

# **MOMENTUM** **ACADEMY**

Parent/Scholar  
Handbook

## **WELCOME to the Home of the Roadrunners!**

Welcome to Momentum Academy! Our staff is looking forward to providing your child with every educational opportunity for maximum growth in the academic and social-emotional areas. Our goal is to provide meaningful instruction, positive for you and your child.

### **Momentum Academy Mission Statement**

The mission of Momentum Academy is to propel 21st century students toward success in life through a focus on student achievement for college and workforce readiness.



We're on the web!

[www.momentumacademy.org](http://www.momentumacademy.org)

<https://business.facebook.com/MomentumAcademyWaterford>

## **Academy School Hours**

Grades K-8 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

## **Academy School Office Hours**

Mon-Fri 8:00 AM – 3:45 PM

## **Momentum Academy Founder**

Paul Romine

## **Momentum Academy Board of Directors**

Rob Terwillger, President

Andrew Whitsitt, Vice President

Jeremy Wolfrom, Treasurer

Sandra Crowell, Secretary

Cora Morgan, Board Member

## **Administration**

Katie Alexander, Principal

[kalexander@momentumacademy.org](mailto:kalexander@momentumacademy.org)

Dana Kennedy, Office Manager

[dkennedy@momentumacademy.org](mailto:dkennedy@momentumacademy.org)

## **Educational Service Provider**

The Romine Group

7877 Stead

Suite 100

Utica, MI 48317

[www.therominegroup.com](http://www.therominegroup.com)

## **Public School Academy Authorizer**

Lake Superior State University

Charter Schools Office

## INDEX

### **(p. 6) OVERVIEW OF GENERAL INFORMATION**

- Daily Schedule & Procedures
- Parent Involvement
- Lunch
- School Closings
- Student Records

### **(p. 13) SCHOOL-WIDE POLICIES**

- Electronic Devices
- Internet Use

### **(p. 17) ATTENDANCE POLICIES**

- General Information
- Family Vacations
- Truancy
- Late Arrivals
- Credits Earned

### **(p. 20) DRESS CODE**

- Overview
- Consequences
- Details of Uniform Compliance

### **(p. 23) STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

- Special Services
- Special Education
- Section 504
- Homeless Students

### **(p. 27) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Medical Issues
- Dual Enrollment
- Field Trips
- After School Activities

### **(p. 32) GRADING POLICIES**

- Standardized Tests

### **(p. 39) DISCIPLINE OVERVIEW**

- General Purpose
- Academy-Wide Rules
- Definitions

### **(p. 46) DISCIPLINE ACTIONS & PENALTIES**

- General Descriptions
- Parent Grievances



## