do not send birthday party invitations to school for distribution.

Busing

Bluffview contracts with District 861 for transportation services. Please use the following contact information to reach the district transportation office:

General inquiries

903 Gilmore Avenue, Winona MN 55987

507-494-0810

waps.transportation@winona.k12.mn.us

www.winonaschools.org/departments/transportation

Director of Transportation: Casey Indra

507-494-1529

casey.indra@winona.k12.mn.us

Central Services and Transportation Specialist District Office: Jennifer Maki

507-494-0810

jennifer.maki@winona.k12.mn.us

First Student is the pupil transportation contractor for Winona Area Public Schools. Please contact them with any bus concerns or to locate lost and found items.

1160 Frontenac Drive, Winona MN 55987

507-961-2176

In August, the transportation office will send transportation schedules to each eligible family with estimated pick-up and drop-off times.

Some children make transfers in order to get to school or home from school. The bus your child takes from Bluffview to their transfer point may be a different numbered bus than the bus they ride to school. It is helpful to write the bus number, parent's name and telephone numbers on a card and place it in your child's backpack so that transportation staff can contact parents if needed.

You may follow your child's bus the first few days of school to observe your child transferring to the right bus or exiting at the correct stop. Your child may not feel comfortable or understand the bus route as easily as an adult so please take the time to go over the bus route with them.

Please be aware that times will vary considerably the first two weeks of school. Thereafter, pick-up and drop-off times are set and children must be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes prior to the scheduled pick-up time.

Type III School Bus (Faculty provided) Transportation

Faculty members may use their vehicles to transport students for field trips and other off-campus school activities. When doing so, their vehicles become Type III School Buses and their use is subject to state laws and regulations. For instance, seat belts must be provided for each child in the car or van, and if the car or van has a passenger air bag, the student must sit in the back seat. Students cannot be transported in a convertible or the back of a pick-up truck.

All Type III School Buses must have safety equipment and a pre-trip inspection log aboard. Bluffview's safety "go-kits" and pre-trip inspection forms are available from the Head of School. See policy 709, "Student Transportation Safety Policy", on the Bluffview [website](#) for more information.

Calendar

Bluffview's School calendar correlates with the Winona Area Public Schools calendar. The 2025-2026 school year begins on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 and ends on Thursday, June 4, 2026. A copy of the school calendar can be found in Appendix A and on the [website](#). Detailed monthly calendars are also posted on the [website](#).

Change of Address

Please notify the school office promptly concerning changes of address, phone numbers or emergency information, including email addresses. It is very important that we keep our records current.

Child Abuse Reporting

Under Minnesota law, the reporting of suspected physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect is required of all educational and health care professionals. Bluffview staff members are mandated reporters and must comply with these reporting laws. The CPS phone number to

report to is 507-457-6500.

Complaints

The normal channel for complaints concerning Bluffview Montessori School shall be made from parent, guardian, or student to the person directly involved and then, if necessary, to the administration and the Board of Directors. Every effort will be made to satisfy the complainant at the earliest level. Please use the **Incident Report** (See Appendix B) to initiate a formal complaint to administration or to the board of directors.

Contacting Teachers

During the school year, the office is open from 7:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Teachers may or may not be reachable by telephone during the school day. However, parents are always welcome to leave a message on the teacher's voice mail or send an email. Teachers will check voicemail and email daily and will respond as soon as possible. Teachers are available to meet with parents or guardians before or after school by appointment.

Dual Reporting

The names and addresses of parents or guardians are included in a student's file. In the case of a student whose parents' marriage has been dissolved, a certified copy of the Order of Dissolution, as well as any subsequent modification of the order, needs to be on file. Unless otherwise decreed in the order, information commonly made available to parents or guardians of any student will be provided to both parents and guardians.

Early Childhood Screening

Early Childhood Screening is a requirement of the State of Minnesota prior to admission to Kindergarten for public schools. This does not apply to charter schools. However, Bluffview still highly recommends having this screening done as it helps identify, at an early stage, possible learning or health concerns, and also helps to identify children who may benefit from school and community resources which may help with their development. This free screening is offered through the Winona School District. It is preferred that the screening be completed when the child is 3 or 4. The screening program runs from the end of September to the first of May. It is offered to all preschool children and includes vision, hearing, speech and developmental screening. A discussion with a school nurse will review the dental, nutritional and immunization status of the child. To schedule an appointment, please call 507-494-0915 or go to www.winonaschools.org/screening.

Email List Serves

Bluffview maintains several email list serves for the use of parents and staff. All families will be included in the **All School List Serve** and **Bluffview Newsletter** unless the school is notified otherwise. If you do not wish to be included, or you are not receiving these emails, please email renknutson@bluffviewmontessori.org.

Employee Directory

The employee directory can be found on the [website](#).

Employment Background Checks

Bluffview Montessori School will seek criminal history background checks for all applicants who receive an offer of employment. Bluffview Montessori School may seek criminal history background checks for volunteers and field trip chaperones.

Enrollment

Bluffview Montessori School is a public school. Enrollment at Bluffview Montessori School is open to the entire community. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, or place of national or ethnic origin.

Open enrollment for the fall begins the previous January. Bluffview Montessori School accepts applications for student vacancies throughout the year. Public announcements regarding openings at each grade level are based on projected enrollment. If there are no vacancies, applicants will be placed on grade-specific waiting lists. Enrollment is solely dependent on space availability. Bluffview Montessori School must give enrollment preference to a Minnesota resident pupil over pupils that do not reside in Minnesota. Bluffview Montessori School must require a pupil who does not reside in Minnesota to annually apply to enroll in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 124E.11, paragraphs (a) to (f). Siblings of currently enrolled students and the children of faculty are given priority enrollment. See policy 509, “Admissions and Enrollment”, on the Bluffview [website](#) for more information.

According to our charter agreement, all spaces in the charter school filled during open enrollment are drawn from waiting lists that are constructed by lottery (2nd week of Feb). If space exists after this time, children are admitted from waiting lists that are built on a first-come, first-served basis. If there are more applications for a grade level than there are vacancies, a drawing will be conducted in accordance with the process specified in the charter agreement (Please refer to the school office for further information.)

Fees

All Montessori materials, novels and library books, textbooks, computers and other resource materials are supplied by Bluffview Montessori School. Teachers will present the appropriate use and care of these materials to their students. If through carelessness or intent, a student damages instructional materials or classroom furniture, a replacement cost may be assessed.

Students are expected to provide their own school supplies. Students may be asked to pay certain other fees or deposits, including (not an inclusive list):

- A classroom snack fee will be assessed to each student. This \$80 fee is used to purchase daily snacks throughout the school year. This fee should be remitted to the

- front office by the beginning of each school year.
- A \$5 donation for planners for students in grades 4-6. This can be remitted to the front office by the beginning of the school year.
 - Cost for materials for a class project that exceeds minimum requirements and is kept by the student.
 - Items of personal use or products that a student has an option to purchase such as yearbooks.
 - Field trips considered supplementary to the district's educational program.
 - Admission fees or costs to attend or participate in optional extracurricular activities and programs.
 - Use of musical instruments owned or rented.
 - Tuition and After School Care for preschool program.

Bluffview Montessori School may waive a required fee or deposit if the student and parent/guardian are unable to pay. For more information, contact Henry Schantzen, Head of School.

Gum and Candy

Gum and candy are prohibited in classrooms and on school grounds at all times.

Gym Shoes

Parents/guardians must provide non-marking rubber soled shoes (tennis shoes are suggested) for participation in Physical Education. Children are required to have this type of shoe available for use daily.

Inclement Weather

All school closings, delays in school openings or early dismissals due to inclement weather will be communicated on Winona and La Crosse radio and television stations, via text messaging, email, telephone, and on our school [website](#). If not receiving these messages, contact the front office. Communications referring to the **Winona Area Public Schools** will pertain to Bluffview Montessori School as well. Parents and guardians should make advance arrangements for their children in the event of closings, delays or early dismissals.

Inspection of Property

Individuals entering the premises of Bluffview Montessori School, whether students, employees or guests, are expected to conduct themselves in keeping with established norms for personal conduct. In order to provide students and employees with a safe and healthy environment, Bluffview Montessori School reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to conduct inspections of students and visitors who are on school property. The personal possessions of students, employees, and guests may be searched whenever the school administration has *reasonable suspicion* that the search will uncover evidence of a violation of law or of school rules.

Inspections may include, but not limited to: 1) lockers/cubbies; 2) knapsacks, briefcases, lunch bags, gym bags or similar devices brought onto or existing on Bluffview Montessori School premises; and 3) clothing (with appropriate safeguards for the individual's personal privacy).

As soon as practical after the search of a student's personal possessions, the school administration must provide notice of the search to the student, unless disclosure would impede an ongoing investigation by police or the school administration. See Policy 502, "Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person", on the [website](#), for further information.

Instrumental Music Program

Students in Grades 5-8 are invited to participate in the instrumental music program. Our instrumental music program includes individual and/or group lessons and participation in an instrumental performance.

Library

The library offers a variety of materials available for check out by students. Fines for overdue library books and replacement costs for lost or damaged books will be assigned by the librarian. The fines and replacement costs are expected to be paid in a timely fashion. A copy of Bluffview Montessori School's Policy 606.5, "Library Policy", may be obtained on the Bluffview [website](#) or from the front office.

Lost and Found

Each year, mittens, sweaters, hats, boots and lunch boxes are turned into the *Lost and Found* and are never claimed. Labeling your child's articles of clothing, boots and shoes with permanent ink is strongly recommended. If your child has lost items of clothing, please make an effort to check the *Lost and Found* baskets, which are located in the front entranceway. Items of higher value, such as jewelry, may be held in the office.

Unclaimed *Lost and Found* items will be donated to Winona Volunteer Services or Goodwill periodically. The loss of an article of value should be reported to the classroom teacher or to the office.

Lunch

Children's House and Elementary students will enjoy lunch in the Community Room. Erdkinder students will eat lunch in the Hillview Eatery outside of their classroom. Table manners and courtesy are expected of all students. Similarly, students should demonstrate respect for cafeteria supervisors and obey their directives. Misbehavior during the lunch period may result in a student being denied the privilege of eating with their classmates.

Cold lunches may be brought from home. We encourage students who bring their lunch to include a variety of nutritious foods and drinks. Please do not send candy as a dessert. Soda pop and fast food are not allowed. Milk can be purchased for \$0.55/container.

The use of recyclable containers is encouraged as they allow students to participate in learning how to limit waste in our environment.

Breakfast and hot lunches are served daily. A monthly lunch menu will be published on the schools [website](#). Milk, fruit and vegetables are included with all hot lunches. One breakfast and one lunch are provided for free each day. Each additional entrée for lunch is \$2.00.

See Appendix C for Policy 534, “School Meals Policy”.

Messages to Students

Office staff will not deliver messages to children on behalf of their parents except in the case of emergency or urgent change of after school arrangements. Similarly, barring an emergency situation, a student will not be called to the telephone or be able to use the telephone during school hours. The telephone is not intended for the general use of students and after school arrangements should be made prior to school. Personal cell phone use during the instructional day is prohibited.

Nondiscrimination

Bluffview Montessori School is committed to inclusive education and providing an equal educational opportunity for all students. Bluffview Montessori School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, parental status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, including gender identity and expression, or age in its programs and activities. The school board has designated Sherry Lohmeyer, Assistant Head of School, Bluffview Montessori School, 1321 Gilmore Ave., Winona, MN 55987, (507) 452-2807 x113, slohmeyer@bluffviewmontessori.org, as the district’s human rights officer to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination.

Notice of Violent Behavior by Students

Bluffview Montessori School will give notice to teachers and other appropriate school staff before students with a history of violent behavior are placed in their classrooms. Prior to giving this notice, an administrator will inform the student’s parent or guardian that the notice will be given. The student’s parents/guardians have the right to review and challenge their child’s records, including the data documenting the history of violent behavior. A copy of Bluffview Montessori School’s Policy 529, “Staff Notification of Violent Behavior by Students”, may be obtained on the Bluffview [website](#) or from the front office.

Parent and Teacher Conferences

Parent and teacher conferences will be held once in the fall and once in the spring. For more information, contact the front office.

Parent Volunteers

Parents/guardians are welcome in the school and are encouraged to volunteer in their children's classrooms. To volunteer in the school building or classroom, parents/guardians should contact their child's teacher. Parents/guardians who visit the school should sign in at the front office before entering a classroom. Those volunteering in a Children's House classroom may need to complete a Department of Human Services background check. Other volunteers will need to complete the MN Bureau of Criminal Apprehension background check every two years. For more information, contact the front office.

Payments

Children's House tuition, snack fees, and any other payments can be paid on our [website](#), in person, or mailed. Your child may deliver a payment to the office provided it is in an envelope marked with your family's name and the purpose for the payment. When writing a check, please make it payable to **Bluffview Montessori School** and write the purpose of the check on the comment line. Unpaid balances may be turned over to a collection agency if requests for overdue payment are denied or avoided.

Placement of Students

While effort is made to accommodate preference requests for teachers or classroom placement, final decisions will be made by the faculty in order to best meet the needs of all students. Parent Input forms are available for the following Fall beginning in January. Parents are required to observe classrooms and fill out the form in order for their request to be considered. The due date is located on the form, usually around the end of April.

Pledge of Allegiance

Bluffview Montessori School believes in an individualized approach to instruction and thus waives the statutory requirement for regular recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. The flag will be displayed, the text of the Pledge will be made available to students, and individual students will be allowed to recite the Pledge during the day if they choose to do so. Students will be instructed in the proper etiquette toward and respect for the flag.

Recess and Play

When weather permits, students will go outside for recess. Teachers and office staff monitor the temperature along with the wind chill factor. The temperature guideline for going outside is zero degrees. The wind-chill factor will be taken into account and the general dampness of the day will also be considered. Children may use the school's playground equipment and we request that students do not bring their own personal toys or balls for use at school.

Reporting Absences

When a child is absent from school, please call the school office (507-452-2807) between 7:00-8:00 a.m. and state the reason for the absence. Parents or guardians may also leave a

message on the school's voice mail or email Jillaine Zieman at jzieman@bluffviewmontessori.org to report a child's absence. If the school is not notified, attendance personnel will contact the parent/guardian at home or at work to confirm the absence and inquire about the reason. If no one is reached, the student will be marked unexcused. For detailed information, see Policy 503, "Student Attendance" (*Appendix H*).

School Communication

In order to reduce the amount of paper we use each week, Bluffview encourages online communication between home and school. News and other information are accessible on the school website and we encourage you to utilize this method for receiving information from school. If you do not have internet access and require paper copies of school communication, please inform the office of your preference. Hard copies of certain items will be sent home and for that purpose, communication folders will be sent home each Wednesday. These folders will contain important information about school and community events. At the beginning of each year, each student will be given a vinyl folder that should last throughout the school year. Some all-school announcements and information will be given to the youngest or only child in the family.

Section 504 Coordinator

Each year, Bluffview designates a 504 coordinator. The Bluffview board of Directors designated Henry Schantzen, Head of School, the 504 coordinator beginning July 1, 2025.

Contact information: Henry Schantzen
1321 Gilmore Avenue
Winona, MN 55987
507-452-2807 ext. 114

The Coordinator is responsible for all Section 504 matters pertaining to identification, evaluation and placement as well as disability discrimination.

What is Section 504?

Section 504 is a federal anti-discrimination law that protects the rights of individuals with disabilities in programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance from the US Department of Education. Recipients of this federal financial assistance include public school districts, institutions of higher education and other state and local agencies. It requires a school district to provide a "free and appropriate education, (FAPE) to each qualified student with a disability who is in the recipient's jurisdiction, regardless of the nature or severity of the student's disability." Under Section 504, FAPE provides regular or special education and related aids and services that are designed to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities as adequately as the needs of individuals without disabilities are met.

Special Committees

A number of special committees operate throughout the year to provide advice and guidance to the board of directors and administration. Parents, teachers, administrators, and board members have many chances to give time and talent to Bluffview Montessori School by serving on these committees. Committee meeting dates appear on the school calendar.

Student Publications and Materials

Bluffview Montessori School's policy is to protect students' free speech rights while, at the same time, preserving Bluffview Montessori School's obligation to provide a learning environment that is free of disruption. All school publications are under the supervision of the Head of School and/or sponsor. Nonschool-sponsored publications may not be distributed without prior approval. See Policy 505, "Distribution of Nonschool-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees" (*Appendix D*).

Distribution of Non School-Sponsored Materials on School Premises

Bluffview Montessori School recognizes that students and employees have the right to express themselves on school property. This protection includes distributing nonschool-sponsored material, subject to Bluffview Montessori School regulations and procedures, at a reasonable time and place and in a reasonable manner. For detailed information, see Policy 505, "Distribution of Non School-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees" (*Appendix D*).

School-Sponsored Media

Bluffview Montessori School Policy 512 sets forth the rights and responsibilities of student journalists. Student media advisers shall supervise student journalists to ensure compliance with the law and school policies. Students producing school-sponsored media and participating in school activities will be under the supervision of a student media adviser and the Head of School. Expression in school-sponsored media or school-sponsored activity is prohibited when the material:

1. is obscene to minors;
2. is defamatory;
3. is profane, harassing, threatening, or intimidating;
4. constitutes an unwarranted invasion of privacy;
5. violates federal or state law;
6. causes a material and substantial disruption of school activities;

7. is directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action on school premises or the violation of lawful school policies or rules, including a policy adopted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.03 or 121A.031;
8. advertises or promotes any product or service not permitted for minors by law;
9. ~~expresses or~~ advocates sexual, racial, or religious harassment or violence or prejudice; or
10. is distributed or displayed in violation of time, place, and manner regulations.

Expression in school-sponsored media or school-sponsored activity is subject to Bluffview Montessori School editorial control over the style and content when Bluffview Montessori School's actions are reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical concerns. School-sponsored media may be distributed at reasonable times and locations.

Student Records

Student records are classified as public, private, or confidential. State and federal laws protect student records from unauthorized inspection or use and provide parents/guardians with certain rights.

A permanent record for each student is kept on file in the school office. The records include the following information: progress reports, results of standardized tests, behavior and attendance records. A separate health record containing immunizations and screening reports is also kept on file for each student. A conference to review your child's file may be arranged by contacting the Head of School. For more information on the rights of parents/guardians regarding student records, see "Student Records" (*Appendix E*). A complete copy of the Bluffview Montessori School's Policy 515, "Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records", may be viewed on the school [website](#) or obtained in the school office.

Student Surveys

Occasionally, Bluffview Montessori School utilizes surveys to obtain student opinions and information about students. For complete information on the rights of parents/guardians and eligible students about conducting surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical examinations, see "Student Surveys" (*Appendix F*). A complete copy of Bluffview Montessori School's Policy 520, "Student Surveys", may be obtained on the Bluffview [website](#) or from the front office.

Tuition

Children's House monthly tuition payments are due on the last day of each month.

Failure to pay past due amounts may result in the dismissal from Children's House or child care services. Students may not be allowed to begin school in the fall until the previous year's account is current or payment arrangements have been made. Outstanding balances may also result in the inability to enroll future students.

Video and Audio Recording

School Buses

All school buses used by Winona Area Public Schools may be equipped for the placement and operation of a video camera. Bluffview Montessori School will post a notice in a conspicuous location informing students that their conversations or actions may be recorded. Bluffview Montessori School and Winona Area Public Schools may use a video recording of the actions of student passengers as evidence in any disciplinary action arising from the students' misconduct on the bus.

Places Other Than Buses

Bluffview Montessori School and grounds are equipped with video cameras. Video surveillance does occur, and may be used to aide any formal or informal investigations.

Withdrawals

The following applies to students who transfer from Bluffview Montessori School:

- 1) The school office should be notified in advance if parents are planning to transfer their child to a different school.
- 2) A *Record Release Form* must be completed by the parent or guardian to allow the transfer of student records.
- 3) Official school records are not given to parents or guardians but are forwarded directly to the receiving school.
- 4) If Children's House tuition has been paid in full and the child transfers, a pro-rated refund will be given. Remaining lunch money may be returned when requested if a child transfers to another school.

Yearbook

A yearbook is created annually and is available for purchase by families. Parents/guardians may opt to have their student(s) left out of the yearbook by contacting the front office.

PART II - ACADEMICS

Academic Dishonesty

Bluffview Montessori School has developed specific plans for dealing with issues of academic dishonesty. “Plagiarism” is an act of stealing thoughts and ideas and passing them off as one’s own thoughts or ideas. No person shall copy and present the written material of another as his or her own work. No person shall pass off photos or the works of art of another person as his or her own work. To do these acts constitutes plagiarism. “Cheating” is an act of fraudulently deceiving others by violating rules of honesty or misrepresenting school work required as part of a test or other evaluation, or a regular assignment or project. No person shall copy another’s work or allow another to copy work or in any way collaborate on tests or assignments unless expressly authorized by a school faculty member.

The consequences for violating academic honesty may result in one of the following:

First offense:

- a. Attend a plagiarism or cheating workshop sponsored by Bluffview.
- b. Student must design a plan of restitution to those harmed by plagiarism or cheating.
- c. Re-do work.
- d. Office referral and written parent notification of infraction.

Second offense:

- a. Attend a plagiarism or cheating workshop sponsored by Bluffview.
- b. Design a plan of restitution to those harmed by plagiarism or cheating.
- c. Re-do work.
- d. Office referral and written parent notification of infraction.
- e. In-school suspension, at the discretion of Administration.
- f. Parent conference.

Subsequent offenses:

- a. Attend a plagiarism or cheating workshop sponsored by Bluffview.
- b. Design a plan of restitution to those harmed by plagiarism or cheating.
- c. Re-do work.
- d. Office referral and written parent notification.
- e. In-school suspension.
- f. Parent conference.
- g. Counseling with a guidance counselor.

Curriculum Concern

The process for addressing a curriculum concern is as follows:

1. In a timely manner, contact the classroom teacher to review the course or unit outcomes and accompanying instructional resources. Discuss areas of concern to seek clarification.

2. If concerns persist, contact the Assistant Head of School. If necessary, the classroom teacher and Assistant Head of School may work together to make reasonable arrangements for alternative instruction. The Head of School may be brought into the discussion at any time.
3. If the concern is still not addressed to your satisfaction, parents should contact a School Board representative. Contact information can be found on the school website.

Extended School Year Opportunities

Bluffview Montessori School provides extended school year opportunities to a student who is the subject of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) if the student's IEP team determines the services are necessary during a break in instruction in order to provide a free and appropriate public education. For more information on extended school year opportunities for students with an IEP, contact Sherry Lohmeyer, Assistant Head of School, at slohmeyer@bluffviewmontessori.org or 507-452-2807.

Field Trips

Field trips utilize community resources to supplement the curriculum. All field trips will be chaperoned by teachers, staff members and parents. A *Field Trip Information Form* with a *Parent Permission Statement* will be distributed to students before each field trip. There may be a fee for field trips which helps defray entrance fees and/or transportation costs. Scholarships may be available for students when the fees for field trips create undue hardship for the family. Please contact the Head of School or office in this situation. If the permission slip is not returned by the due date, the student will not be permitted to attend the field trip.

All students are expected to take part in field trips. However, students who have demonstrated patterns of inappropriate behavior may be excluded from these experiences. A student may also forfeit field trip privileges if the student is so far behind in his/her studies that, in the judgment of teachers and administration, attending the field trip might have a detrimental effect on the student's academic achievement.

Parents or guardians that accompany students on field trips are required to complete a Background Check.

Homework

Homework assignments are made by the teachers. The amount of homework varies by teacher and subject area. Generally, Bluffview strives to offer enough work time during the school day that students will have minimal homework. Elementary students are usually only assigned a few projects each year to be worked on at home. Erdkinder students do receive homework as it is our goal to fully prepare them for their high school placement. Bluffview asks parents/guardians to encourage their child(ren) to complete homework thoroughly and promptly when issued.

Parent Right to Know

If a parent requests it, Bluffview Montessori School will provide information regarding the professional qualifications of his/her child's classroom teachers, including, at a minimum, the following:

1. whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
2. whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional licensing status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
3. whether the teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher;
4. whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

In addition, the school district will provide parents with information as to the level of achievement of their child in each of the state academic assessments. Bluffview Montessori School will provide notice to parents if their child has been assigned to, or taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who does not meet applicable State certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.

Progress Reports

The school year is divided into quarters. Formal progress reports for each student will be issued at the end of each semester for students in Kindergarten through Grade Eight. Parent-teacher-student conferences are offered in the fall and the spring. In addition to these regular conferences, arrangements for other conferences may be requested by parents/guardians and teachers at any time during the school year.

Special Education

Bluffview Montessori School has staff members licensed to provide special education and related services for those students who meet criteria and have special education needs. Parents and students are directly involved with the school and appropriate outside agency staff in the development of the special education program and the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) for school-age children. Students are eligible for special education services until the IEP Team decides to terminate services. Students remain with their general education peers in the least restrictive environment (LRE) to the extent the IEP Team determines is appropriate. Special education program evaluation is accomplished through a single strategic plan to improve due process compliance and program results for students with disabilities.

Testing

Standardized tests are used to determine academic achievement levels and to evaluate the curriculum presented in accordance with our charter agreement and with the requirements of the State of Minnesota Department of Education.

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments are administered to students in Grades 3-8 in the spring. These tests are used to evaluate school and student progress towards meeting state standards. When MCA test results arrive in the summer, parents or guardians will be notified and may pick them up at school. Shortly thereafter, any remaining test results will be available for pick up at conferences.

In addition to these standardized tests, specific reading and math skills of all students are assessed three times each year to determine individual progress toward benchmarks for each grade level. These benchmark assessments are administered fall, winter and spring using the Fastbridge assessment system. Students are not graded on these assessments; they are used as indicators of overall reading and math achievement and as a screening tool for our reading and math intervention programs. Data from these assessments also provides a framework to determine instructional strategies that are responsive to each student's academic progress.

To opt out of state testing, please review and fill out the form in Appendix G. Additional information on testing can be found in Bluffview's School District and Testing Plan and Procedures, Policy 614, on the school [website](#).

Title I/ADSIS

Students needing extra help in math and reading may qualify for one of our two intervention programs. Our Title 1 math and reading intervention program provides reading and math services to students up to three times a week. Students who participate in the Title 1 program but who need additional assistance may also receive additional instruction from our math and reading intervention specialists on a daily basis.

The purpose of Alternative Delivery of Specialized Instructional Services (ADSIS) is to provide instruction to assist students who need additional academic or behavioral support to succeed in the general education environment. The goal is to reduce the number of referrals to special education by providing support early to struggling students.

PART III - RULES AND DISCIPLINE

Attendance

Regular school attendance is directly related to success in academic work, benefits students socially, provides opportunities for important communications between teachers and students, and establishes regular habits of dependability.

We desire for all of our students to have the best educational experience possible. One essential component for a successful educational experience (adequate academic progress, the creation of a positive classroom experience, and active participation in the classroom community) is regular attendance at school. Therefore, it is important that children arrive at school on time and attend school every day.

For detailed information, see Policy 503, “Student Attendance” (*Appendix H*).

Tardiness

Tardiness is defined as a late arrival or early departure from school. Tardiness interferes with a student’s academic progress and is a disturbance to the other students and teacher in the learning environment. Students should be at school and in their classroom by 7:45 a.m.

Students arriving after 7:45 a.m. will be considered tardy. A tardy student must check in at the office in order to be admitted into their classroom. Arrival after 8:05 a.m. will result in a half day absence. Leaving school prior to 1:50 p.m. is also considered a half day absence. See Policy 503, “Student Attendance”, for the policy regarding tardiness (*Appendix H*).

Bullying Prohibition

Bluffview Montessori School is committed to providing a safe, secure and respectful learning environment for all students. Acts of bullying, in any form, by either an individual student or a group of students, are prohibited on Bluffview Montessori School property, at school-related functions or activities, on school transportation, and by misuse of technology. For detailed information, please see Policy 514, “Bullying Prohibition” (*Appendix I*).

Buses - Conduct on School Buses and Consequences for Misbehavior

Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. Bluffview Montessori Schools and Winona Area Public School’s (WAPS) general student behavior rules are in effect for all students on school buses. WAPS will not provide transportation for students whose transportation privileges have been revoked.

WAPS is committed to transporting students in a safe and orderly manner. To accomplish this, student riders are expected to follow WAPS rules for waiting at a school bus stop and for riding on a school bus.

While waiting for the bus or after being dropped off at a school bus stop, all students must comply with the following rules:

- Get to the bus stop five minutes before your scheduled pick up time. The school bus driver will not wait for late students.
- Respect the property of others while waiting at the bus stop.
- Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
- Use appropriate language.
- Stay away from the street, road, or highway when waiting for the bus.
- Wait until the bus stops before approaching the bus.
- After getting off the bus, move away from the bus.
- If you must cross the street, always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you. Wait for the driver to signal to you before crossing the street.
- No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
- No use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.

While riding a school bus, all riders must comply with the following rules:

- Follow the driver's directions at all times.
- Remain seated facing forward while the bus is in motion.
- Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
- Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
- Keep arms, legs, and belongings to yourself and out of the aisle.
- No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
- Do not throw any object.
- No eating, drinking, or use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.
- Do not bring any weapons or dangerous objects on the school bus.
- Do not damage the school bus.

Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will be imposed by Bluffview Montessori School under administrative discipline procedures. All school bus/bus stop misconduct will be reported to Bluffview Montessori School's Assistant Head of School. Serious misconduct may be reported to local law enforcement.

Cell Phones and Other Personal Electronic Communication Devices

Students are **prohibited** from using cell phones and other electronic communication devices during the school day (time dropped off to time picked up). If such devices are brought to school, they must remain in book bags and out of sight. Students may leave devices with the front office staff for the day. Classroom teachers may also have a locked classroom cupboard for students to keep such devices in until the end of the day. If such devices are used or displayed during the school day, they may be confiscated. In the event a student needs to use a personal device to contact a parent to secure plans or get necessary information, they are to report to the office with their device to make the call after requesting permission from the teacher that is responsible for him/her at that time. The only exception is the middle school activities bus group.

Discipline and Behavior

Bluffview Montessori School participates in multiple programs that contribute to a positive learning environment for all students and staff. The foundation for these programs is based around the principles of Restorative Practices and PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports), which are proactive and interactive approaches that establish a positive culture and support academic, social, and emotional success. They use data-based decision making to align curriculum and behavioral supports for all students and staff. They are aimed at supporting a safe and effective school environment while preventing behavioral problems with students.

Social and emotional learning curriculum and daily Circle practice are used to create a strong sense of classroom community and build relationships among students, staff, and the larger Bluffview community.

Bluffview promotes three basic values:

- Respect yourself
- Respect others
- Respect the environment

These values are incorporated into the daily lives of students and staff through both school wide and classroom components:

School Wide Components

- All school behavior expectation lessons are taught to all students for basic areas of the building that ALL children utilize, including the lunch area, bathrooms, hallways, playground, and peace circle/outside waiting area.
- Each year, Bluffview utilizes a central theme to promote positive behavior. The 2025-2026 theme is based on the book *The Curious Why* by Angela DiTerlizzi.
- Bluffview Montessori utilizes inspiring lessons, books, and materials developed by *The Virtues Project* and *Core Virtues* that encourages students and staff to develop a sense of compassion and integrity and promote acts of service and generosity. The lessons are given through a three year cycle and will include the following virtues during the 2025-2026 school year:

Respect & Responsibility	Perseverance	Courtesy
Patience	Stewardship	Integrity
Cooperation	Humility	Wisdom

- School spirit and pride are encouraged through our school mascot, the Bluffview Explorer.
- Explorers of the Week are chosen every Wednesday from the Compass Slips that students have brought into the office. The Explorers are offered a “menu” of reinforcers to choose from, and a short article is written and shared in the school newsletter.

Classroom Components

- Each class, along with their designated Peace Partners (all staff members that are not in general classrooms), participate in a monthly lesson and follow-up activities that promote the virtue of the month.
- Students making positive behavior choices and demonstrating actions representing the virtues that classrooms have learned may be recognized with a “Compass Slip.” Students bring their Compass Slips to the office, exchanging them for a blue sphere which is then placed in our globe. As the globe fills to the North Pole, special activities are planned celebrating the positive choices.

Discipline

Although students at Bluffview make many positive choices, it is understood that students will also make decisions and choices that allow them to learn and become more respectful and kind members of the community. Policy 506, “Student Discipline” can be found in appendix J of this handbook and on the school [website](#). A paper copy can also be obtained in the school office.

Dress and Appearance

Students are encouraged to be dressed appropriately for school activities and in keeping with community standards.

Appropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Clothing that does not create a health or safety hazard.
- Students shall wear
 - Opaque (non-see through) clothing including both a shirt or equivalent top, a skirt, pants, shorts, or equivalent bottom, and/or a dress.
 - Clothing that covers the front, back, and sides of the student’s body, including the student’s private parts.
 - Shoes that are appropriate for school activities.
 - Attire relative to the curriculum that may require assignment specific dress (for example professionalism, public speaking, job readiness or shadowing, etc).
- Clothing appropriate for the weather.
 - Coats, snow pants, boots, mittens/gloves, and appropriate headwear such as a winter hat. Students will go outside each day unless the temperature and/or wind chill are below zero degrees Fahrenheit. Erdkinder staff may allow students to go outside

- regardless of the temperature and wind chill in accordance with appropriate published safety charts and data.
- Clothing appropriate for specific classes that does not limit a student's ability to fully participate in class.
 - Physical Education
 - Clothing should match the nature of the activity, and will not inhibit the student's movement.
 - Shoes must be athletic in nature that can be secured tightly to the student's feet. Sandals, boots, crocs, flip flops, slip-ons, etc are not appropriate unless staff make a specific request.
 - Students are allowed to wear hard soled slippers during their work time.

Inappropriate apparel includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Apparel with images or messages that create a hostile or intimidating environment directed at any protected class.
- Apparel bearing a message or image that is lewd, vulgar, violent, or obscene including hate speech, profanity, and pornography.
- Apparel promoting products or activities that are illegal for use by minors including drugs and alcohol.
- Visible undergarments. Visible waistbands or straps on undergarments are not prohibited.
- Any apparel or footwear that would damage school property.
- Bathing suits, unless required for a specific activity.
- Helmets or headgear that obscures the face (except for religious observances or medical situations).
- Anything that disrupts the learning environment or poses a safety threat.

The intention is not to abridge the rights of students to express political, religious, philosophical, or similar opinions by wearing apparel on which such messages are stated. Such messages are acceptable as long as they are not lewd, vulgar, obscene, defamatory, profane, or do not advocate violence or harassment against others.

When, in the judgment of the administration, a student's appearance or mode of dress interferes with or disrupts the educational process or school activities, or poses a threat to the health or safety of the student or others, the student will be directed to make modifications or may be sent home for the day. All disciplinary issues that relate to this policy will be managed under Policy 506 (student discipline).

- Parents/guardians will be notified.
- Reasonable efforts will be made not to remove a student from class during instructional time.
- Students shall not be required to display their body in front of others as a demonstration of attire fit or appropriateness.

The administration may recommend a form of dress considered appropriate for a specific event and communicate the recommendation to students and parents/guardians.

Likewise, an organized student group may recommend a form of dress for students considered appropriate for a specific event and make such recommendation to the administration for approval.

A complete copy of Bluffview Montessori School's Policy 504, "Student Dress and Appearance", may be obtained on the Bluffview [website](#) or from the front office.

Drug-Free School and Workplace

The possession or ~~and~~ use of alcohol, controlled substances, ~~and~~ toxic substances, medical cannabis, nonintoxicating cannabinoids, and edible cannabinoid products are prohibited at school or in any other school location before, during, or after school hours. Paraphernalia associated with controlled substances also is prohibited. Bluffview Montessori School will discipline or take appropriate action against anyone who violates this policy.

Bluffview Montessori School policy is not violated when a person brings a controlled substance that has a currently accepted medical treatment into a school location for personal use if the person has a physician's prescription for the substance, except marijuana is not allowed on school property even if prescribed. Students who have prescriptions must comply with the school district's "Student Medication and Telehealth" policy. Bluffview Montessori School will provide an instructional program in every elementary and secondary school on chemical abuse and the prevention of chemical dependency.

Harassment and Violence Prohibition

Bluffview Montessori School strives to maintain a learning and working environment free from harassment and violence on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or disability. Detailed information on Bluffview Montessori School's Policy 413, "Harassment and Violence Prohibition", is included in Appendix K.

Hazing Prohibition

Hazing is prohibited. No student will plan, direct, encourage, aid, or engage in hazing. Students who violate this rule will be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Bluffview Montessori School's Policy 503, "Student Discipline". Please see Bluffview Montessori School's Policy 526, "Hazing Prohibition" (*Appendix L*).

Internet Acceptable Use

Bluffview Montessori School students have conditional access to the school's computer system, including Internet access, for limited educational purposes, including use of the system for classroom activities, educational research, and professional and career development. Use of Bluffview Montessori School's system is a privilege, not a right. Unacceptable use of Bluffview Montessori School's computer system or the Internet may result in one or more of the following consequences: suspension or cancellation of use or access privileges; payments for damages and repairs; discipline under other appropriate

Bluffview Montessori School policies, including, but not limited to, suspension, expulsion, or exclusion; or civil or criminal liability under other applicable laws.

A copy of Bluffview Montessori School's policy 524, "Internet, Technology, and Cell Phone Acceptable Use and Safety Policy", is available in the front office or on the school website.

Outside of school, parents bear responsibility for the same guidance of Internet use as they exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, radio, movies, and other possibly offensive media. Parents are responsible for monitoring their student's use of the Bluffview Montessori School system and of the Internet if the student is accessing the Bluffview Montessori School system from home or a remote location.

MN Statutes 13.32 Subd. 1 – Modifies student data privacy protections by defining a "school-issued device", and "technology provider", the requirements on schools to notify parents and students of any programs or contracts with technology providers that deal with student data; the rules that technology providers must follow regarding student data, and what student data government agencies, and service providers cannot access or monitor. See Appendix M for more information.

Bluffview Montessori School must provide parents and students an opportunity to inspect a complete copy of any contract with a technology provider.

7th & 8th grade students will receive a copy of Bluffview Montessori School's "Internet, Technology, and Cell Phone Acceptable Use" policy and are expected to understand and agree to abide by the policy as a condition of use of the school computer system. The Internet Use Agreement form for students must be read and signed by 7th and 8th graders, the parent or guardian, and the supervising teacher. 1st - 6th graders are taught lessons around safe and appropriate use of technology.

Snowballing

Making and throwing snowballs (snowballing) and stones is not permitted on the school premises. The bodily dangers involved and risks of permanent injury are too great.

Tobacco-Free Schools; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction

Bluffview Montessori School students and staff have the right to learn and work in an environment that is tobacco free. School policy is violated by any individual's use of tobacco, tobacco-related devices, or carrying or using activated electronic delivery devices in Bluffview Montessori School, on school grounds, in any school-owned vehicles, or at any school events or activities. Students may not possess any type of tobacco, tobacco-related devices, or electronic delivery devices in Bluffview Montessori School, on school grounds, in any school-owned vehicles, or at any school events or activities. Any student who violates this policy is subject to Bluffview Montessori School discipline. For detailed information on Bluffview Montessori School's Policy 419, "Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related

Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction”, see Appendix N. Contact the Assistant Head of School if you have questions or wish to report violations.

[Note: Specific exceptions to the tobacco prohibition are set out in “Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction” (Policy 419).]

Vandalism

Vandalism of any Bluffview Montessori School property is prohibited. Violators will be disciplined and may be reported to law enforcement officials.

Weapons Prohibition

No person will possess, use, or distribute a weapon when in Bluffview Montessori School except as provided in school policy. A “weapon” means any object, device, or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury including, but not limited to, any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; airguns; pellet guns; BB guns; all knives; blades; clubs; metal knuckles; nunchucks; throwing stars; explosives; fireworks; mace and other propellants; stun guns; ammunition; poisons; chains; arrows; and objects that have been modified to serve as a weapon. A weapon also includes look-alike weapons. Appropriate discipline and action will be taken against any person who violates this policy. Bluffview Montessori School does not allow the possession, use, or distribution of weapons by students. Discipline of students will include, at a minimum: immediate out-of-school suspension; confiscation of the weapon; immediate notification of police; parent or guardian notification; and recommendation to the Head of School of dismissal for a period of time not to exceed one year. The Head of School shall, as soon as practicable, refer to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system, as appropriate, a student who brings a firearm to school unlawfully. A student who brings a firearm to school will be expelled for at least one year, subject to Bluffview Montessori School discretion on a case-by-case basis. A copy of policy 501, “School Weapons Policy”, is available in the front office or on the school [website](#).

PART IV - HEALTH AND SAFETY

Accidents

All student injuries that occur at school, at school-sponsored activities, or on school transportation should be reported to the front office. Parents/guardians of an injured student will be notified as soon as possible. If the student requires immediate medical attention, staff will call 911 or seek emergency medical treatment and then contact the parent(s).

Crisis Management

Bluffview Montessori School has a “Crisis Management” policy. The “Crisis Management” policy addresses a range of potential crisis situations.

Each year, the school conducts various drills for the safety of both staff and students. We are required to conduct several (5) fire drills, lockdown drills (5) and severe weather drills (1) during the course of the year. We also have, as part of our school crisis plan, several procedures in case of a bomb threat, intruder inside our school and for an intruder outside the school. In addition, we have a plan for the evacuation of our school in case of emergencies such as: toxic chemical spill, loss of heat in winter, gas leak or a power loss, among other unforeseen situations.

If staff and students evacuate the building, we will make sure that movement to and from the evacuation site is done in a safe and orderly manner. We will not conduct a drill in unsatisfactory weather. Each of these drills will provide our staff and students the opportunity to become proficient with these necessary procedures. If you have questions, please contact the school office.

If an emergency event occurs and students are not able to return to the school building, the school will inform parents or guardians where their children have been taken for shelter via text messaging system and email. Our designated parent rally point is Sugar Loaf Ford at 1222 W Service Dr. Winona (near the Winona Mall parking lot.) Law enforcement will message reunification procedures to parents. A copy of Policy 806, “Crisis Management Policy”, and our Emergency Plan, is available in the office and on the [website](#).

Health Information

First Aid

The nurse’s office is equipped to handle minor injuries requiring first aid. Assistance can be sought in the front office. If a student experiences a more serious medical emergency at school, 911 will be called and/or a parent/guardian will be contacted depending on the situation.

Bluffview Montessori School has installed an automated external defibrillator (AED) across from the front office. Tampering with the AED is prohibited and may result in discipline.

Illness or Injury at School

If a child has a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or above or is ill or injured, a parent/guardian or other authorized person will be notified. It is the expectation of the school that the child will be picked up from school within 20 minutes or as soon as possible. **It is very important that we have a daytime telephone number where you can be reached.** Please update the office when emergency information changes. The parent/guardian or designated person must come into the school office and sign the child out before the child is permitted to leave school. If a child has a medical or dental appointment, the parent, guardian, or designated person must also come into the school office and sign the child out for the appointment. Under no circumstances, will a child be released from the school building until a parent, guardian, or designated adult signs the child out. The office staff will call the child's classroom when a parent or guardian arrives in the office.

If a parent or guardian feels that their child should not participate in Physical Education class for the day, they must submit a written excuse to the office. A written excuse from a physician is required when a child cannot participate in Physical Education class for more than one day.

Immunizations

All students must have proof of immunization or appropriate documentation exempting them from such immunizations in order to enroll or remain enrolled. Students may be exempted from the immunization requirement when the immunization of the student is contraindicated for medical reasons; laboratory confirmation of adequate immunity exists; or due to the conscientiously held beliefs of the parents/guardians or student. Bluffview Montessori School will maintain a file containing the immunization records for each student in attendance at the school district for at least five years after the student reaches the age of 18. For a copy of the immunization schedule or to obtain an exemption form or information, contact the front office.

Inhalers

Prescription asthma or reactive airway disease medications can be self-administered by a student with an asthma inhaler if:

- Bluffview Montessori School has received a written authorization each school year from the pupil's parent permitting the student to self-administer the medication, along with the ordering provider signature to self administer. Contact the front office for the Medication Authorization Form or go to the school website.
- The child is older than the 5th grade and the school nurse has assessed the student's knowledge and skills to safely possess and use an asthma inhaler in a school setting and enters into the student's school health record a plan to implement safe possession and use of asthma inhalers if needed.
- The inhaler is properly labeled for that student.

Medications

Medications may be given at school, when necessary. Several conditions must be met in order for medications to be given safely:

- The administration of prescription medication at school requires a completed signed request from the student's parent. A "Prescription Medication Authorization Form" must be completed once a year and/or when a change in the prescription or requirements for administration occurs. (Obtaining a physician's order often does not require a doctor's visit.) The order may be faxed to school (507-452-6869). Contact the front office for the Prescription Medication Authorization Form or go to the school [website](#).
- All prescription medications must be in the original labeled container. Local pharmacies will provide a second labeled container at no charge. Over-the-counter medications must be in the original box.
- An adult must bring medications to the school.
- Medications (other than inhalers) must be administered by the school Nurse or other designated employees.
- Nonprescription medications such as Tylenol, Advil, Aspirin, and other "over the counter" medications may not be carried at school by students. To receive "over the counter" medications, a Non-Prescription Medications Permission Form must be completed by the parent/guardian on an annual (every year) basis. The school may then administer such medications in accordance with dosage, frequency, age, etc. as indicated by the medication label.
- When students go on field trips sponsored by school, physician orders and parent permission are still necessary. (Keep in mind all medications usually taken at home that will need to go on overnight field trips.)
- Marijuana is not allowed on school property even if prescribed.

Student Health Program and Information

The Bluffview Montessori School student health program follows state and local guidelines. To help your child succeed in school, please ensure that your child gets regular and adequate sleep, exercise, and a balanced diet.

When your child has contacted a communicable disease, please notify the school immediately. Such diseases include: Covid-19, AIDS, chicken pox, monkeypox, whooping cough, fifth's disease, lice, measles, meningitis, mumps and pink eye.

If your child has a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or above, rash, diarrhea, vomiting, or a cough with a fever, please keep him/her home. For information about when to keep your child home, see the Bluffview [website](#). Children who have been vomiting may not attend school for 24 hours. Children need to be fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medication) in order to return to school. If you do not have a thermometer at home, signs and symptoms that may indicate your child has a fever include chills, feeling very warm to the touch, having a flushed appearance, or sweating.

Strep throat must be treated with an antibiotic for 12 hours before your child returns to school. Often a day at home and bed rest will prevent more serious illness and encourage more rapid recovery.

A parent/guardian should notify the school if his/her child is unable to attend school because of illness. Contact the front office at 507-452-2807, or by emailing jzieman@bluffviewmontessori.org.

Vision & hearing screening is done in the fall for K, 1st, 3rd, 5th, & 7th graders, and any new students. Any concerns are communicated with parents.

A cooperative effort between parents and school health services helps promote good health for all students. Please do not hesitate to email the school nurse at any time with your questions or information regarding your child's health.

Suicide Prevention Information

Protecting the health and well being of all students is of utmost importance. Contact information for suicide prevention and crisis helplines are below:

- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline - 988
- Crisis Text line - Text HOME to 741741
- Hiawatha Valley Crisis Line - 1-844-CRISIS2 (1-844-274-7472)

Indoor Air Quality Plan

Bluffview Montessori School has developed an Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Plan. A copy of this plan can be found in the front office and is available on the [website](#).

Pesticide Application Notice

Bluffview Montessori School may plan to apply pesticide(s) on school property. To the extent Bluffview Montessori School applies certain pesticides, Bluffview Montessori School will provide a notice by September 15 as to the plan to use these pesticides. A parent may request to be notified prior to the application of certain pesticides on days different from those specified in the notice. Additional information regarding what pesticides are used, an estimated schedule of pesticide applications (which will be available for review or copying at the school office), and the long-term health effects of the class of pesticide on children can be requested by contacting Henry Schantzen, Head of School, at hschantzen@bluffviewmontessori.org or 507-452-2807.

Security

In order to keep the school building secure, all doors are locked during school hours. Please ring the doorbell at the front entrance to gain admittance. All visitors must check in at the school office and receive a visitor or volunteer badge.

Visitors

We encourage interest on the part of parents and community members in our school programs and student activities. Therefore, we welcome visits to school provided the visits are consistent with the health, education and safety of students and employees and are conducted within the procedures and requirements of the school. We recognize the importance of maintaining an environment that is safe for students and staff and free of activity that may be disruptive to the student learning process or employee working environment.

Parents or guardians are welcome to visit Bluffview Montessori School at any time. In order to maintain the integrity of our Montessori program and protect the student work cycles, classroom observations will be limited to one adult (at a time) per environment. Observations may be scheduled between October and April of each school year. Please call the school office to make arrangements to visit.

As the safety of our students is our highest priority, Bluffview Montessori School utilizes RAPTOR to screen visitors. RAPTOR is a visitor registration system that enhances school security by reading visitor drivers' licenses, comparing information to a sex offender database, alerting building administrators if a match is found, then (assuming no match was made) printing a visitor badge that includes a photo.

- All visitors must present themselves to the office to gain permission and a visitor's identification badge in order to enter the school building. On the first visit, a driver's license will be requested. On subsequent visits, an identification badge can be printed without a driver's license.
- Bluffview employees must courteously approach any visitor without a visitor's identification badge and direct him/her to the school office
- If deemed necessary by the Head of School, a visitor may be required to be accompanied by an escort while in the school building.
- Permission shall be required only during times when school is in session, which includes afterschool activities and shall be for the purpose of preventing interruption of normal school functions.

Bluffview Montessori 2025-2026 School Calendar

KEY	
	Conferences
	First Day of School
	End of Term
	No School
	No Students: Teacher Workshop

August 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2025						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2025						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2025						
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28	29	30	31			

January 2026						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026						
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March 2026						
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29	30	31				

April 2026						
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May 2026						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Appendix B – Incident Report

Bluffview Montessori School

CS 4001 Winona MN

Incident Report

Today's Date: _____

Name of person completing this form: _____

Individual involved: _____

Date of incident: _____

If this involves an interaction between you and the named individual, have you made an attempt to resolve the dispute?

☐ YES

☐ NO

(Please explain your answer below.)

If this involves an interaction between you and the named individual, are you open to meeting jointly with the administration and the employee to resolve the problem?

☐ YES

☐ NO

Describe the incident:

(Please attach additional pages as necessary.)

For Administrative use only

Disposition:

☐ Resolved with reporting party ☐ Resolved with offending party Planned

☐ action: _____

This report shall be maintained in the administrator's file for one (1) year.

Administrator Signature

Date

Reviewed by Board Chair

Date

Appendix C - School Meals Policy

POLICY 534 SCHOOL MEALS POLICY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students receive healthy and nutritious meals through Bluffview Montessori School's nutrition program and that Bluffview Montessori School employees, families, and students have a shared understanding of expectations regarding meal charges. The policy seeks to allow students to receive the nutrition they need to stay focused during the school day and minimize identification of students with insufficient funds to pay for a la carte items or second meals as well as to maintain the financial integrity of the school nutrition program.

II. PAYMENT OF MEALS

- A. Students/families have use of a meal account. Only a la carte or second meals will be charged. When the balance becomes low, a notification is sent home. Parents can make a payment in the school office or online.

If Bluffview Montessori School participates in the United States Department of Agriculture National School Lunch program and has an Identified Student Percentage below the federal percentage determined for all meals to be reimbursed at the free rate via the Community Eligibility Provision must participate in the free school meals program.

B. Free School Meals Program

1. The free school meals program is created within the Minnesota Department of Education.
2. Each school that participates in the United States Department of Agriculture National School Lunch program and has an Identified Student Percentage at or above the federal percentage determined for all meals to be reimbursed at the free rate must participate in the federal Community Eligibility Provision in order to participate in the free school meals program.
3. Each school that participates in the free school meals program must:
 - a. participate in the United States Department of Agriculture School Breakfast Program and the United States Department of Agriculture National School Lunch Program; and
 - b. provide to all students at no cost up to two federally reimbursable meals per school day, with a maximum of one free breakfast and one free lunch.

- c. A student who has been determined eligible for free and reduced-price meals must always be served a reimbursable meal even if the student has an outstanding debt.
- C. Siblings share the same monetary account.
- D. A student may purchase a second breakfast at the nonprogram price if the student has already selected a reimbursable breakfast.
- E. A student may purchase a second lunch at the nonprogram price if the student has already selected a reimbursable lunch.

III. LOW OR NEGATIVE ACCOUNT BALANCES – NOTIFICATION

- A. Bluffview Montessori School will make reasonable efforts to notify families when meal account balances are low or fall below zero.
- B. Families will be notified of a low balance once the balance reaches \$6. Families will be notified by email or letter.
- C. Reminders for payment of outstanding student meal balances will not demean or stigmatize any student participating in the school lunch program. A meal will not be taken away from a student with an overdrawn account. Students will receive a fully reimbursable meal in this instance as well, not a reduced meal or a substitution.

IV. UNPAID MEAL CHARGES

- A. Bluffview Montessori School will make reasonable efforts to communicate with families to resolve the matter of unpaid charges. Where appropriate, families may be encouraged to apply for free or reduced-price meals for their children.
- B. Bluffview Montessori School will make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt. Unpaid meal charges are designated as delinquent debt when payment is overdue, the debt is considered collectable, and efforts are being made to collect it.
- C. Negative balances not paid prior to the end of the school year, will be turned over to the Head of School or Head of School's designee for collection. Collection options may include, but are not limited to, use of collection agencies, claims in the conciliation court, or any other legal method permitted by law.
- D. Bluffview Montessori School may not enlist the assistance of non Bluffview Montessori School employees, such as volunteers, to engage in debt collection efforts.
- E. Bluffview Montessori School may not deny any student the opportunity to participate in bridging ceremonies or other end of the year activities due to unpaid meal charges.

V. COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

- A. This policy and any pertinent supporting information shall be provided in writing (i.e., mail, email, back-to-school packet, student handbook, etc.) to:
 - 1. all households at or before the start of each school year;
 - 2. students and families who transfer to Bluffview Montessori School, at the time of enrollment; and
 - 3. all Bluffview Montessori School personnel who are responsible for enforcing this policy.
- B. Bluffview Montessori School may post the policy on the Bluffview Montessori School's website, in addition to providing the required written notification described above.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 124D.111, Subd. 4
42 U.S.C. § 1751 *et seq.* (Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act)
7 C.F.R. § 210 *et seq.* (School Lunch Program Regulations)
C.F.R. § 220.8 (School Breakfast Program Regulations)
USDA Policy Memorandum SP 46-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Local Meal Charge Policies (2016)
USDA Policy Memorandum SP 47-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Clarification on Collection of Delinquent Meal Payments (2016)
USDA Policy Memorandum SP 23-2017, Unpaid Meal Charges: Guidance and Q&A
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 169j (May 14, 2019) (*Letter to Ricker*)

Appendix D – Distribution of Nonschool-Sponsored Materials

POLICY 505

DISTRIBUTION OF NONSCHOOL-SPONSORED MATERIALS ON SCHOOL PREMISES BY STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to protect the exercise of students' and employees' free speech rights, taking into consideration the educational objectives and responsibilities of Bluffview Montessori School.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. Bluffview Montessori School recognizes that students and employees have the right to express themselves on school property. This protection includes the right to distribute, at a reasonable time and place and in a reasonable manner, nonschool-sponsored material.
- B. To protect First Amendment rights, while at the same time preserving the integrity of the educational objectives and responsibilities of Bluffview Montessori School, the school board adopts the following regulations and procedures regarding distribution of nonschool-sponsored material on school property and at school activities.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Distribute" or "Distribution" means circulation or dissemination of material by means of handing out free copies, selling or offering copies for sale, accepting donations for copies, posting or displaying material, or placing material in internal staff or student mailboxes.
- B. "Non school-sponsored material" or "unofficial material" includes all materials or objects intended for distribution, except school newspapers, employee newsletters, literary magazines, yearbooks, and other publications funded and/or sponsored or authorized by the school. Examples of nonschool-sponsored materials include, but are not limited to, leaflets, brochures, buttons, badges, flyers, petitions, posters, and underground newspapers whether written by students or employees or others, and tangible objects.
- C. "Obscene to minors" means:
 - 1. The average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the material, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest of minors of the age to whom distribution is requested;
 - 2. The material depicts or describes, in a manner that is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community concerning how such conduct should be presented to minors of the age to whom distribution is requested, sexual conduct such as intimate sexual acts (normal or perverted), masturbation, excretory functions, or lewd exhibition of the genitals; and

3. The material, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.
- D. “Minor” means any person under the age of eighteen (18).
- E. “Material and substantial disruption” of a normal school activity means:
1. Where the normal school activity is an educational program of Bluffview Montessori School for which student attendance is compulsory, “material and substantial disruption” is defined as any disruption which interferes with or impedes the implementation of that program.
 2. Where the normal school activity is voluntary in nature (including school athletic events, school plays and concerts, and lunch periods) “material and substantial disruption” is defined as student rioting, unlawful seizures of property, conduct inappropriate to the event, participation in a school boycott, demonstration, sit-in, stand-in, walk-out, or other related forms of activity.

In order for expression to be considered disruptive, specific facts must exist upon which the likelihood of disruption can be forecast including past experience in the school, current events influencing student activities and behavior, and instances of actual or threatened disruption relating to the written material in question.

- F. “School activities” means any activity sponsored by the school including, but not limited to, classroom work, library activities, physical education classes, official assemblies and other similar gatherings, school athletic contests, band concerts, school plays and other theatrical productions, and in-school lunch periods.
- G. “Libelous” is a false and unprivileged statement about a specific individual that tends to harm the individual’s reputation or to lower that individual in the esteem of the community.

IV. GUIDELINES

- A. Students and employees of Bluffview Montessori School have the right to distribute, at reasonable times and places as set forth in this policy, and in a reasonable manner, nonschool-sponsored material.
- B. Requests for distribution of nonschool-sponsored material will be reviewed by the administration on a case-by-case basis. However, distribution of the materials listed below is always prohibited. Material is prohibited that:
1. is obscene to minors;
 2. is libelous or slanderous;
 3. is pervasively indecent or vulgar or contains any indecent or vulgar language or representations, with a determination made as to the appropriateness of the material for the age level of students to which it is intended;

4. advertises or promotes any product or service not permitted to minors by law;
5. advocates violence or other illegal conduct;
6. constitutes insulting or fighting words, the very expression of which injures or harasses other people (e.g., threats of violence, defamation of character or of a person's race, religious, or ethnic origin);
7. presents a clear and present likelihood that, either because of its content or the manner of distribution, it will cause a material and substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities, will cause the commission of unlawful acts or the violation of lawful school regulations.

C. Distribution by students and employees of nonschool-sponsored materials on Bluffview Montessori School property are subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions set forth below. In making decisions regarding the time, place, and manner of distribution, the administration will consider factors including, but not limited to, the following:

1. whether the material is educationally related;
2. the extent to which distribution is likely to cause disruption of or interference with Bluffview Montessori School's educational objectives, discipline, or school activities;
3. whether the materials can be distributed from the office or other isolated location so as to minimize disruption of traffic flow in hallways;
4. the quantity or size of materials to be distributed;
5. whether distribution would require assignment of Bluffview Montessori School staff, use of Bluffview Montessori School equipment, or other resources;
6. whether distribution would require that nonschool persons be present on the school grounds;
7. whether the materials are a solicitation for goods or services not requested by the recipients.

V. TIME, PLACE, AND MANNER OF DISTRIBUTION

- A. No non school-sponsored material shall be distributed during and at the place of a normal school activity if it is reasonably likely to cause a material and substantial disruption of that activity.
- B. Distribution of nonschool-sponsored material is prohibited when it blocks the safe flow of traffic within corridors and entrance ways of the school, and school parking lots. Distribution shall not impede entrance to or exit from school premises in any way.

- C. No one shall coerce a student or staff member to accept any publication.
- D. The time, place, and manner of distribution will be solely within the discretion of the administration, consistent with the provisions of this policy.

VI. PROCEDURES

- A. Any student or employee wishing to distribute (as defined in this policy) non school-sponsored material must first submit for approval a copy of the material to the Assistant Head of School at least 24 hours in advance of desired distribution time, together with the following information:
 - 1. Name and phone number of the person submitting the request and, if a student, the room number of his or her class.
 - 2. Date(s) and time(s) of day intended for distribution.
 - 3. Location where material will be distributed.
 - 4. If material is intended for students, the grade(s) of students to whom the distribution is intended.
- B. Within one school day, the Assistant Head of School will review the request and render a decision. In the event that permission to distribute the material is denied or limited, the person submitting the request should be informed in writing of the reasons for the denial or limitation.
- C. If the person submitting the request does not receive a response within one school day, the person shall contact the office to verify that the lack of response was not due to an inability to locate the person.
- D. If the person is dissatisfied with the decision of the Assistant Head of School, the person may submit a written request for appeal to the Head of School. If the person does not receive a response within three (3) school days (not counting Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) of submitting the appeal, the person shall contact the office of the Head of School to verify that the lack of response is not due to an inability to locate the person.
- E. Permission or denial of permission to distribute material does not imply approval or disapproval of its contents by either the school, the administration of the school, the school board, or the individual reviewing the material submitted.

VII. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- A. Distribution by any student of nonschool-sponsored material prohibited herein or in violation of the provisions of time, place, and manner of distribution as described above will be halted and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with Bluffview Montessori School's Policy 506 (Student Discipline and Notice of Suspension).

- B. Distribution by any employee of nonschool-sponsored material prohibited herein or in violation of the provisions of time, place, and manner of distribution as described above will be halted and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken, in accordance with any individual contract, collective bargaining agreement, Bluffview Montessori School policies and procedures, and/or governing statute.
- C. Any other party violating this policy will be requested to leave the school property immediately and, if necessary, the police will be called.

Appendix E – Student Records (See Policy 515)

STATEMENT OF RIGHTS

A. Rights of Parents and Eligible Students

Parents and eligible students have the following rights under this policy:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records;
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights;
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that such consent is not required for disclosure pursuant to this policy, state or federal law, or the regulations promulgated thereunder;
4. The right to refuse release of names, addresses, and home telephone numbers of students in grades 11 and 12 to military recruiting officers and post-secondary educational institutions;
5. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school district to comply with the federal law and the regulations promulgated thereunder;
6. The right to be informed about rights under the federal law; and
7. The right to obtain a copy of this policy at the location set forth in Section XXI. of this policy.

B. Eligible Students

All rights and protections given to parents under this policy transfer to the student when he or she reaches eighteen (18) years of age or enrolls in an institution of post-secondary education. The student then becomes an "eligible student." However, the parents of an eligible student who is also a "dependent student" are entitled to gain access to the education records of such student without first obtaining the consent of the student. In addition, parents of an eligible student may be given access to education records in connection with a health or safety emergency if the disclosure meets the conditions of any provision set forth in 34 Code of Federal Regulations, section 99.31(a).

C. Students with a Disability

Bluffview Montessori School shall follow 34 Code of Federal Regulations, sections 300.610-300.617 with regard to the privacy, notice, access, recordkeeping, and accuracy of information related to students with a disability. Bluffview Montessori School shall provide for the need to effectively notify parents or eligible students with a disability.

Bluffview Montessori School shall give parents of students currently in attendance and eligible students currently in attendance annual notice by such means as are reasonably likely to inform the

parents and eligible students of the following:

D. Annual Notification of Rights

1. Bluffview Montessori School shall permit the parent of a student, an eligible student, or the parent of an eligible student who is also a dependent student who is or has been in attendance in Bluffview Montessori School to inspect or review the education records of the student, except those records which are made confidential by state or federal law or as otherwise provided in Section VIII. of this policy.

Bluffview Montessori School shall respond to any request pursuant to Subdivision A. of this section immediately, if possible, or within ten (10) days of the date of the request, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.

2. Bluffview Montessori School shall respond to any request pursuant to Subdivision A. of this section immediately, if possible, or within ten (10) days of the date of the request, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.
3. That the parent or eligible student has a right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that federal and state law and the regulations promulgated thereunder authorize disclosure without consent;
4. That Bluffview Montessori School may disclose education records to other school officials within Bluffview Montessori School if Bluffview Montessori School has determined they have legitimate educational interests. For purposes of such disclosure, a "school official" is a person employed by Bluffview Montessori School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or other employee; a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom Bluffview Montessori School has consulted to perform a specific task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, public information officer, or data practices compliance official); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or any individual assisting a school official in the performance of his or her tasks. A school official has a "legitimate educational interest" if the individual needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility and includes, but is not limited to, an interest directly related to classroom instruction, teaching, student achievement and progress, discipline of a student, and student health and welfare and the ability to respond to a request for educational data;
5. That Bluffview Montessori School forwards education records on request to a school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled as long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer and that such records may include suspension and expulsion records pursuant to the federal Every Student Succeeds Act and, if applicable, a student's history of violent behavior.
6. That the parent or eligible student has a right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education regarding an alleged failure by Bluffview Montessori School to comply with the requirements of 20 U.S.C. § 1232g and the rules promulgated thereunder. The name and address of the office that administers the

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act is:

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

7. The school district shall provide for the need to effectively notify parents of students identified as having a primary or home language other than English.
8. That the parent or eligible student has a right to obtain a copy of Bluffview Montessori School's policy regarding the protection and privacy of pupil records; and
9. That copies of Bluffview Montessori School's policy regarding the protection and privacy of school records are located in the school office.

Directory Information

Pursuant to applicable law, Bluffview Montessori School gives notice to parents of students currently in attendance in Bluffview Montessori School, and eligible students currently in attendance in Bluffview Montessori School, of their rights regarding "directory information."

Under federal law, "directory information" means information contained in an education record of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. It includes the student's name; address; telephone listing; electronic mail address; photograph; date and place of birth; major field of study; dates of attendance; grade level; enrollment status (i.e., full-time or part-time); participation in officially recognized activities and sports; degrees, honors and awards received; and the most recent educational agency or institution attended. It also includes the name, address, and telephone number of the student's parent(s). Directory information does not include:

1. a student's social security number;
2. a student's identification number (ID), user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by a student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems if the identifier may be used to access education records without use of one or more factors that authenticate the student's identity such as a personal identification number (PIN), password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user;
3. a student ID or other unique personal identifier that is displayed on a student ID badge if the identifier can be used to gain access to educational records when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the student's identity, such as a PIN, password, or other factor known or possessed only by the student;
4. personally identifiable data which references religion, race, color, social position, or nationality; or
5. data collected from nonpublic school students, other than those who receive shared time educational services, unless written consent is given by the student's parent or guardian.

Under Minnesota law, Bluffview Montessori School may not designate a student's home address, telephone number, email address, or other personal contact information as "directory information."

1. The directory information listed above shall be public information which Bluffview Montessori School may disclose from the education records of a student or information regarding a parent.
2. Should the parent of a student or the student so desire, any or all of the listed information will not be disclosed without the parent's or eligible student's prior written consent except to school officials as provided under federal law.
3. In order to make any or all of the directory information listed above "private" (i.e., subject to consent prior to disclosure), the parent or eligible student must make a written request to the building principal within thirty (30) days after the date of the last publication of this notice. This written request must include the following information:
 - Name of student and parent, as appropriate;
 - Home address;
 - School presently attended by student;
 - Parent's legal relationship to student, if applicable;
 - Specific category or categories of directory information which is not to be made public without the parent's or eligible student's prior written consent.

Appendix F – Student Surveys

Bluffview Montessori School gives notice to parents of students currently in attendance in Bluffview Montessori School, and students currently in attendance in Bluffview Montessori School, of their rights regarding the conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical examinations.

1. Parents, eligible students, and students are hereby informed that they have the following rights:
 - a. All instructional materials, including teacher's manuals, films, tapes, or other supplementary material which will be used in connection with any survey, analysis, or evaluation as part of any program funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education, shall be available for inspection by the parents or guardians of the students.
 - b. No student shall be required, as part of any program funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education, without the prior consent of the student (if the student is an adult or emancipated minor), or, in the case of an unemancipated minor, without the prior written consent of the parent, to submit to a survey that reveals information concerning:
 - (1) political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
 - (2) mental and psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
 - (3) sex behavior or attitudes;
 - (4) illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
 - (5) critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
 - (6) legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
 - (7) religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent; or
 - (8) income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).
 - c. A parent, on behalf of a student or an eligible student, has the right to receive notice and an opportunity to opt the student out of participating in:
 - (1) Activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information, or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose.
 - (2) The administration of any third-party survey (non-Department of Education

funded) containing one or more of the items contained in 1.b., above.

- (3) Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student or other students.
- d. This notice does not preempt applicable state law that may require parental notification.
- e. Bluffview Montessori School has developed and adopted a policy regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes.
- f. Bluffview Montessori School will directly notify parents and eligible students of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes.
- g. Bluffview Montessori School will directly notify parents and eligible students, at least annually at the start of each school year or, if scheduled thereafter, parents will be provided with reasonable notice of the specific or approximate dates of the following activities and provide an opportunity to opt a student out of participating in:
 - (1) Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution.
 - (2) Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education.
 - (3) Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents/eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

U.S. Department of Education
Student Privacy Policy Office
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202-8520

If you wish to review any survey instrument or instructional material used in connection with any protected information or marketing survey, please submit a request to the Head of School. The Head of School will notify you of the time and place where you may review these materials. You have the right to review a survey and/or instructional materials before the survey is administered to a student.

Appendix G – Parent/Guardian Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Assessments



Statewide Assessments:

Parent/Guardian Participation Guide and Refusal Information

Your student's participation in statewide assessments is important as it allows your school and district to ensure all students have access to a high-quality education. In the past, students with disabilities and English learners were often excluded from statewide assessments. By requiring that all students take statewide assessments, schools and teachers have more information to see how all students are doing. This helps schools to continuously improve the education they provide and to identify groups, grades, or subjects that may need additional support.

Assessments Connect to Standards

Statewide assessments are based on the [Minnesota Academic Standards](#) or the [WIDA English Language Development Standards](#). These standards define the knowledge and skills students should be learning in K–12 districts and charter schools. Minnesota prioritizes high-quality education and statewide assessments give educators and leaders an opportunity to evaluate student and school success.

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA)

MCA and the alternate assessments (Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS)/Alternate MCA) are the annual assessments in reading, mathematics and science that measure a snapshot of student learning of the Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards.

WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS for English Learners

The WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS are the annual assessments for English learners that provide information about their progress in learning academic English, based on the WIDA English Language Development Standards.

Statewide Assessments Help Families and Students

Participating in statewide assessments gives families a snapshot of their student's learning so they can advocate for their success in school. High school students can use MCA results for:

- Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) in grade 10.
- Course placement at a Minnesota State college or university. If students receive a college-ready score, they may not need to take a remedial, noncredit course for that subject.

English learners who take the WIDA ACCESS or WIDA Alternate ACCESS and meet certain requirements have the opportunity to exit from English learner programs.

Taking Statewide Assessments Helps Your Student's School

Statewide assessments provide information to your school and district about how all students are engaging with the content they learn in school. This information helps:

- Educators evaluate their instructional materials.
- Schools and districts identify inequities between groups, explore root causes and implement supports.
- School and district leaders make decisions on how to use money and resources to support all students.

Student Participation in Statewide Assessments

Student participation in state and locally required assessments is a parent/guardian choice. If you choose to have your student not participate in a statewide assessment, please provide a reason for your decision on the form on the following page. Contact your student's school to learn more about locally required assessments.

Updated March 2025

Consequences of Not Participating in Statewide Assessments

- The student will not receive an individual score. For WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS, the student will not have the opportunity to exit their English learner program.
- School and district assessment results will be incomplete, making it more difficult to have an accurate picture of student learning.
- Since all eligible students are included in some calculations even when they do not participate, school and district accountability results are impacted. This may affect the school's ability to be identified for support or recognized for success.

Explore the
[Statewide
Testing page](#)
for more
information.

Check with your local school or district to see if there are any additional consequences for not participating.

(education.mn.gov > Students and Families > Programs and Initiatives > Statewide Testing)

Additional Information

- On average, students spend less than 1% of instructional time taking statewide assessments each year.
- Minnesota statutes limit the total amount of time students can spend taking other district- or school-wide assessments to 11 hours or less each school year, depending on the grade.
- School districts and charter schools are required to publish an assessment calendar on their website by the October 1 each school year. Refer to your district or charter school's website for more information on assessments.

Statewide Assessments: Parent/Guardian Decision Not to Participate

By completing this form, you are acknowledging that your student will not participate in statewide assessments and will not receive individual assessment results. This form must be submitted to your student's school or district office prior to testing.

First Name:	<input type="text"/>	Middle Initial:	<input type="text"/>	Last Name:	<input type="text"/>
Date of Birth:	<input type="text"/>	Current Grade in School:	<input type="text"/>	Student ID Number (if known):	<input type="text"/>
School:	<input type="text"/>		District:	<input type="text"/>	
Parent/Guardian Name (print):	<input type="text"/>				
Parent/Guardian Signature:	<input type="text"/>			Date:	<input type="text"/>
Reason for Refusal:	<input type="text"/>				

Please indicate the statewide assessment(s) you are opting your student out of this school year:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading MCA/Alternate MCA | <input type="checkbox"/> Science MCA/Alternate MCA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics MCA/MTAS | <input type="checkbox"/> WIDA ACCESS/WIDA Alternate ACCESS |

Contact your school or district for more information on how to opt out of local assessments.

(Note: This form is only applicable for the 20 to 20 school year.)

Updated March 2025

Appendix H – Student Attendance

BLUFFVIEW MONTESSORI SCHOOL POLICY 503 STUDENT ATTENDANCE

I. PURPOSE

- A. The school board believes that regular school attendance is directly related to success in academic work, benefits students socially, provides opportunities for important communications between teachers and students, and establishes regular habits of dependability important to the future of the student. The purpose of this policy is to encourage regular school attendance. It is intended to be positive and not punitive.
- B. This policy also recognizes that class attendance is a joint responsibility to be shared by the student, parent or guardian, teacher, and administrators. This policy will assist students in attending class.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Responsibilities

1. Student's Responsibility

It is the student's right to be in school. It is also the student's responsibility to attend all assigned classes and study halls every day that school is in session and to be aware of and follow the correct procedures when absent from an assigned class or study hall. Finally, it is the student's responsibility to request any missed assignments due to an absence.

2. Parent or Guardian's Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian to ensure the student is attending school, to inform the school in the event of a student absence, and to work cooperatively with the school and the student to solve any attendance problems that may arise.

3. Teacher's Responsibility

It is the teacher's responsibility to take daily attendance and to maintain accurate attendance records in each assigned class. It is also the teacher's responsibility to be familiar with all procedures governing attendance and to apply these procedures uniformly. It is also the teacher's responsibility to provide any student who has been absent with any missed assignments upon request. Finally, it is the teacher's responsibility to work cooperatively with the student's parent or guardian and the student to solve any attendance problems that may arise.

4. Administrator's Responsibility

- a. It is the administrator's responsibility to require students to attend

all assigned classes. It is also the administrator's responsibility to be familiar with all procedures governing attendance and to apply these procedures uniformly to all students, to maintain accurate records on student attendance, and to prepare a list of the previous day's absences stating the status of each. Finally, it is the administrator's responsibility to inform the student's parent or guardian of the student's attendance and to work cooperatively with them and the student to solve attendance problems.

- b. In accordance with the Minnesota Compulsory Instruction Law, Minnesota Statute Section 120A.22, the students of Bluffview Montessori School are REQUIRED to attend all assigned classes and/or study halls every day school is in session, unless the student has been excused by the school board from attendance because the student has already completed state and Bluffview Montessori School standards required to graduate from high school, has withdrawn, or has a valid excuse for absence.

B. Attendance Procedures

Attendance procedures shall be presented to the school board for review and approval. When approved by the school board, the attendance procedures will be included as an addendum to this policy.

1. Excused Absences

- a. A parent, guardian, or other person having control of a child may apply to Bluffview Montessori School to have the child excused from attendance for the whole or any part of the time school is in session during any school year. Application may be made to attendance personnel, the Head of School, or the Assistant Head of School. A note from a physician or a licensed mental health professional stating that the child cannot attend school is a valid excuse.
- b. To be considered an excused absence, the student's parent or legal guardian may be asked to verify, in writing, the reason for the student's absence from school. A note from a physician or a licensed mental health professional stating that the student cannot attend school is a valid excuse. Excuses must be received within two (2) business days or they will be recorded as unexcused absences.

c. Legitimate Exceptions

The following reasons shall be sufficient to constitute excused absences:

- (1) that the child's physical or mental health is such as to prevent attendance at school or application to study for the period required, which includes:

- (a) child illness, medical, dental, orthodontic, or counseling appointments; including appointments conducted through telehealth;
 - (b) family emergencies;
 - (c) the death or serious illness or funeral of an immediate family member;
 - (d) active duty in any military branch of the United States;
 - (e) the child has a condition that requires ongoing treatment for a mental health diagnosis; or
 - (f) court appearances occasioned by family or personal action;
 - (g) physical emergency conditions such as fire, flood, storm, etc;
 - (h) official school field trip, other school-sponsored outing, or extracurricular activity non school related;
 - (i) removal of a student pursuant to a suspension. Suspensions are to be handled as excused absences and students will be permitted to complete make-up work;
 - (j) impassable roads or weather making travel unsafe;
 - (k) five (5) days maximum for vacation purposes. (Requests must be in writing and submitted to a school administrator prior to vacation);
 - (l) any and all directed quarantines or isolations in following MDH guidelines;
 - (m) observation of religious holidays.
- (2) that the child has already completed state and Bluffview Montessori School standards required; or
 - (3) that it is the wish of the parent, guardian, or other person having control of the child, that the child attend for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate three hours in any week, instruction conducted by a Tribal spiritual or cultural advisor, or a school for religious instruction conducted and maintained by a church, or

association of churches, or any Sunday school association incorporated under the laws of this state, or any auxiliary thereof. This instruction must be conducted and maintained in a place other than a public school building, and it must not, in whole or in part, be conducted and maintained at public expense. A child may be absent from school on days that the child attends upon instruction according to this clause.

d. Consequences of Excused Absences

- (1) Students whose absences are excused are required to make up all assignments missed or to complete alternative assignments as deemed appropriate by the classroom teacher.
- (2) Upon returning to school, work missed because of absence must be made up within a time frame deemed acceptable by the teacher. Any work not completed within this period shall result in “no credit” for the missed assignment. However, the Head of School or the classroom teacher may extend the time allowed for completion of make-up work in the case of an extended illness or other extenuating circumstances.

2. Unexcused Absences

a. The following are examples of absences which will not be excused:

- (1) Truancy. An absence by a student which was not approved by the parent and/or the school district.
- (2) Any absence in which the student failed to comply with any reporting requirements of the school district’s attendance procedures.
- (3) Work at home.
- (4) Work at a business, except under a school-sponsored work release program.
- (5) Vacations with family that exceed 5 school days or are not excused by administration before the absences occur.
- (6) Personal trips to schools or colleges.
- (7) Any other absence not included under the attendance procedures set out in this policy. Other absences considered unexcused may include, but are not limited to:
 - (1) visiting relatives/friends
 - (2) overslept
 - (3) hunting

(4) child is not immunized (5) helping at home (6) work (7) too tired (8) missed the bus (9) cold weather (10) shopping (11) staying home to care for a family member.

b. Consequences of Unexcused Absences

- (1) Absences resulting from official suspension will be handled in accordance with the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minnesota Statutes Sections 121A.40-121A.56.
- (2) Days during which a student is suspended from school shall not be counted in a student's total accumulated unexcused absences.
- (3) In cases of recurring unexcused absences, the administration may also request the county attorney to file a petition with the juvenile court, pursuant to Minnesota statutes.
- (4) Students with unexcused absences shall be subject to discipline in the following manner:

Number of Unexcused Absences Within School Year (2 half days will equal 1 full day)	School's Response
3	School Official to contact parent by phone or letter
5	The Attendance Personnel may refer parent/guardian and student to Winona County Restorative Justice Program (grades 7-12)
7	The Attendance Personnel may file educational neglect or truancy charges against the parent/guardian and juvenile.

C. Tardiness

1. Definition: Students are expected to be in their assigned area at designated times. Failure to do so constitutes tardiness.
2. Procedures for Reporting Tardiness
 - a. Students tardy at the start of school must report to the school office.

- b. At 8:05, a tardy will be recorded as a half day absence.

3. Excused Tardiness

Valid excuses for tardiness are:

- a. Illness.
- b. Serious illness in the student's immediate family.
- c. A death or funeral in the student's immediate family or of a close friend or relative.
- d. Medical, dental, orthodontic, or mental health treatment.
- e. Court appearances occasioned by family or personal action.
- f. Physical emergency conditions such as fire, flood, storm, etc.
- g. Any tardiness for which the student has been excused in writing by an administrator or faculty member.

4. Unexcused Tardiness

- a. An unexcused tardiness is failing to be in an assigned area at the designated time class period commences without a valid excuse.
- b. Elementary students with unexcused tardies shall be subject to consequences in the following manner:

Number of Unexcused Tardies	School's Response
5 within a month	School Official to contact parent by phone or letter
7 within a month	A parent conference will be held with the Head of School and or/Attendance Personnel
9 within a month	The Attendance Personnel may refer parent/guardian and student to Winona County, (507) 457-6500
30 within a school year	The Attendance Personnel may refer parent/guardian and student to Winona County, (507) 457-6500

- c. Middle school and high school students with unexcused tardies shall be subject to consequences in the following manner:

Number of Unexcused Tardies	School's Response
5 within a month	School Official to contact parent by phone or letter
7 within a month	A parent conference will be held with the Head of School and or/Attendance Personnel

D. Participation in Extracurricular Activities and School-Sponsored On-the-Job Training Programs

1. This policy applies to all students involved in any extracurricular activity scheduled either during or outside the school day and any school-sponsored on-the-job training programs.
2. School-initiated absences will be accepted and participation permitted.
3. A student may not participate in any activity or program if he or she has an unexcused absence from any class during the day.
4. If a student is suspended from any class, he or she may not participate in any activity or program that day.
5. A student must be present in school for the entire day in order to participate in any extracurricular activity and/or school-sponsored on-the-job training program, unless excused per medical or court reason, he/she must present a written statement clearing the student for participation that day.

III. RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL OBSERVANCE ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable efforts will be made by the school district to accommodate any student who wishes to be excused from a curricular activity for a religious or cultural observance as provided under Policy 609. Requests for accommodations should be directed to the Head of School.

IV. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

- A. Copies of this policy shall be made available to all students and parents at the commencement of each school year. This policy shall also be available upon request in the Head of School's office.

- B. Bluffview Montessori School will provide annual notice to parents of the school district's policy relating to a student's absence from school for religious observance.

V. REQUIRED REPORTING

A. Continuing Truant

Minnesota Statutes Section 260A.02 provides that a continuing truant is a student who is subject to the compulsory instruction requirements of Minnesota Statutes Section 120A.22 and is absent from instruction in a school, as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 120A.05, without valid excuse within a single school year for:

1. Three days if the child is in elementary school; or
2. Three or more class periods on three days if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school.

B. Reporting Responsibility

When a student is initially classified as a continuing truant, Minnesota Statutes Section 260A.03 provides that the school attendance officer or other designated school official shall notify the student's parent or legal guardian, by first class mail or other reasonable means, of the following:

1. That the child is truant;
2. That the parent or guardian should notify the school if there is a valid excuse for the child's absences;
3. That the parent or guardian is obligated to compel the attendance of the child at school pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 120A.22 and parents or guardians who fail to meet this obligation may be subject to prosecution under Minnesota Statutes Section 120A.34;
4. That this notification serves as the notification required by Minnesota Statutes Section 120A.34;
5. That alternative educational programs and services may be available in the child's enrolling or resident district;
6. That the parent or guardian has the right to meet with appropriate school personnel to discuss solutions to the child's truancy;
7. That if the child continues to be truant, the parent and child may be subject to juvenile court proceedings under Minnesota Statutes chapter 260;
8. That if the child is subject to juvenile court proceedings, the child may be subject to suspension, restriction, or delay of the child's driving privilege pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 260C.201; and

C. Habitual Truant

1. A habitual truant is a child under the age of 17 years who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven school days per school year if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven school days per school year if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school, or a child who is 17 years of age who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for one or more class periods on seven school days per school year and who has not lawfully withdrawn from school.
2. A school district attendance officer shall refer a habitual truant child and the child's parent or legal guardian to appropriate services and procedures, under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 260A.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. § 120A.05 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.24 (Reporting)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.26 (Enforcement and Prosecution)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.34 (Violations; Penalties)
Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)
Minn. Stat. § 260A.02 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 260A.03 (Notice to Parent or Guardian When Child is a Continuing Truant)
Minn. Stat. § 260C.007, Subd. 19 (Habitual Truant Defined)
Minn. Stat. § 260C.201 (Dispositions; Children in Need of Protection or Services or Neglected and in Foster Care)
Goss v. Lopez, 419 U.S. 565, 95 S.Ct. 729 (1975)
Slocum v. Holton Board of Education, 429 N.W.2d 607 (Mich. App. Ct. 1988)
Campbell v. Board of Education of New Milford, 475 A.2d 289 (Conn. 1984)
Hamer v. Board of Education of Township High School District No. 113, 66 Ill. App.3d 7, 383 N.E.2d 231 (1978)
Gutierrez v. School District R-1, 585 P.2d 935 (Co. Ct. App. 1978)
Knight v. Board of Education, 38 Ill. App. 3d 603, 348 N.E.2d 299 (1976)
Dorsey v. Bale, 521 S.W.2d 76 (Ky. 1975)

Cross References:

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)

Appendix I – Bullying Prohibition

POLICY 514 BULLYING PROHIBITION POLICY

I. PURPOSE

A safe and civil environment is needed for students to learn and attain high academic performance and to promote healthy human relationships. Bullying, like other violent or disruptive behavior, is conduct that interferes with a student's ability to learn and/or a teacher's ability to educate students in a safe environment. Bluffview Montessori School cannot monitor the activities of students at all times and eliminate all incidents of bullying between students, particularly when students are not under the direct supervision of school personnel. However, to the extent such conduct affects the educational environment of Bluffview Montessori School and the rights and welfare of its students and is within the control of Bluffview Montessori School in its normal operations, Bluffview Montessori School intends to prevent bullying and to take action to investigate, respond to, and to remediate and discipline for those acts of bullying which have not been successfully prevented. The purpose of this policy is to assist Bluffview Montessori School in its goal of preventing and responding to acts of bullying, intimidation, violence, reprisal, retaliation, and other similar disruptive and detrimental behavior.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. An act of bullying, by either an individual student or a group of students, is expressly prohibited:
 - 1. on the school premises, at school functions or activities, on school transportation;
 - 2. by the use of electronic technology and communications on the school premises, during school functions or activities, on school transportation, or on school computers, networks, forums, and mailing lists; or
 - 3. by use of electronic technology and communications off the school premises to the extent such use substantially and materially disrupts student learning or the school environment.
- B. A school-aged child who voluntarily participates in a public school activity, such as a cocurricular or extracurricular activity, is subject to the policy provisions applicable to the public school students participating in the activity.
- C. This policy applies not only to students who directly engage in an act of bullying but also to students who, by their indirect behavior, condone or support another student's act of bullying. This policy also applies to any student whose conduct at any time or in any place constitutes bullying or other prohibited conduct that interferes with or obstructs the mission or operations of Bluffview Montessori School or the safety or welfare of the student or other students, or materially and substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities or performance or ability to participate in school functions or activities or receive school benefits,

services, or privileges. This policy also applies to an act of cyberbullying regardless of whether such act is committed on or off Bluffview Montessori School property and/or with or without the use of Bluffview Montessori School resources. This policy also applies to sexual exploitation.

- D. Malicious and sadistic conduct involving race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, religion, sexual harassment, and sexual orientation and gender identity as defined in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 363A is prohibited. This prohibition applies to students, independent contractors, teachers, administrators, and other school personnel.

Malicious and sadistic conduct and sexual exploitation by a Bluffview Montessori School staff member, independent contractor, or enrolled student against a staff member, independent contractor, or student that occurs as described in Article II.A above is prohibited.

- E. No teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of Bluffview Montessori School shall permit, condone, or tolerate bullying.
- F. Apparent permission or consent by a student being bullied does not lessen or negate the prohibitions contained in this policy.
- G. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of bullying is prohibited.
- H. False accusations or reports of bullying against another student are prohibited.
- I. A person who engages in an act of bullying, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting of bullying or permits, condones, or tolerates bullying shall be subject to discipline or other remedial responses for that act in accordance with Bluffview Montessori School's policies and procedures, including Bluffview Montessori School's discipline policy (See Policy 506). Bluffview Montessori School may take into account the following factors:
1. The developmental ages and maturity levels of the parties involved;
 2. The levels of harm, surrounding circumstances, and nature of the behavior;
 3. Past incidences or past or continuing patterns of behavior;
 4. The relationship between the parties involved; and
 5. The context in which the alleged incidents occurred.

Consequences for students who commit prohibited acts of bullying may range from remedial responses or positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion. Bluffview Montessori School shall employ research-based developmentally appropriate best practices that include preventative and remedial measures and effective discipline for deterring violations of this policy, apply throughout Bluffview Montessori School, and foster student, parent, and community participation.

Consequences for employees who permit, condone, or tolerate bullying or engage in an act of reprisal or intentional false reporting of bullying may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or discharge.

Consequences for other individuals engaging in prohibited acts of bullying may include, but not be limited to, exclusion from Bluffview Montessori School property and events.

- J. Bluffview Montessori School will act to investigate all complaints of bullying reported to Bluffview Montessori School and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of Bluffview Montessori School who is found to have violated this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy, the definitions included in this section apply.

- A. “Bullying” means intimidating, threatening, abusive, or harming conduct that is objectively offensive and:
 - 1. an actual or perceived imbalance of power exists between the student engaging in the prohibited conduct and the target of the prohibited conduct, and the conduct is repeated or forms a pattern; or
 - 2. materially and substantially interferes with a student’s educational opportunities or performance or ability to participate in school functions or activities or receive school benefits, services, or privileges.

The term, “bullying,” specifically includes cyberbullying, malicious and sadistic conduct, and sexual exploitation.

- B. “Cyberbullying” means bullying using technology or other electronic communication, including, but not limited to, a transfer of a sign, signal, writing, image, sound, or data, including a post on a social network Internet website or forum, transmitted through a computer, cell phone, or other electronic device. The term applies to prohibited conduct which occurs on school premises, on Bluffview Montessori School property, at school functions or activities, on school transportation, or on school computers, networks, forums, and mailing lists, or off school premises to the extent that it substantially and materially disrupts student learning or the school environment.
- C. “Immediately” means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.
- D. “Intimidating, threatening, abusive, or harming conduct” means, but is not limited to, conduct that does the following:
 - 1. Causes physical harm to a student or a student’s property or causes a student to be in reasonable fear of harm to person or property;
 - 2. Under Minnesota common law, violates a student’s reasonable expectation

of privacy, defames a student, or constitutes intentional infliction of emotional distress against a student; or

3. Is directed at any student or students, including those based on a person's actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, creed, religion, national origin, immigration status, sex, marital status, familial status, socioeconomic status, physical appearance, sexual orientation including gender identity and expression, academic status related to student performance, disability, or status with regard to public assistance, age, or any additional characteristic defined in the Minnesota Human Rights Act (MHRA). However, prohibited conduct need not be based on any particular characteristic defined in this paragraph or the MHRA.
- E. "Malicious and sadistic conduct" means creating a hostile learning environment by acting with the intent to cause harm by intentionally injuring another without just cause or reason or engaging in extreme or excessive cruelty or delighting in cruelty.
- F. "On school premises, on Bluffview Montessori School property, at school functions or activities, or on school transportation" means Bluffview Montessori School buildings, school grounds, and school property or property immediately adjacent to school grounds, school bus stops, school buses, school vehicles, school contracted vehicles, or any other vehicles approved for Bluffview Montessori School purposes, the area of entrance or departure from school grounds, premises, or events, and all school-related functions, school-sponsored activities, events, or trips. Bluffview Montessori School property also may mean a student's walking route to or from school for purposes of attending school or school-related functions, activities, or events. While prohibiting bullying at these locations and events, Bluffview Montessori School does not represent that it will provide supervision or assume liability at these locations and events.
- G. "Prohibited conduct" means bullying, cyberbullying, malicious and sadistic conduct, sexual exploitation, or retaliation or reprisal for asserting, alleging, reporting, or providing information about such conduct or knowingly making a false report about prohibited conduct.
- H. "Remedial response" means a measure to stop and correct prohibited conduct, prevent prohibited conduct from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of prohibited conduct.
- I. "Student" means a student enrolled in a public charter school.

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURE

- A. Any person who believes he or she has been the target or victim of bullying or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute bullying or prohibited conduct under this policy shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate Bluffview Montessori School official designated by this policy. A person may report bullying anonymously. However, Bluffview Montessori School may not rely solely on an anonymous report to determine discipline or other remedial responses.

- B. Bluffview Montessori School encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form available from the Head of School or available in the school office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.
- C. The Head of School, or the Head of School's designee, (hereinafter the "building report taker") is the person responsible for receiving reports of bullying or other prohibited conduct at the building level. Any person may report bullying or other prohibited conduct directly to Bluffview Montessori School human rights officer or the Head of School. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the Head of School or Bluffview Montessori School's human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.

The building report taker shall ensure that this policy and its procedures, practices, consequences, and sanctions are fairly and fully implemented and shall serve as the primary contact on policy and procedural matters. The building report taker or a third party designated by Bluffview Montessori School shall be responsible for the investigation. The building report taker shall provide information about available community resources to the target or victim of the bullying or other prohibited conduct, the perpetrator, and other affected individuals as appropriate.

- D. A teacher, school administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other school employee shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include bullying. Any such person who witnesses, observes, receives a report of, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute bullying or other prohibited conduct shall make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the bullying or prohibited conduct and shall inform the building report taker immediately. Bluffview Montessori School personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conduct that may constitute bullying or other prohibited conduct or who fail to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the bullying or prohibited conduct in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.
- E. Reports of bullying or other prohibited conduct are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law. The building report taker, in conjunction with the responsible authority, shall be responsible for keeping and regulating access to any report of bullying and the record of any resulting investigation.
- F. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of bullying or other prohibited conduct will not affect the complainant's or reporter's future employment, grades, work assignments, or educational or work environment.
- G. Bluffview Montessori School will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with Bluffview Montessori School's obligation to investigate, take appropriate action, and comply with any legal disclosure obligations.

V. BLUFFVIEW MONTESSORI SCHOOL ACTION

- A. Within three days of the receipt of a complaint or report of bullying or other prohibited conduct, Bluffview Montessori School shall undertake or authorize an investigation by the building report taker or a third party designated by Bluffview Montessori School.

- B. The building report taker or other appropriate Bluffview Montessori School officials may take immediate steps, at their discretion, to protect the target or victim of the bullying or other prohibited conduct, the complainant, the reporter, and students or others, pending completion of an investigation of the bullying or other prohibited conduct, consistent with applicable law.
- C. The alleged perpetrator of the bullying or other prohibited conduct shall be allowed the opportunity to present a defense during the investigation or prior to the imposition of discipline or other remedial responses.
- D. Upon completion of an investigation that determines that bullying or other prohibited conduct has occurred, Bluffview Montessori School will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination, or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited conduct. Remedial responses to the bullying or other prohibited conduct shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct and shall take into account the factors specified in Section II.F. of this policy. Bluffview Montessori School action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with the requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements; applicable statutory authority, including the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act; the student discipline policy (See Policy 506) and other applicable Bluffview Montessori School policies; and applicable regulations.
- E. Bluffview Montessori School is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of Bluffview Montessori School. School officials will notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) of students who are targets of bullying or other prohibited conduct and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of alleged perpetrators of bullying or other prohibited conduct who have been involved in a reported and confirmed bullying incident of the remedial or disciplinary action taken, to the extent permitted by law.
- F. In order to prevent or respond to bullying or other prohibited conduct committed by or directed against a child with a disability, Bluffview Montessori School shall, when determined appropriate by the child's individualized education program (IEP) team or Section 504 team, allow the child's IEP or Section 504 plan to be drafted to address the skills and proficiencies the child needs as a result of the child's disability to allow the child to respond to or not to engage in bullying or other prohibited conduct.

VI. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL

Bluffview Montessori School will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of Bluffview Montessori School who commits an act of reprisal or who retaliates against any person who asserts, alleges, or makes a good faith report of alleged bullying or prohibited conduct, who provides information about bullying or prohibited conduct, who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation of alleged bullying or prohibited conduct, or who testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such bullying or prohibited conduct. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, harassment, or intentional disparate treatment. Disciplinary consequences will be

sufficiently severe to deter violations and to appropriately discipline the individual(s) who engaged in the prohibited conduct. Remedial responses to the prohibited conduct shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct and shall take into account the factors specified in Section II.F. of this policy.

VII. TRAINING AND EDUCATION

- A. Bluffview Montessori School shall discuss this policy with school personnel and volunteers and provide appropriate training to Bluffview Montessori School personnel regarding this policy. Bluffview Montessori School shall establish a training cycle for school personnel to occur during a period not to exceed every three school years. Newly employed school personnel must receive the training within the first year of their employment with Bluffview Montessori School. Bluffview Montessori School or a school administrator may accelerate the training cycle or provide additional training based on a particular need or circumstance. This policy shall be included in employee handbooks, training materials, and publications on school rules, procedures, and standards of conduct, which materials shall also be used to publicize this policy.
- B. Bluffview Montessori School shall require ongoing professional development, consistent with Minnesota Statutes section 122A.60, to build the skills of all school personnel who regularly interact with students to identify, prevent, and appropriately address bullying and other prohibited conduct. Such professional development includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Developmentally appropriate strategies both to prevent and to immediately and effectively intervene to stop prohibited conduct;
 - 2. The complex dynamics affecting a perpetrator, target, and witnesses to prohibited conduct;
 - 3. Research on prohibited conduct, including specific categories of students at risk for perpetrating or being the target or victim of bullying or other prohibited conduct in school;
 - 4. The incidence and nature of cyberbullying; and
 - 5. Internet safety and cyberbullying.
- C. Bluffview Montessori School annually will provide education and information to students regarding bullying, including information regarding this Bluffview Montessori School policy prohibiting bullying, the harmful effects of bullying, and other applicable initiatives to prevent bullying and other prohibited conduct.
- D. The administration of Bluffview Montessori School is directed to implement programs and other initiatives to prevent bullying, to respond to bullying in a manner that does not stigmatize the target or victim, and to make resources or referrals to resources available to targets or victims of bullying.
- E. The administration is encouraged to provide developmentally appropriate instruction and is directed to review programmatic instruction to determine if adjustments are necessary to help students identify and prevent or reduce bullying

and other prohibited conduct, to value diversity in school and society, to develop and improve students' knowledge and skills for solving problems, managing conflict, engaging in civil discourse, and recognizing, responding to, and reporting bullying or other prohibited conduct, and to make effective prevention and intervention programs available to students.

The administration must establish strategies for creating a positive school climate and use evidence-based social-emotional learning to prevent and reduce discrimination and other improper conduct.

The administration is encouraged, to the extent practicable, to take such actions as it may deem appropriate to accomplish the following:

1. Engage all students in creating a safe and supportive school environment;
 2. Partner with parents and other community members to develop and implement prevention and intervention programs;
 3. Engage all students and adults in integrating education, intervention, and other remedial responses into the school environment;
 4. Train student bystanders to intervene in and report incidents of bullying and other prohibited conduct to the schools' primary contact person;
 5. Teach students to advocate for themselves and others;
 6. Prevent inappropriate referrals to special education of students who may engage in bullying or other prohibited conduct; and
 7. Foster student collaborations that, in turn, foster a safe and supportive school climate.
- F. Bluffview Montessori School may implement violence prevention and character development education programs to prevent or reduce policy violations. Such programs may offer instruction on character education including, but not limited to, character qualities such as attentiveness, truthfulness, respect for authority, diligence, gratefulness, self-discipline, patience, forgiveness, respect for others, peacemaking, and resourcefulness.
- G. Bluffview Montessori School shall inform affected students and their parents of rights they may have under state and federal data practices laws to obtain access to data related to an incident and their right to contest the accuracy or completeness of the data. Bluffview Montessori School may accomplish this requirement by inclusion of all or applicable parts of its protection and privacy of pupil records policy (See Policy 515) in the student handbook.

VIII. NOTICE

- A. Bluffview Montessori School will give annual notice of this policy to students, parents or guardians, and staff, and this policy shall appear in the student handbook.
- B. This policy must be conspicuously posted throughout the school building, and in the Bluffview Montessori School office.

- C. This policy must be distributed to each school employee and independent contractor at the time of hiring or contracting.
- D. Notice of the rights and responsibilities of students and their parents under this policy must be included in the student discipline policy (See Policy 506) distributed to parents at the beginning of each school year.
- E. This policy shall be available to all parents and other school community members in an electronic format in the language appearing on the Bluffview Montessori School website.
- F. Bluffview Montessori School must develop a process for discussing this policy with students, parents of students, independent contractors, and school employees.
- G. Bluffview Montessori School shall provide an electronic copy of its most recently amended policy to the Minnesota Commissioner of Education.

IX. POLICY REVIEW

To the extent practicable, the charter school board shall, on a cycle consistent with other Bluffview Montessori School policies, review and revise this policy. The policy shall be made consistent with Minnesota Statutes, sections 121A.031 and 121A.0312 and other applicable law. Revisions shall be made in consultation with students, parents, and community organizations.

Appendix J - Student Discipline and Notice of Suspension

POLICY 506 STUDENT DISCIPLINE AND NOTICE OF SUSPENSION

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students are aware of and comply with Bluffview Montessori School's expectations for student conduct. Such compliance will enhance Bluffview Montessori School's ability to maintain discipline and ensure that there is no interference with the educational process. Bluffview Montessori School will take appropriate disciplinary action when students fail to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct established by this policy.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school board recognizes that individual responsibility and mutual respect are essential components of the educational process. The school board further recognizes that nurturing the maturity of each student is of primary importance and is closely linked with the balance that must be maintained between authority and self-discipline as the individual progresses from a child's dependence on authority to the more mature behavior of self-control.

All students are entitled to learn and develop in a setting which promotes respect of (for?) self, others, and property. Proper positive discipline can only result from an environment which provides options and stresses student self-direction, decision-making, and responsibility. Schools can function effectively only with internal discipline based on mutual understanding of rights and responsibilities.

Students must conduct themselves in an appropriate manner that maintains a climate in which learning can take place. Overall decorum affects student attitudes and influences student behavior. Proper student conduct is necessary to facilitate the education process and to create an atmosphere conducive to high student achievement.

Although this policy emphasizes the development of self-discipline, it is recognized that there are instances when it will be necessary to administer disciplinary measures. The position of Bluffview Montessori School is that a fair and equitable school-wide student discipline policy will contribute to the quality of the student's educational experience. This discipline policy is adopted in accordance with and subject to the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minnesota Statutes, sections 121A.40-121A.56.

In view of the foregoing and in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.55, the school board, with the participation of Bluffview Montessori School administrators, teachers, employees, students, parents, community members, and such other individuals and organizations as appropriate, has developed this policy which governs student conduct and applies to all students of Bluffview Montessori School.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Nonexclusionary disciplinary policies and practices" means policies and practices that are alternatives to dismissing a pupil from school, including but not limited to evidence-based positive behavior interventions and supports, social and emotional

services, school-linked mental health services, counseling services, social work services, restorative practices, academic screening for Title 1 services or reading interventions, and alternative education services. Nonexclusionary disciplinary policies and practices include but are not limited to the policies and practices under Minnesota Statutes, sections 120B.12; 121A.575, clauses (1) and (2); 121A.031, subdivision 4, paragraph (a), clause (1); 121A.61, subdivision 3, paragraph (r); and 122A.627, clause (3).

- B. "Pupil withdrawal agreement" means a verbal or written agreement between a school administrator and a pupil's parent to withdraw a student from Bluffview Montessori School to avoid expulsion or exclusion dismissal proceedings. The duration of the withdrawal agreement cannot be for more than a 12-month period.

IV. POLICY

- A. The school board must establish uniform criteria for dismissal and adopt written policies and rules to effectuate the purposes of the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act. The policies must include nonexclusionary disciplinary policies and practices consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.41, subdivision 12, and must emphasize preventing dismissals through early detection of problems. The policies must be designed to address students' inappropriate behavior from recurrence.
- B. The policies must recognize the continuing responsibility of the school for the education of the pupil during the dismissal period.
- C. The school is responsible for ensuring that alternative educational services, if the pupil wishes to take advantage of them, must be adequate to allow the pupil to make progress toward meeting the graduation standards adopted under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.02 and help prepare the pupil for readmission in accordance with section Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.46, subdivision 5.
- D. For expulsion and exclusion dismissals and pupil withdrawal agreements as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.41, subdivision 13:
 - 1. for a pupil who remains enrolled in Bluffview Montessori School or is awaiting enrollment in a new district, Bluffview Montessori School's continuing responsibility includes reviewing the pupil's schoolwork and grades on a quarterly basis to ensure the pupil is on track for readmission with the pupil's peers. Bluffview Montessori School must communicate on a regular basis with the pupil's parent or guardian to ensure that the pupil is completing the work assigned through the alternative educational services as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.41, subdivision 11. These services are required until the pupil enrolls in another school or returns to the same school;
 - 2. a pupil receiving school-based or school-linked mental health services in Bluffview Montessori School under Minnesota Statutes, section 245.4889 continues to be eligible for those services until the pupil is enrolled in a new district; and

3. Bluffview Montessori School must provide to the pupil's parent or guardian information on accessing mental health services, including any free or sliding fee providers in the community. The information must also be posted on the Bluffview Montessori School website.

V. AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The School Board. The school board holds all school personnel responsible for the maintenance of order within Bluffview Montessori School and supports all personnel acting within the framework of this discipline policy.
- B. School Administrators: Head of School and Assistant Head of School. The school administrative staff shall establish guidelines and directives to carry out this policy, hold all school personnel, students, and parents responsible for conforming to this policy, and support all school personnel performing their duties within the framework of this policy. The Head of School shall also establish guidelines and directives for using the services of appropriate agencies for assisting students and parents. Any guidelines or directives established to implement this policy shall be submitted to the school board for approval and shall be attached as an addendum to this policy. School administrators shall consult with parents of students conducting themselves in a manner contrary to the policy and involve other professional employees in the disposition of behavior referrals and shall make use of those agencies appropriate for assisting students and parents. If necessary, the school's Restrictive Procedures Plan may be implemented.
- C. Teachers. All teachers shall be responsible for providing a well-planned teaching/learning environment and shall have primary responsibility for student conduct, with appropriate assistance from the administration. All teachers shall enforce the Code of Student Conduct. In exercising the teacher's lawful authority, a teacher may use reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to restrain a student to prevent imminent bodily harm or death to the student or another.
- D. Other Bluffview Montessori School Personnel. All Bluffview Montessori School personnel shall be responsible for contributing to the atmosphere of mutual respect within the school. Their responsibilities relating to student behavior shall be as authorized and directed by the Head of School. A school employee, school bus driver, or other agent of Bluffview Montessori School, in exercising his or her lawful authority, may use reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to restrain a student to prevent bodily harm or death to the student or another.
- E. Parents or Legal Guardians. Parents and guardians shall be held responsible for the behavior of their children as determined by law and community practice. They are expected to cooperate with school authorities and to participate regarding the behavior of their children.
- F. Students. All students shall be held individually responsible for their behavior and for knowing and obeying the Code of Student Conduct and this policy.
- G. Community Members. Members of the community are expected to contribute to

the establishment of an atmosphere in which rights and duties are effectively acknowledged and fulfilled.

H. Reasonable Force Reports

1. Bluffview Montessori School must report data on its use of any reasonable force used on a student with a disability to correct or restrain the student to prevent imminent bodily harm or death to the student or another that is consistent with the definition of physical holding under Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.0941, paragraph (c), as outlined in section 125A.0942, subdivision 3, paragraph (b).
2. Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, Bluffview Montessori School must report annually by July 15, in a form and manner determined by the MDE Commissioner, data from the prior school year about any reasonable force used on a general education student to correct or restrain the student to prevent imminent bodily harm or death to the student or another that is consistent with the definition of physical holding under Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.0941, paragraph (c).
3. Any reasonable force used under Minnesota Statutes, sections 121A.582; 609.06, subdivision 1; and 609.379 which intends to hold a child immobile or limit a child's movement where body contact is the only source of physical restraint or confines a child alone in a room from which egress is barred shall be reported to the Minnesota Department of Education as a restrictive procedure, including physical holding or seclusion used by an unauthorized or untrained staff person.

VI. STUDENT RIGHTS

All students have the right to an education and the right to learn.

In accordance with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Bluffview Montessori School is required to inform students of their rights as they pertain to the information Bluffview Montessori School collects about them. Bluffview Montessori School asks for this private information as part of the investigation of an incident to determine what, if any, discipline is appropriate. See Addendum 1 for the complete Tennessee Warning which may be summarized and delivered verbally as appropriate for the age of the student.

VII. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

All students have the responsibility:

- A. For their behavior and for knowing and obeying all school rules, regulations, policies, and procedures;
- B. To attend school daily, except when excused, and to be on time to all classes and other school functions;
- C. To pursue and attempt to complete the courses of study prescribed by the state and

local school authorities;

- D. To make necessary arrangements for making up work when absent from school;
- E. To assist the school staff in maintaining a safe school for all students;
- F. To be aware of all school rules, regulations, policies, and procedures, including those in this policy, and to conduct themselves in accord with them;
- G. To assume that until a rule or policy is waived, altered, or repealed, it is in full force and effect;
- H. To be aware of and comply with federal, state, and local laws;
- I. To volunteer information in disciplinary cases should they have any knowledge relating to such cases and to cooperate with school staff as appropriate;
- J. To respect and maintain the school's property and the property of others;
- K. To dress and groom in a manner which meets standards of safety and health and common standards of decency and which is consistent with applicable Bluffview Montessori School policy;
- L. To avoid inaccuracies in student newspapers or publications and refrain from indecent or obscene language;
- M. To conduct themselves in an appropriate physical or verbal manner; and
- N. To recognize and respect the rights of others.

VIII. CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

- A. The following are examples of unacceptable behavior subject to disciplinary action by Bluffview Montessori School. These examples are not intended to be an exclusive list. Any student who engages in any of these activities shall be disciplined in accordance with this policy. This policy applies to all school buildings, school grounds, and school property or property immediately adjacent to school grounds; school-sponsored activities or trips; school bus stops; school buses, school vehicles, school contracted vehicles, or any other vehicles approved for Bluffview Montessori School purposes; the area of entrance or departure from school premises or events; and all school-related functions, school-sponsored activities, events, or trips. Bluffview Montessori School property also may mean a student's walking route to or from school for purposes of attending school or school-related functions, activities, or events. While prohibiting unacceptable behavior subject to disciplinary action at these locations and events, Bluffview Montessori School does not represent that it will provide supervision or assume liability at these locations and events. This policy also applies to any student whose conduct at any time or in any place interferes with or obstructs the mission or operations of Bluffview Montessori School or the safety or welfare of the student, other students, or employees.

- 1. Violations against property including, but not limited to, damage to or

- destruction of school property or the property of others, failure to compensate for damage or destruction of such property, arson, breaking and entering, theft, robbery, possession of stolen property, extortion, trespassing, unauthorized usage, or vandalism;
2. The use of profanity or obscene language, or the possession of obscene materials;
 3. Gambling, including, but not limited to, playing a game of chance for stakes;
 4. Violation of Bluffview Montessori School's Hazing Prohibition Policy;
 5. Attendance problems including, but not limited to, truancy, absenteeism, tardiness, skipping classes, or leaving school grounds without permission;
 6. Violation of Bluffview Montessori School's Student Attendance Policy;
 7. Opposition to authority using physical force or violence;
 8. Using, possessing, or distributing tobacco, tobacco-related devices, electronic cigarettes, or tobacco paraphernalia in violation of Bluffview Montessori School's Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices Policy;
 9. Using, possessing, distributing, intending to distribute, making a request to another person for (solicitation), or being under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicating substances or look-alike substances;
 10. Using, possessing, distributing, intending to distribute, making a request to another person for (solicitation), or being under the influence of narcotics, drugs, or other controlled substances (except as prescribed by a physician), or look-alike substances (these prohibitions include medical marijuana or medical cannabis, even when prescribed by a physician, and one student sharing prescription medication with another student);
 11. Using, possessing, or distributing items or articles that are illegal or harmful to persons or property including, but not limited to, drug paraphernalia;
 12. Using, possessing, or distributing weapons, or look-alike weapons or other dangerous objects;
 13. Violation of Bluffview Montessori School's Weapons Policy;
 14. Violation of Bluffview Montessori School's Violence Prevention Policy;
 15. Possession of ammunition including, but not limited to, bullets or other projectiles designed to be used in or as a weapon;
 16. Possession, use, or distribution of explosives or any compound or mixture, the primary or common purpose or intended use of which is to function as

an explosive;

17. Possession, use, or distribution of fireworks or any substance or combination of substances or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation;
18. Using an ignition device, including a butane or disposable lighter or matches, inside an educational building and under circumstances where there is a risk of fire, except where the device is used in a manner authorized by the school;
19. Violation of any local, state, or federal law as appropriate;
20. Acts disruptive of the educational process, including, but not limited to, disobedience, disruptive or disrespectful behavior, defiance of authority, cheating, insolence, insubordination, failure to identify oneself, improper activation of fire alarms, or bomb threats;
21. Violation of Bluffview Montessori School's Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy;
22. Use of a cell phone in violation of Bluffview Montessori School's Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy;
23. Violation of school bus or transportation rules or Bluffview Montessori School's Code of Conduct for Bussing;
24. Violation of parking or school traffic rules and regulations, including, but not limited to, driving on school property in such a manner as to endanger persons or property;
25. Violation of directives or guidelines relating to lockers or improperly gaining access to a school locker;
26. Violation of Bluffview Montessori School's Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person Policy;
27. Possession or distribution of slanderous, libelous, or pornographic materials;
28. Violation of Bluffview Montessori School's Bullying Prohibition Policy;
29. Student attire or personal grooming which creates a danger to health or safety or creates a disruption to the educational process, including clothing which bears a message which is lewd, vulgar, or obscene, apparel promoting products or activities that are illegal for use by minors, or clothing containing objectionable emblems, signs, words, objects, or pictures communicating a message that is racist, sexist, or otherwise derogatory to a protected minority group or which connotes gang membership;

30. Criminal activity;
31. Falsification of any records, documents, notes, or signatures;
32. Tampering with, changing, or altering records or documents of Bluffview Montessori School by any method including, but not limited to, computer access or other electronic means;
33. Scholastic dishonesty which includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a school assignment or test, plagiarism, or collusion, including the use of picture phones or other technology to accomplish this end;
34. Impertinent or disrespectful words, symbols, acronyms, or language, whether oral or written, related to teachers or other Bluffview Montessori School personnel;
35. Violation of Bluffview Montessori School's Harassment and Violence Policy;
36. Actions, including fighting or any other assaultive behavior, which causes or could cause injury to the student or other persons or which otherwise endangers the health, safety, or welfare of teachers, students, other Bluffview Montessori School personnel, or other persons;
37. Committing an act which inflicts great bodily harm upon another person, even though accidental or a result of poor judgment;
38. Violations against persons, including, but not limited to, assault or threatened assault, fighting, harassment, interference or obstruction, attack with a weapon, or look-alike weapon, sexual assault, illegal or inappropriate sexual conduct, or indecent exposure;
39. Verbal assaults or verbally abusive behavior including, but not limited to, use of words, symbols, acronyms, or language, whether oral or written, that are discriminatory, abusive, obscene, threatening, intimidating, degrading to other people, or threatening to school property;
40. Physical or verbal threats including, but not limited to, the staging or reporting of dangerous or hazardous situations that do not exist;
41. Inappropriate, abusive, threatening, or demeaning actions based on race, color, creed, religion, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, national origin, or sexual orientation;
42. Violation of Bluffview Montessori School's Distribution of Nonschool-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees Policy;
43. Violation of Bluffview Montessori School's one-to-one device rules and regulations;
44. Violation of school rules, regulations, policies, or procedures, including, but

not limited to, those policies specifically enumerated in this policy;

45. Other acts, as determined by Bluffview Montessori School, which are disruptive of the educational process or dangerous or detrimental to the student or other students, Bluffview Montessori School personnel or surrounding persons, or which violate the rights of others or which damage or endanger the property of the school, or which otherwise interferes with or obstruct the mission or operations of Bluffview Montessori School or the safety or welfare of students or employees.

IX. RECESS AND OTHER BREAKS

- A. "Recess detention" means excluding or excessively delaying a student from participating in a scheduled recess period as a consequence for student behavior. Recess detention does not include, among other things, providing alternative recess at the student's choice.
- B. Bluffview Montessori School is encouraged to ensure student access to structured breaks from the demands of school and to support teachers, administrators, and other school staff in their efforts to use evidence-based approaches to reduce exclusionary forms of discipline.
- C. Bluffview Montessori School must not use recess detention unless:
 1. a student causes or is likely to cause serious physical harm to other students or staff;
 2. the student's parent or guardian specifically consents to the use of recess detention; or
 3. for students receiving special education services, the student's individualized education program team has determined that withholding recess is appropriate based on the individualized needs of the student.
- D. Bluffview Montessori School must not withhold recess from a student based on incomplete schoolwork.
- E. Bluffview Montessori School must require school staff to make a reasonable attempt to notify a parent or guardian within 24 hours of using recess detention.
- F. Bluffview Montessori School must compile information on each recess detention at the end of each school year, including the student's age, grade, gender, race or ethnicity, and special education status. This information must be available to the public upon request. Bluffview Montessori School is encouraged to use the data in professional development promoting the use of nonexclusionary discipline.
- G. Bluffview Montessori School must not withhold or excessively delay a student's participation in scheduled mealtimes. This section does not alter Bluffview Montessori School's existing responsibilities under Minnesota Statutes, section

124D.111 or other state or federal law.

X. DISCIPLINARY ACTION OPTIONS

The general policy of Bluffview Montessori School is to utilize progressive discipline to the extent reasonable and appropriate based upon the specific facts and circumstances of student misconduct. The specific form of discipline chosen in a particular case is solely within the discretion of Bluffview Montessori School. At a minimum, violation of Bluffview Montessori School's code of conduct, rules, regulations, policies, or procedures will result in discussion of the violation and a verbal warning. Bluffview Montessori School shall, however, impose more severe disciplinary sanctions for any violation, including exclusion or expulsion, if warranted by the student's misconduct, as determined by Bluffview Montessori School. Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:

- A. Student conference with teacher, Assistant Head of School, Head of School, counselor, or other Bluffview Montessori School personnel, and verbal warning;
- B. Confiscation by Bluffview Montessori School personnel and/or by law enforcement of any item, article, object, or thing, prohibited by, or used in the violation of, any Bluffview Montessori School policy, rule, regulation, procedure, or state or federal law. If confiscated by Bluffview Montessori School, the confiscated item, article, object, or thing will be released only to the parent/guardian following the completion of any investigation or disciplinary action instituted or taken related to the violation.
- C. Parent contact;
- D. Parent conference;
- E. Removal from class;
- F. In-school suspension;
- G. Suspension from extracurricular activities;
- H. Detention or restriction of privileges;
- I. Loss of school privileges;
- J. In-school monitoring or revised class schedule;
- K. Referral to in-school support services;
- L. Referral to community resources or outside agency services;
- M. Financial restitution;
- N. Referral to police, other law enforcement agencies, or other appropriate authorities;
- O. A request for a petition to be filed in charter school court for juvenile delinquency adjudication;

- P. Out-of-school suspension under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act;
- Q. Preparation of an admission or readmission plan;
- R. Saturday school;
- S. Expulsion under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act;
- T. Exclusion under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act; and/or
- U. Other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by Bluffview Montessori School.

XI. REMOVAL OF STUDENTS FROM CLASS

The classroom teacher shall have the general control and government of the classroom. Teachers have the responsibility of attempting to modify disruptive student behavior by such means as conferring with the student, using positive reinforcement, assigning detention or other consequences, or contacting the student's parent/guardian. When such measures fail, or when the teacher determines it is otherwise appropriate based upon the student's conduct, the teacher shall have the authority to remove the student from class pursuant to the procedures established by this discipline policy. "Removal from class" and "removal" mean any actions taken by a teacher, school administrator, or other Bluffview Montessori School employee to prohibit a student from attending a class or activity for a period of time not to exceed five (5) days, pursuant to this discipline policy.

- A. Grounds for removal from class shall include any of the following:
 - 1. Willful conduct that significantly disrupts the rights of others to an education, including conduct that interferes with a teacher's ability to teach or communicate effectively with students in a class or with the ability of other students to learn;
 - 2. Willful conduct that endangers surrounding persons, including Bluffview Montessori School employees, the student or other students, or the property of the school;
 - 3. Willful violation of any school rules, regulations, policies or procedures, including the Code of Student Conduct in this policy; or
 - 4. Other conduct, which, in the discretion of the teacher or administration, requires removal of the student from class.

Such removal shall be for at least one (1) activity period or class period of instruction for a given course of study and shall not exceed five (5) such periods.

A student must be removed from class immediately if the student engages in assault or violent behavior. "Assault" is an act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death; or the intentional infliction of, or attempt to inflict, bodily harm upon another. The removal from class shall be for a period of time deemed appropriate by the Head of School, in consultation with the teacher.

- B. If a student is removed from class more than ten (10) times in a school year, Bluffview Montessori School shall notify the parent or guardian of the student's tenth removal from class and make reasonable attempts to convene a meeting with the student's parent or guardian to discuss the problem that is causing the student to be removed from class.

C. Procedures for Removal of a Student From a Class

When a teacher determines that the student's behavior meets Bluffview Montessori School's grounds for removal from class, the teacher will immediately communicate with school administration concerning the problem;

Upon receiving the information:

Depending on the severity of the problem, the teacher may:

1. direct the student to report to the office or other designated area;
2. request school administrator or their designee to come to the class to remove the student, or
3. after securing the supervision for his or her class, escort the student to the office.

After removal from class exceeds one half-hour, parents or guardians will be notified;

Records of disciplinary action will be kept in Bluffview Montessori School's student management system;

The student will be provided required class work;

School administrator or their designee will be responsible for the student.

- D. Period of Time for which a Student may be Removed from a Class (may not exceed five (5) class periods for a violation of a rule of conduct)

1. The removal from class shall be for a period of time deemed appropriate by the school administrator or their designee in consultation with the teacher.

E. Responsibility for and Custody of a Student Removed from Class

The student, individually or with a staff escort, as determined by the teacher and/or administration, will report to a school administrator's office or other area as designated by an IEP or equivalent;

The student will discuss the reason for removal with the school administrator or their designee. Readmission plans may be established by the student and the school administrator or designee. Depending on the length of removal or reason for removal, a student may be required to continue class work.

Until the school administrator or their designee is contacted, the teacher retains responsibility for the student. Upon administrator/designee notification, the responsibility of the removed student shifts to the school administrator or their designee.

F. Procedures for Return of a Student to a Class from Which the Student was Removed

Prior to the return to class, the school administrator will meet with the student and parent/guardian to discuss the expectations for the return to class. Depending on the reason for removal from class, the administrator may determine that the student can return to class and discuss with the parent/guardian at a later time.

If warranted, there may be a readmission plan discussed and written by school administration, parent/guardian, student, and classroom teacher.

G. Procedures for Notifying a Student and the Student's Parents or Guardian of Violation of the Rules of Conduct and of Resulting Disciplinary Actions

The school administrator or their designee will communicate concerns, violations, and misconduct to parents using appropriate means (email, phone, in-person meetings, etc.)

H. Disabled Students; Special Provisions

The school administrator or their designee will meet with the case manager or special education coordinator prior to assigning appropriate consequences to students with disabilities or those who have special provisions.

Teachers or staff members who have concerns regarding a student in need of educational or behavioral assistance should consult with a school administrator or their designee.

I. Procedures for Detecting and Addressing Chemical Abuse Problems of Students While on School Premises.

The child study team will serve as the chemical abuse pre-assessment team.

All chemical concerns of students shall be reported to the Assistant Head of School or Head of School.

J. Procedures for Immediate and Appropriate Interventions Tied to Violations of the Code of Student Conduct.

1. Administrators will determine appropriate action based on specific violations.
2. Reasonable force may be used as a last resort by an administrator or a teacher in restraining students for their protection or the protection of others in situations where potential danger to either a staff member or other students exists. Every effort will be made to initiate the school's Crisis Prevention Team to assist when possible. Corporal punishment shall

not be an acceptable form of discipline in the school.

3. Disciplinary action taken may include:
 - a. Student warning.
 - b. Conference with teacher, counselor, administrators, and/or parent.
 - c. Removal from class.
 - d. After-school detention.
 - e. Loss of school privileges.
 - f. Modified school programs in accordance with due process.
 - g. Referral to school specialists, community agencies, or law enforcement authorities.
 - h. Dismissal, suspension, exclusion, or expulsion.
- K. Any Procedures Determined Appropriate for Encouraging Early Involvement of Parents or Guardians in Attempts to Improve a Student's Behavior.
 1. Bluffview Montessori School is committed to fostering family/school partnerships.
 2. Parents or Guardians are encouraged to attend school orientation activities prior to, or near, the start of the school year, and parent teacher conferences throughout the year.
 3. When behavior is deemed inappropriate, school personnel will make a reasonable attempt to notify parents in a timely manner.
- L. Any Procedures Determined Appropriate for Encouraging Early Detection of Behavioral Problems; and
- M. Any Procedures Determined Appropriate for Referring a Student in Need of Special Education Services to Those Services.
 1. Each school provides a system of support that include proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behaviors to create positive school environments as well as for referring a student in need of special education services.

Services available for early detection of behavioral problems may include:

 - a. The Child Study Team;
 - b. Counseling Support Services;
 - c. School Psychologist;

- d. Parent or Guardian
 - e. Special Education Personnel; and
 - f. Social Work and Mental Health Care Workers.
- N. Any Procedures Determined Appropriate for Ensuring Victims of Bullying who Respond with Behavior not Allowed under the School's Behavior Policies have Access to a Remedial Response, Consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.031.

In accordance with the statute above, Bluffview Montessori School designates its Assistant Head of School as the primary contact person in the school building to receive reports of prohibited conduct and ensure the policy and its procedures including restorative practices, consequences, and sanctions are fairly and fully implemented, and serve as the primary contact on policy and procedural matters implicating both the district or school and the department.

XII. DISMISSAL

- A. “Dismissal” means the denial of the current educational program to any student, including exclusion, expulsion and suspension. Dismissal does not include removal from class.

Bluffview Montessori School shall not deny due process or equal protection of the law to any student involved in a dismissal proceeding which may result in suspension, exclusion or expulsion.

Bluffview Montessori School shall not dismiss any student without attempting to use nonexclusionary disciplinary policies and procedures before dismissal proceedings or pupil withdrawal agreements, except where it appears that the student will create an immediate and substantial danger to self or to surrounding persons or property.

- B. Violations leading to suspension, based upon severity, may also be grounds for actions leading to expulsion, and/or exclusion. A student may be dismissed on any of the following grounds:
- 1. Willful violation of any reasonable school board regulation, including those found in this policy;
 - 2. Willful conduct that significantly disrupts the rights of others to an education, or the ability of school personnel to perform their duties, or school sponsored extracurricular activities; or
 - 3. Willful conduct that endangers the student or other students, or surrounding persons, including Bluffview Montessori School employees, or property of the school.
- C. Disciplinary Dismissals Prohibited
- 1. A pupil enrolled in the following is not subject to dismissals under the

Pupil Fair Dismissal Act:

- a. a preschool or prekindergarten program, including an early childhood family education, school readiness, voluntary prekindergarten, Head Start, or other school-based preschool or prekindergarten program; or
 - b. kindergarten through Grade 3.
2. This section does not apply to a dismissal from school for less than one school day, except as provided under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 125A and federal law for a student receiving special education services.
 3. Notwithstanding this section, expulsions and exclusions may be used only after resources outlined under Nonexclusionary discipline have been exhausted, and only in circumstances where there is an ongoing serious safety threat to the child or others.

D. Suspension Procedures

1. “Suspension” means an action by the school administration, under rules promulgated by the School Board, prohibiting a student from attending school for a period of no more than ten (10) school days; provided, however, if a suspension is longer than five (5) school days, the suspending administrator shall provide the Head of School with a reason for the longer term of suspension. This definition does not apply to dismissal for one (1) school day or less where a student with a disability does not receive regular or special education instruction during that dismissal period.
2. School administration must allow a suspended pupil the opportunity to complete all school work assigned during the period of the pupil's suspension and to receive full credit for satisfactorily completing the assignments. The Head of School or other person having administrative control of the school building or program is encouraged to designate a Bluffview Montessori School employee as a liaison to work with the pupil's teachers to allow the suspended pupil to (1) receive timely course materials and other information, and (2) complete daily and weekly assignments and receive teachers' feedback.
3. If a student's total days of removal from school exceed ten (10) cumulative days in a school year, Bluffview Montessori School shall make reasonable attempts to convene a meeting with the student and the student's parent or guardian before subsequently removing the student from school and, with the permission of the parent or guardian, arrange for a mental health screening for the student at the parent or guardian's expense. The purpose of this meeting is to attempt to determine the student's need for assessment or other services or whether the parent or guardian should have the student assessed or diagnosed to determine whether the student needs treatment for a mental health disorder.

4. The definition of suspension under Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.41, subdivision 10, does not apply to a student's dismissal from school for one school day or less, except as provided under federal law for a student with a disability. Each suspension action may include a readmission plan. The plan shall include, where appropriate, a provision for implementing alternative educational services upon readmission which must not be used to extend the current suspension. A readmission plan must not obligate a parent or guardian to provide psychotropic drugs to their student as a condition of readmission. School administration must not use the refusal of a parent or guardian to consent to the administration of psychotropic drugs to their student or to consent to a psychiatric evaluation, screening, or examination of the student as a ground, by itself, to prohibit the student from attending class or participating in a school-related activity, or as a basis of a charge of child abuse, child neglect, or medical or educational neglect. The school administration may not impose consecutive suspensions against the same student for the same course of conduct, or incident of misconduct, except where the student will create an immediate and substantial danger to self or to surrounding persons or property or where Bluffview Montessori School is in the process of initiating an expulsion, in which case the school administration may extend the suspension to a total of fifteen (15) days.
5. A child with a disability may be suspended. When a child with a disability has been suspended for more than five (5) consecutive days or ten (10) cumulative school days in the same year, and that suspension does not involve a recommendation for expulsion or exclusion or other change in placement under federal law, relevant members of the child's IEP team, including at least one of the child's teachers, shall meet and determine the extent to which the child needs services in order to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals in the child's IEP. That meeting must occur as soon as possible, but no more than ten (10) days after the sixth (6th) consecutive day of suspension or the tenth (10th) cumulative day of suspension has elapsed.
6. Alternative education services must be provided to a pupil who is suspended for more than five (5) consecutive school days. Alternative educational services may include, but are not limited to, special tutoring, modified curriculum, modified instruction, other modifications or adaptations, instruction through electronic media, special education services as indicated by appropriate assessments, homebound instruction, supervised homework, or enrollment in another charter school or in an alternative learning center under Minnesota Statutes section 123A.05 selected to allow the student to progress toward meeting graduation standards under Minnesota Statutes section 120B.02, although in a different setting.
7. The school administration shall not suspend a student from school without an informal administrative conference with the student. The informal administrative conference shall take place before the suspension, except where it appears that the student will create an immediate and substantial danger to self or to surrounding persons or property, in which case the conference shall take place as soon as practicable following the suspension.

At the informal administrative conference, a school administrator shall notify the student of the grounds for the suspension, provide an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and the student may present the student's version of the facts. A separate administrative conference is required for each period of suspension.

8. After school administration notifies a student of the grounds for suspension, school administration may, instead of imposing the suspension, do one or more of the following:
 - a. strongly encourage a parent or guardian of the student to attend school with the student for one day;
 - b. assign the student to attend school on Saturday as supervised by the Head of School or the Head of School's designee; and
 - c. petition the juvenile court that the student is in need of services under Minnesota Statutes chapter 260C.
9. A written notice containing the grounds for suspension, a brief statement of the facts, a description of the testimony, a readmission plan, and a copy of the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minnesota Statutes sections 121A.40-121A.56, shall be personally served upon the student at or before the time the suspension is to take effect, and upon the student's parent or guardian by mail within forty-eight (48) hours of the conference. (See Addendum 2 for a sample Notice of Suspension.)
10. The school administration shall make reasonable efforts to notify the student's parent or guardian of the suspension by telephone as soon as possible following suspension.
11. In the event a student is suspended without an informal administrative conference on the grounds that the student will create an immediate and substantial danger to surrounding persons or property, the written notice shall be served upon the student and the student's parent or guardian within forty-eight (48) hours of the suspension. Service by mail shall be complete upon mailing.
12. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, the student may be suspended pending the school board's decision in an expulsion or exclusion proceeding, provided that alternative educational services are implemented to the extent that suspension exceeds five (5) consecutive school days.

E. Expulsion and Exclusion Procedures

1. "Expulsion" means a school board action to prohibit an enrolled student from further attendance for up to twelve (12) months from the date the student is expelled. The authority to expel rests with the school board.
2. "Exclusion" means an action taken by the school board to prevent enrollment or re-enrollment of a student for a period that shall not extend

beyond the school year. The authority to exclude rests with the school board.

3. All expulsion and exclusion proceedings will be held pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minnesota Statutes sections 121A.40-121A.56.
4. No expulsion or exclusion shall be imposed without a hearing, unless the right to a hearing is waived in writing by the student and parent or guardian.
5. The student and parent or guardian shall be provided written notice of Bluffview Montessori School's intent to initiate expulsion or exclusion proceedings. This notice shall be served upon the student and his or her parent or guardian personally or by mail, and shall contain a complete statement of the facts; a list of the witnesses and a description of their testimony; state the date, time and place of hearing; be accompanied by a copy of the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minnesota Statutes sections 121A.40-121A.56; describe the nonexclusionary disciplinary practices accorded the student in an attempt to avoid the expulsion proceedings; and inform the student and parent or guardian of their right to: (1) have a representative of the student's own choosing, including legal counsel at the hearing; (2) examine the student's records before the hearing; (3) present evidence; and (4) confront and cross-examine witnesses. Bluffview Montessori School must advise the student's parent or guardian that free or low-cost legal assistance may be available and that a legal assistance resource list is available from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and is posted on its website.
6. The hearing shall be scheduled within ten (10) days of the service of the written notice unless an extension, not to exceed five (5) days, is requested for good cause by Bluffview Montessori School, student, parent, or guardian.
7. All hearings shall be held at a time and place reasonably convenient to the student, parent, or guardian and shall be closed, unless the student, parent, or guardian requests an open hearing.
8. Bluffview Montessori School shall record the hearing proceedings at Bluffview Montessori School expense, and a party may obtain a transcript at its own expense.
9. The student shall have a right to a representative of the student's own choosing, including legal counsel, at the student's sole expense. Bluffview Montessori School shall advise the student's parent or guardian that free or low-cost legal assistance may be available and that a legal assistance resource list is available from MDE. The school board may appoint an attorney to represent Bluffview Montessori School in any proceeding.
10. If the student designates a representative other than the parent or guardian, the representative must have a written authorization from the student and the parent or guardian providing them with access to and/or copies of the student's records.

11. All expulsion or exclusion hearings shall take place before and be conducted by an independent hearing officer designated by Bluffview Montessori School. The hearing shall be conducted in a fair and impartial manner. Testimony shall be given under oath and the hearing officer shall have the power to issue subpoenas and administer oaths.
12. At a reasonable time prior to the hearing, the student, parent or guardian, or authorized representative shall be given access to all Bluffview Montessori School records pertaining to the student, including any tests or reports upon which the proposed dismissal action may be based.
13. The student, parent or guardian, or authorized representative, shall have the right to compel the presence of any Bluffview Montessori School employee or agent or any other person who may have evidence upon which the proposed dismissal action may be based, and to confront and cross-examine any witnesses testifying for Bluffview Montessori School.
14. The student, parent or guardian, or authorized representative, shall have the right to present evidence and testimony, including expert psychological or educational testimony.
15. The student cannot be compelled to testify in the dismissal proceedings.
16. The hearing officer shall prepare findings and a recommendation based solely upon substantial evidence presented at the hearing, which must be made to the school board and served upon the parties within two (2) days after the close of the hearing.
17. The school board shall base its decision upon the findings and recommendation of the hearing officer and shall render its decision at a meeting held within five (5) days after receiving the findings and recommendation. The school board may provide the parties with the opportunity to present exceptions and comments to the hearing officer's findings and recommendation provided that neither party presents any evidence not admitted at the hearing. The decision by the school board must be based on the record, must be in writing, and must state the controlling facts on which the decision is made in sufficient detail to apprise the parties and the Commissioner of Education (Commissioner) of the basis and reason for the decision.
18. A party to an expulsion or exclusion decision made by the school board may appeal the decision to the Commissioner within twenty-one (21) calendar days of school board action pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 121A.49. The decision of the school board shall be implemented during the appeal to the Commissioner.
19. Bluffview Montessori School shall report any suspension, expulsion or exclusion action taken to the appropriate public service agency, when the student is under the supervision of such agency.
20. Bluffview Montessori School must report, through the MDE electronic

reporting system, each expulsion or exclusion within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the action to the Commissioner. This report must include a statement of alternative educational services given the student and the reason for, the effective date, and the duration of the exclusion or expulsion. The report must also include the student's age, grade, gender, race, and special education status. The dismissal report must include state student identification numbers of affected students.

21. Whenever a student fails to return to school within ten (10) school days of the termination of dismissal, a school administrator shall inform the student and his/her parent or guardian by mail of the student's right to attend and to be reinstated in Bluffview Montessori School.

XIII. ADMISSION OR READMISSION PLAN

A school administrator must prepare and enforce an admission or readmission plan for any student who is excluded or expelled from school. The plan must include measures to improve the student's behavior, which may include completing a character education program consistent with Minnesota Statutes section 120B.232, subdivision 1, social and emotional learning, counseling, social work services, mental health services, referrals for special education or 504 evaluation, and evidence-based academic interventions. The plan must include reasonable attempts to obtain parental involvement in the admission or readmission process, and may indicate the consequences to the student of not improving the student's behavior. The readmission plan must not obligate parents to provide a sympathomimetic medication for their child as a condition of readmission.

XIV. NOTIFICATION OF POLICY VIOLATIONS

Notification of any violation of this policy and resulting disciplinary action shall be as provided herein, or as otherwise provided by the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act or other applicable law. The teacher, Head of School or other Bluffview Montessori School official may provide additional notification as deemed appropriate.

In addition, Bluffview Montessori School must report, through the MDE electronic reporting system, each exclusion or expulsion, each physical assault of a Bluffview Montessori School employee by a pupil, and each pupil withdrawal agreement within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the dismissal action, pupil withdrawal, or assault, to the MDE Commissioner. This report must include a statement of the nonexclusionary disciplinary practices, or other sanction, intervention, or resolution in response to the assault given to the pupil in response to the assault and the reason for, the effective date, and the duration of the exclusion or expulsion or other sanction, intervention, or resolution. The report must also include the pupil's age, grade, gender, race, and special education status.

XV. STUDENT DISCIPLINE RECORDS

The policy of Bluffview Montessori School is that complete and accurate student discipline records be maintained. The collection, dissemination, and maintenance of student discipline records shall be consistent with applicable Bluffview Montessori School policies and federal and state law, including the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes chapter 13.

XVI. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students who are currently identified as eligible under the IDEA or Section 504 will be subject to the provisions of this policy, unless the student's IEP or 504 plan specifies a necessary modification.

Before initiating an expulsion or exclusion of a student with a disability, relevant members of the child's IEP team and the child's parent shall, consistent with federal law, conduct a manifestation determination and determine whether the child's behavior was (i) caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the child's disability and (ii) whether the child's conduct was a direct result of a failure to implement the child's IEP. If the student's educational program is appropriate and the behavior is not a manifestation of the student's disability, Bluffview Montessori School will proceed with discipline – up to and including expulsion – as if the student did not have a disability, unless the student's educational program provides otherwise. If the team determines that the behavior subject to discipline is a manifestation of the student's disability, the team shall conduct a functional behavioral assessment and implement a behavioral intervention plan for such student provided that Bluffview Montessori School had not conducted such assessment prior to the manifestation determination before the behavior that resulted in a change of placement. Where a behavioral intervention plan previously has been developed, the team will review the behavioral intervention plan and modify it as necessary to address the behavior.

When a student who has an IEP is excluded or expelled for misbehavior that is not a manifestation of the student's disability, Bluffview Montessori School shall continue to provide special education and related services during the period of expulsion or exclusion.

XVII. OPEN ENROLLED STUDENTS

Bluffview Montessori School may terminate the enrollment of a nonresident student enrolled under an Enrollment Option Program (Minnesota Statutes section 124D.03) or Enrollment in Nonresident Charter school (Minnesota Statutes section 124D.08) at the end of a school year if the student meets the definition of a habitual truant, the student has been provided appropriate services for truancy (Minn. Stat. Ch. 260A), and the student's case has been referred to juvenile court. Bluffview Montessori School may also terminate the enrollment of a nonresident student over the age of seventeen (17) enrolled under an Enrollment Options Program if the student is absent without lawful excuse for one or more periods on fifteen (15) school days and has not lawfully withdrawn from school.

XVIII. DISCIPLINE COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Students, parents and other guardians, and school staff may file a complaint and seek corrective action when the requirements of the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, including the implementation of the local behavior and discipline policies, are not being implemented appropriately or are being discriminately applied.

The Discipline Complaint Procedure must, at a minimum:

1. provide procedures for communicating this policy including the ability for a parent to appeal a decision under Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.49 that contains explicit instructions for filing the complaint;

2. provide an opportunity for involved parties to submit additional information related to the complaint;
3. provide a procedure to begin to investigate complaints within three school days of receipt, and identify personnel who will manage the investigation and any resulting record and are responsible for keeping and regulating access to any record;
4. provide procedures for issuing a written determination to the complainant that addresses each allegation and contains findings and conclusions;
5. if the investigation finds the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, sections 121A.40 to 121A.61, including any local policies that were not implemented appropriately, contain procedures that require a corrective action plan to correct a student's record and provide relevant staff with training, coaching, or other accountability practices to ensure appropriate compliance with policies in the future; and
6. prohibit reprisals or retaliation against any person who asserts, alleges, or reports a complaint, and provide procedures for applying appropriate consequences for a person who engages in reprisal or retaliation.

XIX. DISTRIBUTION OF POLICY

Bluffview Montessori School will notify students and parents of the existence and contents of this policy in such manner as it deems appropriate. Copies of this discipline policy shall be made available to all students and parents at the commencement of each school year and to all new students and parents upon enrollment. This policy shall also be available upon request in the Head of School's office.

XX. REVIEW OF POLICY

The Head of School and representatives of parents, students and staff in the school building shall confer at least annually to review this discipline policy, determine if the policy is working as intended, and to assess whether the discipline policy has been enforced. Any recommended changes shall be submitted to the Head of School for consideration by the school board, which shall conduct an annual review of this policy.



PRIVACY NOTICE (Tennessee Warning)

In accordance with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Bluffview Montessori School (“Bluffview”), is required to inform you of your rights as they pertain to the information we collect about you. Bluffview is asking for this private information so that it can investigate an incident that may result in student discipline.

The information we collect from you will be used during the investigation and to determine what, if any, discipline is appropriate.

You are not legally required to provide the requested information and you may refuse to provide some or all of the information requested. However, Bluffview may not be able to effectively investigate the incident if you do not provide sufficient information. Also, Bluffview will have to make a determination without hearing your version of events.

With some exceptions, unless you consent to further release of private information, access to the information will be limited to the individuals involved in the investigation. However, federal and state law does authorize release of private information without your consent to:

- School officials who have legitimate educational interests in the information;
- The juvenile justice system if the information is necessary, prior to adjudication, to determine the juvenile justice system’s ability to serve you;
- Appropriate persons in connection with an emergency, if necessary to protect your health or safety or the health or safety of others;
- Other entities as required by a court order, or authorized by other state or federal law.

In accordance with MN Rules 1205.0500, a minor may request in writing that any of his/her private information not be disclosed to his/her parent(s)/guardian(s).

I have read and fully understand the above notice.

Signature

Date

Printed Name



NOTICE OF SUSPENSION

(Date)

(Name of Parent or Guardian)

(Address)

(City, State, Zip)

Dear (Parent or Guardian)

(Name of Student) has been suspended from Bluffview Montessori School for (number of days) commencing on (date).

The grounds for suspension are:

Briefly, the facts that have been determined are:

The testimony received was:

An administrative conference to determine the above was conducted before

_____, at _____ on _____
(Name of Administrator) (Time) (Date)

pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56, a copy of which is enclosed.

The plan of readmission is:

Alternative educational services in the form of homework will be available to be picked up at the school after _____ [date].

While suspended, the student may not come on any school campus except with you for the purpose of discussing conduct.

If you have any questions, please call.

Sincerely,

Administrator

Enc: Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56

Appendix K – Harassment and Violence

POLICY 413 HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from harassment and violence on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, or disability.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The policy of Bluffview Montessori School is to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from harassment and violence on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, or disability. Bluffview Montessori School prohibits any form of harassment or violence on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, or disability.
- B. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator, or other Bluffview Montessori School personnel harasses a student, teacher, administrator, or other Bluffview Montessori School personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other Bluffview Montessori School personnel through conduct or communication based on a person's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, or disability, as defined by this policy. (For purposes of this policy, Bluffview Montessori School personnel include school board members, school employees, agents, volunteers, contractors, or persons subject to the supervision and control of Bluffview Montessori School.)
- C. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator, or other Bluffview Montessori School personnel inflicts, threatens to inflict, or attempts to inflict violence upon any student, teacher, administrator, or other Bluffview Montessori School personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other Bluffview Montessori School personnel based on a person's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, or disability.
- D. Bluffview Montessori School will act to investigate all complaints, either formal or informal, verbal or written, of harassment or violence based on a person's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, or disability, and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, or other Bluffview Montessori School personnel who is found to have violated this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. “Assault” is:

1. an act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death;
2. the intentional infliction of or attempt to inflict bodily harm upon another; or
3. the threat to do bodily harm to another with present ability to carry out the threat.

B. “Harassment” prohibited by this policy consists of physical or verbal conduct, including, but not limited to, electronic communications, relating to an individual’s or group of individuals’ race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, or disability when the conduct:

1. has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment;
2. has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work or academic performance; or
3. otherwise adversely affects an individual’s employment or academic opportunities.

C. “Immediately” means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.

D. Protected Classifications; Definitions

1. “Disability” means any condition or characteristic that renders a person a disabled person. A disabled person is any person who:
 - a. has a physical, sensory, or mental impairment which materially limits one or more major life activities;
 - b. has a record of such an impairment; or
 - c. is regarded as having such an impairment; or
 - d. has an impairment that is episodic or in remission and would materially limit a major life activity when active.
2. “Familial status” means the condition of one or more minors having legal status or custody with:
 - a. the minor’s parent or parents or the minor’s legal guardian or guardians; or
 - b. the designee of the parent or parents or guardian or guardians with

the written permission of the parent or parents or guardian or guardians. Familial status also means residing with and caring for one or more individuals who lack the ability to meet essential requirements for physical health, safety, or self-care because the individual or individuals are unable to receive and evaluate information or make or communicate decisions. The protections afforded against harassment on the basis of family status apply to any person who is pregnant or is in the process of securing legal custody of an individual who has not attained the age of majority.

3. “Marital status” means whether a person is single, married, remarried, divorced, separated, or a surviving spouse and, in employment cases, includes protection against harassment on the basis of the identity, situation, actions, or beliefs of a spouse or former spouse.
 4. “National origin” means the place of birth of an individual or of any of the individual’s lineal ancestors.
 5. “Sex” includes, but is not limited to, pregnancy, childbirth, and disabilities related to pregnancy or childbirth.
 6. “Sexual orientation” means having or being perceived as having an emotional, physical, or sexual attachment to another person without regard to the sex of that person or having or being perceived as having an orientation for such attachment, or having or being perceived as having a self-image or identity not traditionally associated with one’s biological maleness or femaleness. “Sexual orientation” does not include a physical or sexual attachment to children by an adult.
 7. “Status with regard to public assistance” means the condition of being a recipient of federal, state, or local assistance, including medical assistance, or of being a tenant receiving federal, state, or local subsidies, including rental assistance or rent supplements.
- E. “Remedial response” means a measure to stop and correct acts of harassment or violence, prevent acts of harassment or violence from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of acts of harassment or violence.
- F. Sexual Harassment: Definition
1. Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:
 - a. submission to that conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of obtaining employment or an education; or
 - b. submission to or rejection of that conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting that individual’s employment or education; or

- c. that conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's employment or education, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive employment or educational environment.
- 2. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:
 - a. unwelcome verbal harassment or abuse;
 - b. unwelcome pressure for sexual activity;
 - c. unwelcome, sexually motivated, or inappropriate patting, pinching, or physical contact, other than necessary restraint of student(s) by teachers, administrators, or other Bluffview Montessori School personnel to avoid physical harm to persons or property;
 - d. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning an individual's employment or educational status;
 - e. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment with regard to an individual's employment or educational status; or
 - f. unwelcome behavior or words directed at an individual because of sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression.

G. Sexual Violence; Definition

- 1. Sexual violence is a physical act of aggression or force or the threat thereof which involves the touching of another's intimate parts or forcing a person to touch any person's intimate parts. Intimate parts, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 609.341, includes the primary genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks, or breast, as well as the clothing covering these areas.
- 2. Sexual violence may include, but is not limited to:
 - a. touching, patting, grabbing, or pinching another person's intimate parts, whether that person is of the same sex or the opposite sex;
 - b. coercing, forcing, or attempting to coerce or force the touching of anyone's intimate parts;
 - c. coercing, forcing, or attempting to coerce or force sexual intercourse or a sexual act on another; or
 - d. threatening to force or coerce sexual acts, including the touching of intimate parts or intercourse, on another.

H. Violence; Definition

Violence prohibited by this policy is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another or group of individuals because of, or in a manner reasonably related to, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, or disability.

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES

- A. Any person who believes he or she has been the target or victim of harassment or violence on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, or disability by a student, teacher, administrator, or other Bluffview Montessori School personnel, or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute harassment or violence prohibited by this policy toward a student, teacher, administrator, or other Bluffview Montessori School personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other Bluffview Montessori School personnel should report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate Bluffview Montessori School official designated by this policy. A person may report conduct which may constitute harassment or violence anonymously. However, Bluffview Montessori School may not rely solely on an anonymous report to determine discipline or other remedial responses.
- B. Bluffview Montessori School encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form available from the Head of School or available from the Bluffview Montessori School office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.
- C. Nothing in this policy shall prevent any person from reporting harassment or violence directly to the Bluffview Montessori School human rights officer or to the Head of School. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the Head of School or the Bluffview Montessori School human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.
- D. In the Bluffview Montessori School Building. The Head of School, the Head of School's designee, the human rights officer(s), or the building supervisor (hereinafter the "building report taker") is the person responsible for receiving oral or written reports of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy at the building level. Any adult Bluffview Montessori School personnel who receives a report of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy shall inform the building report taker immediately. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the Head of School or the Bluffview Montessori School human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant. The building report taker shall ensure that this policy and its procedures, practices, consequences, and sanctions are fairly and fully implemented and shall serve as a primary contact on policy and procedural matters.
- E. A teacher, school administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other school employee shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include acts of harassment or violence. Any such person who witnesses, observes, receives a report of, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute harassment or violence shall make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the harassment or violence and shall inform the building report taker immediately.

Bluffview Montessori School personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conduct that may constitute harassment or violence or who fail to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the harassment or violence in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.

- F. Upon receipt of a report, the building report taker must notify the Bluffview Montessori School human rights officer immediately, without screening or investigating the report. The building report taker may request, but may not insist upon, a written complaint. A written statement of the facts alleged will be forwarded as soon as practicable by the building report taker to the human rights officer. If the report was given verbally, the building report taker shall personally reduce it to written form within 24 hours and forward it to the human rights officer. Failure to forward any harassment or violence report or complaint as provided herein may result in disciplinary action against the building report taker.
- G. In the District. The school board hereby designates the Assistant Head of School as the Bluffview Montessori School human rights officer(s) to receive reports or complaints of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy. If the complaint involves the human rights officer, the complaint shall be filed directly with the Head of School.
- H. Bluffview Montessori School shall conspicuously post the name of the human rights officer(s), including mailing addresses and telephone numbers.
- I. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, work assignments, or educational or work environment.
- J. Use of formal reporting forms is not mandatory.
- K. Reports of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law.
- L. Bluffview Montessori School will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with Bluffview Montessori School's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with any discovery or disclosure obligations.
- M. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of violence or harassment is prohibited.
- N. False accusations or reports of violence or harassment against another person are prohibited.
- O. A person who engages in an act of violence or harassment, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting of violence or harassment, or permits, condones, or tolerates violence or harassment shall be subject to discipline or other remedial responses for that act in accordance with Bluffview Montessori School's policies and procedures.

Consequences for students who commit, or are a party to, prohibited acts of violence or harassment or who engage in reprisal or intentional false reporting may range from remedial responses or positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

Consequences for employees who permit, condone, or tolerate violence or harassment or engage in an act of reprisal or intentional false reporting of violence or harassment may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or discharge.

Consequences for other individuals engaging in prohibited acts of violence or harassment may include, but not be limited to, exclusion from Bluffview Montessori School property and events and/or termination of services and/or contracts.

V. INVESTIGATION

- A. By authority of Bluffview Montessori School, the human rights officer, within three (3) days of the receipt of a report or complaint alleging harassment or violence prohibited by this policy, shall undertake or authorize an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by Bluffview Montessori School officials or by a third party designated by the Bluffview Montessori School.
- B. The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of any other methods and documents deemed pertinent by the investigator.
- C. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes a violation of this policy, Bluffview Montessori School should consider the surrounding circumstances, the nature of the behavior, past incidents or past or continuing patterns of behavior, the relationships between the parties involved, and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a determination based on all the facts and surrounding circumstances.
- D. In addition, Bluffview Montessori School may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the target or victim, the complainant, and students, teachers, administrators, or other Bluffview Montessori School personnel pending completion of an investigation of alleged harassment or violence prohibited by this policy.
- E. The alleged perpetrator of the act(s) of harassment or violence shall be allowed the opportunity to present a defense during the investigation or prior to the imposition of discipline or other remedial responses.
- F. The investigation will be completed as soon as practicable. Bluffview Montessori School human rights officer shall make a written report to the Head of School upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint involves the Head of School, the report may be filed directly with the school board. The report shall include a

determination of whether the allegations have been substantiated as factual and whether they appear to be violations of this policy.

VI. BLUFFVIEW MONTESSORI SCHOOL ACTION

- A. Upon completion of an investigation that determines a violation of this policy has occurred, Bluffview Montessori School will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination, or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited behavior. Bluffview Montessori School action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, Minnesota and federal law, and applicable Bluffview Montessori School policies and regulations.
- B. Bluffview Montessori School is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of Bluffview Montessori School. School officials will notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) of targets or victims of harassment or violence and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of alleged perpetrators of harassment or violence who have been involved in a reported and confirmed harassment or violence incident of the remedial or disciplinary action taken, to the extent permitted by law.
- C. In order to prevent or respond to acts of harassment or violence committed by or directed against a child with a disability, Bluffview Montessori School shall, where determined appropriate by the child's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 team, allow the child's IEP or Section 504 plan to be drafted to address the skills and proficiencies the child needs as a result of the child's disability to allow the child to respond to or not to engage in acts of harassment or violence.

VII. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL

Bluffview Montessori School will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, or other Bluffview Montessori School personnel who commits an act of reprisal or who retaliates against any person who asserts, alleges, or makes a good faith report of alleged harassment or violence prohibited by this policy, who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation of retaliation or alleged harassment or violence, or who testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such harassment or violence. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, harassment, or intentional disparate treatment. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to deter violations and to appropriately discipline the individual(s) who engaged in the harassment or violence. Remedial responses to the harassment or violence shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct.

VIII. RIGHT TO ALTERNATIVE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

These procedures do not deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse which may include filing charges with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, initiating civil action, or seeking redress under state criminal statutes and/or federal law.

IX. HARASSMENT OR VIOLENCE AS ABUSE

- A. Under certain circumstances, alleged harassment or violence may also be possible abuse under Minnesota law. If so, the duties of mandatory reporting under Minn. Stat. § 626.556 may be applicable.
- B. Nothing in this policy will prohibit Bluffview Montessori School from taking immediate action to protect victims of alleged harassment, violence, or abuse.

X. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY AND TRAINING

- A. This policy shall be conspicuously posted throughout the school building in areas accessible to students and staff members.
- B. This policy shall be given to each Bluffview Montessori School employee and independent contractor who regularly interacts with students at the time of initial employment with Bluffview Montessori School.
- A. This policy shall appear in the student handbook.
- D. Bluffview Montessori School will develop a method of discussing this policy with students and employees.
- E. Bluffview Montessori School may implement violence prevention and character development education programs to prevent and reduce policy violations. Such programs may offer instruction on character education including, but not limited to, character qualities such as attentiveness, truthfulness, respect for authority, diligence, gratefulness, self-discipline, patience, forgiveness, respect for others, peacemaking, resourcefulness, and/or sexual abuse prevention.
- F. This policy shall be reviewed at least annually for compliance with state and federal law.

Appendix L – Hazing Prohibition

POLICY 526 HAZING PROHIBITION

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of Bluffview Montessori School and are prohibited at all times.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. No student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of Bluffview Montessori School shall plan, direct, encourage, aid, or engage in hazing.
- B. No teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of Bluffview Montessori School shall permit, condone, or tolerate hazing.
- C. Apparent permission or consent by a person being hazed does not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.
- D. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of hazing is prohibited.
- E. False accusations or reports of hazing against a student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee are prohibited.
- F. A person who engages in an act of hazing, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting of hazing or permits, condones, or tolerates hazing shall be subject to discipline or other remedial responses for that act in accordance with Bluffview Montessori School's policies and procedures.

Consequences for students who commit, tolerate, or are a party to prohibited acts of hazing may range from remedial responses or positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

Consequences for employees who permit, condone, or tolerate hazing or engage in an act of reprisal or intentional false reporting of hazing may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or discharge.

Consequences for other individuals engaging in prohibited acts of hazing may include, but not be limited to, exclusion from Bluffview Montessori School property and events and/or termination of services and/or contracts.

- G. This policy applies to hazing that occurs during and after school hours, on or off school premises or property, at school functions or activities, or on school transportation.
- H. A person who engages in an act that violates school policy or law in order to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization shall be subject to discipline for that act.

- I. Bluffview Montessori School will act to investigate all complaints of hazing and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of Bluffview Montessori School who is found to have violated this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Hazing” means committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other school-related purpose. The term hazing includes, but is not limited to:
 1. Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, or placing a harmful substance on the body.
 2. Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics, or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
 3. Any activity involving the consumption of any alcoholic beverage, drug, tobacco product, or any other food, liquid, or substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
 4. Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects a student to extreme mental stress, embarrassment, shame, or humiliation, that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from remaining in school.
 5. Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or of Bluffview Montessori School policies or regulations.
- B. “Immediately” means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.
- C. “On school premises or Bluffview Montessori School property, or at school functions or activities, or on school transportation” means all Bluffview Montessori School buildings, school grounds, and school property or property immediately adjacent to school grounds, school bus stops, school buses, school vehicles, school contracted vehicles, or any other vehicles approved for Bluffview Montessori School purposes, the area of entrance or departure from school grounds, premises, or events, and all school-related functions, school-sponsored activities, events, or trips. Bluffview Montessori School property also may mean a student’s walking route to or from school for purposes of attending school or school-related functions, activities, or events. While prohibiting hazing at these locations and events, Bluffview Montessori School does not represent that it will provide supervision or assume liability at these locations and events.

- D. “Remedial response” means a measure to stop and correct hazing, prevent hazing from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of hazing.
- E. “Student” means a student enrolled in a public school or a charter school.
- F. “Student organization” means a group, club, or organization having students as its primary members or participants. It includes grade levels, classes, teams, activities, or particular school events. A student organization does not have to be an official school organization to come within the terms of this definition.

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES

- A. Any person who believes he or she has been the target or victim of hazing or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate Bluffview Montessori School official designated by this policy. A person may report hazing anonymously. However, Bluffview Montessori School may not rely solely on an anonymous report to determine discipline or other remedial responses.
- B. Bluffview Montessori School encourages the reporting party to use the report form available from the Head of School or building supervisor or available from the Bluffview Montessori School office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.

The building Head of School, the Head of School’s designee, or the building supervisor (hereinafter the “building report taker”) is the person responsible for receiving reports of hazing. Any adult inform the building report taker immediately. Any person may report hazing directly to a Bluffview Montessori School human rights officer or to the Head of School. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the Head of School or the Bluffview Montessori School human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.

The building report taker shall ensure that this policy and its procedures, practices, consequences, and sanctions are fairly and fully implemented and shall serve as a primary contact on policy and procedural matters.

- C. A teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, and other school employees shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events which might include hazing. Any such person who witnesses, observes, receives a report of, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the hazing and shall inform the building report taker immediately. Bluffview Montessori School personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conduct that may constitute hazing or who fail to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the hazing in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.
- D. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of hazing will not affect the complainant or reporter’s future employment, grades, work assignments, or educational or work environment.

- E. Reports of hazing are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law. The building report taker, in conjunction with the responsible authority, shall be responsible for keeping and regulating access to any report of hazing and the record of any resulting investigation.
- F. Bluffview Montessori School will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with Bluffview Montessori School's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

V. BLUFFVIEW MONTESSORI SCHOOL ACTION

- A. Within three (3) days of the receipt of a complaint or report of hazing, Bluffview Montessori School shall undertake or authorize an investigation by Bluffview Montessori School officials or a third party designated by Bluffview Montessori School.
- B. The building report taker or other appropriate Bluffview Montessori School officials may take immediate steps, at their discretion, to protect the target or victim of the hazing, the complainant, the reporter, and students or others pending completion of an investigation of alleged hazing prohibited by this policy.
- C. The alleged perpetrator of the hazing shall be allowed the opportunity to present a defense during the investigation or prior to the imposition of discipline or other remedial responses.
- D. Upon completion of an investigation that determines hazing has occurred, Bluffview Montessori School will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination, or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited behavior. Bluffview Montessori School action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with the requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements; applicable statutory authority, including the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act; and applicable Bluffview Montessori School policies and regulations.
- E. Bluffview Montessori School is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of Bluffview Montessori School. School officials will notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) of students who are targets or victims of hazing and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of alleged perpetrators of hazing who have been involved in a reported and confirmed hazing incident of the remedial or disciplinary action taken, to the extent permitted by law.
- F. In order to prevent or to respond to hazing committed by or directed against a child with a disability, Bluffview Montessori School shall, where determined appropriate by the child's individualized drafted to address the skills and proficiencies the child needs as a result of the child's disability to allow the child to respond to or not to engage in hazing.

VI. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL

Bluffview Montessori School will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of Bluffview Montessori School who commits an act of reprisal or who retaliates against any person who asserts, alleges, or makes a good faith report of alleged alleged hazing, or who testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such hazing. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, harassment, or intentional disparate treatment. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to deter violations and to appropriately discipline the individual(s) who engaged in the prohibited conduct. Remedial responses to the prohibited conduct shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct.

VII. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

- A. This policy shall appear in the Bluffview Montessori School Family Handbook and in the Bluffview Montessori School Employee Handbook.
- B. Bluffview Montessori School will develop a method of discussing this policy with students and employees.

Appendix M – Software Inventory and Student Data Elements Record

DO NOT DELETE FROM THIS LIST						
(Logo)	Tool Name	General Topic	Data Elements	Terms of Service	Privacy Policy	Grade Levels or Schools Used
	Amplify	Math	Student name, grade	https://amplify.com/site/terms/	https://amplify.com/site-privacy/	K-8
	AIMSweb Plus (a product of Pearson Assessments)	Assessment and Feedback	Student Name, Student Email, Student Grade, School, Course Enrollments, Grades	https://www.pearson.com/en-us/legal-information/terms-of-use.html	https://www.pearson-clinical-privacy-policy.html	K-8
	BASE Education	Social Emotional Curriculum	Student Name, Student Email, Grade	https://base.education/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/BASE-Education-License-Agreement-and-Terms-of-Purchase-Current-as-of-21-Sep-2021.pdf	https://base.education/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/BASE-Education-Privacy-Policy-Updated-11-29-21-1.pdf	K-8
	Brainpop, Brainpop ELL, Brainpop Jr., Brainpop Suite	Online Curriculum	Student Name, Student Email, Grade, School, Roster	https://www.brainpop.com/about/terms_of_use/	https://www.brainpop.com/about/privacy_policy/	K-8
	Destiny Discover (see Follet)	Library Catalog				K-4
	EduClimber (a product of Illuminate Education)	Data Management	Student Name, Student Email, Student Grade, School, Course Enrollments, Grades, Gender, Ethnicity, Assessment Data		Security & Privacy - Illuminate Education	PK-8
	EZScan	running tracker	Student Name, distance	https://ezmileagedub.com	https://ezmileagedub.com/privacy-policy	k-8
	FastBridge (a product of Illuminate Education)	Assessment and Feedback	Student Name, Student Email, Student Grade, Assessment Data, Application Usage		Security & Privacy - Illuminate Education	PK-8
	GoGuardian	Filtering	Student Name, Student Email, Student Grade, School, Course Enrollments, Assessment Data, Application Usage	https://www.goguardian.com/policies/terms	https://www.goguardian.com/policies/product-privacy	K-8
	Google Workspace for Education	Collaboration, Productivity	Student Name, Student Email, Student Grade, School, Course Enrollments, Assessment Data, Application Usage	https://workspace.google.com/terms/education_terms.html	https://workspace.google.com/terms/education_privacy.html	K-8
	IXL	School Achievement	Student Name, Student Email, Student Grade, School, Course Enrollments,	https://www.ixl.com/terms-of-service	https://www.ixl.com/privacy-policy	K-8
	JMC	Student Information System	Student Name, Student Email, Student Grade, School, Course Enrollments, Grades, Discipline, Birthdate, Address, Guardians, Health Information, Student Identity, Attendance		https://www.jmcinc.com/privacy-policy	PK-8
	Kahoot!	General Education	Student Email, Birthdate	https://trust.kahoot.com/terms-and-conditions/	https://trust.kahoot.com/privacy-policy/	K-8
	McGraw-Hill	Online Curriculum	Student Name, Student Email, Student Grade, School, Course Enrollments, Application Usage		https://www.mheducation.com/privacy.html	K-8
	Montessori Records Xpress (MRX)	Student lesson record keeping	Student name, lesson/presentation records	https://mrxreinvented.com/		1-6
	Pearson (a list of their products by acronym)	Assessment and Feedback	Student Name, Student Email, Student Grade, School, Course Enrollments, Assessment Data, Application Usage	https://www.pearson.com/en-us/legal-information/privacy-policy.html	https://www.pearson.com/en-us/legal-information/privacy-policy.html	K-8
	SpeedForms	Special Education Documentation			https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TherId19KQn6wEmYZOPTR-EUES90R7a/view	PK-8
	Typingagent	Typing Curriculum	Student Name, Student Email, Grade, Class Enrollment	https://typingagent.com/terms-of-use	https://typingagent.com/privacy#%3A-terms%20of%20use%20and%20your%20login%20username	2-8

DO NOT DELETE FROM THIS LIST						
(Logo)	Tool Name	General Topic	Data Elements	Terms of Service	Privacy Policy	Grade Levels or Schools Used
	Lexia Learning	Online Curriculum	Student Name, Student Email, Student Grade, School, Course Enrollments	https://www.lexialearning.com/lexia	https://www.lexialearning.com/website-privacy-policy	K-5
	vocabulary.com	vocabulary development	Student Name, Student Email, Student Grade are added to the website	https://www.vocabulary.com/		1-8
	ReadWorks.com	Reading comp tracking	students names, student emails, and grade levels are put on the website	https://www.readworks.org/		1-8, SPED/IEPs
	xtramath	math fact fluency	students names, student emails, and grade levels are put on the website	https://home.xtramath.org/		1-6

Appendix N – Tobacco Free Environment

POLICY 419

TOBACCO-FREE ENVIRONMENT; POSSESSION AND USE OF TOBACCO, TOBACCO-RELATED DEVICES, AND ELECTRONIC DELIVERY DEVICES; VAPING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION INSTRUCTION

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a learning and working environment that is tobacco free.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator, other school personnel of Bluffview Montessori School, or person smokes or uses tobacco, tobacco-related devices, or carries or uses an activated electronic delivery device in a public school. This prohibition extends to all facilities, whether owned, rented, or leased, and all vehicles that a Bluffview Montessori School owns, leases, rents, contracts for, or controls. In addition, this prohibition includes vehicles used, in whole or in part, for work purposes, during hours of school operation, if more than one person is present. This prohibition includes all Bluffview Montessori School property and all off-campus events sponsored by Bluffview Montessori School.
- B. A violation of this policy occurs when any Bluffview Montessori School student possesses any type of tobacco, tobacco-related devices, or electronic delivery devices in school. This prohibition extends to all facilities, whether owned, rented, or leased, and all vehicles that Bluffview Montessori School owns, leases, rents, contracts for, or controls and includes vehicles used, in whole or in part, for school purposes, during hours of school operation, if more than one person is present. This prohibition includes all Bluffview Montessori School property and all off-campus events sponsored by Bluffview Montessori School.
- C. Bluffview Montessori School will act to enforce this policy and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, school personnel, or person who is found to have violated this policy.
- D. Bluffview Montessori School will not solicit or accept any contributions or gifts of money, curricula, materials, or equipment from companies that directly manufacture and are identified with tobacco products, tobacco-related devices, or electronic delivery devices. Bluffview Montessori School will not promote or allow promotion of tobacco products or electronic delivery devices on school property or at school-sponsored events.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Electronic delivery device” means any product containing or delivering nicotine, lobelia, or any other substance, whether natural or synthetic, intended for human consumption that can be used by a person to simulate smoking in the delivery of nicotine or any other substance through inhalation of aerosol or vapor from the product. Electronic delivery devices include but are not limited to devices

manufactured, marketed, or sold as electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic pipe, vape pens, modes, tank systems, or under any other product name or descriptor. Electronic delivery devices include any component part of a product, whether or not marketed or sold separately. Electronic delivery devices exclude drugs, devices, or combination products, as those terms are defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, that are authorized for sale by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

- B. “Heated tobacco product” means a tobacco product that produces aerosols containing nicotine and other chemicals which are inhaled by users through the mouth.
- C. “Tobacco” means cigarettes and any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product, including, but not limited to, cigars; cheroots; stogies; perique; granulated, plug cut, crimp cut, ready rubbed, and other smoking tobacco; snuff; snuff flour; cavendish; plug and twist tobacco; fine cut and other chewing tobacco; shorts; refuse scraps, clippings, cuttings and sweepings of tobacco; and other kinds and forms of tobacco. Tobacco excludes any drugs, devices, or combination products, as those terms are defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, that are authorized for sale by the United States Food and Drug Administration.
- D. “Tobacco-related devices” means cigarette papers or pipes for smoking or other devices intentionally designed or intended to be used in a manner which enables the chewing, sniffing, smoking, or inhalation of vapors aerosol or vapor of tobacco or tobacco products. Tobacco-related devices include components of tobacco-related devices which may be marketed or sold separately.
- E. “Smoking” means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted or heated product containing, made, or derived from nicotine, tobacco, marijuana, or other plant, whether natural or synthetic, that is intended for inhalation. Smoking includes carrying or using an activated electronic delivery device.
- F. “Vaping” means using an activated electronic delivery device or heated tobacco product.

IV. EXCEPTIONS

- A. A violation of this policy does not occur when an Indian adult lights tobacco on Bluffview Montessori School property as a part of a traditional Indian spiritual or cultural ceremony. An American Indian student may carry a medicine pouch containing loose tobacco intended as observance of traditional spiritual or cultural practices. An Indian is a person who is a member of an Indian tribe as defined under Minnesota law.
- B. A violation of this policy does not occur when an adult non student possesses a tobacco or nicotine product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco-cessation product, as a tobacco-dependence product, or for other medical purposes, and is being marketed

and sold solely for such an approved purpose. Nothing in this exception authorizes smoking or use of tobacco, tobacco-related devices, or electronic delivery devices on school property or at off-campus events sponsored by Bluffview Montessori School.

- C. An American Indian student or staff member may use tobacco, sage, sweetgrass, and cedar to conduct individual or group smudging at Bluffview Montessori School. The process for conducting smudging is determined by the Head of School. Smudging must be conducted under the direct supervision of an appropriate staff member, as determined by the Head of School.

V. VAPING PREVENTION INSTRUCTION

- A. Bluffview Montessori School must provide vaping prevention instruction at least once to students in grades 7 & 8.
- B. Bluffview Montessori School may use instructional materials based upon the Minnesota Department of Health's school e-cigarette toolkit or may use other smoking prevention instructional materials with a focus on vaping and the use of electronic delivery devices and heated tobacco products. The instruction may be provided as part of Bluffview Montessori School's locally developed health standards.

VI. ENFORCEMENT

- A. All individuals on school premises shall adhere to this policy.
- B. Students who violate this tobacco-free policy shall be subject to Bluffview Montessori School discipline procedures.
- C. Bluffview Montessori School administrators and other school personnel who violate this tobacco-free policy shall be subject to Bluffview Montessori School discipline procedures.
- D. Bluffview Montessori School action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with requirements of Minnesota or federal law, and Bluffview Montessori School policies.
- E. Persons who violate this tobacco-free policy may be referred to the building administration or other Bluffview Montessori School supervisory personnel responsible for the area or program at which the violation occurred.
- F. School administrators may call the local law enforcement agency to assist with enforcement of this policy. Smoking or use of any tobacco product in a public school is a violation of the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act and/or the Freedom to Breathe Act of 2007 and is a petty misdemeanor. A court injunction may be instituted against a repeated violator.
- G. No persons shall be discharged, refused to be hired, penalized, discriminated against, or in any manner retaliated against for exercising any right to a smoke-free

environment provided by the Freedom to Breathe Act of 2007 or other law.

VII. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

- A. This policy shall appear in the student handbook.
- B. Bluffview Montessori School will develop a method of discussing this policy with students and employees.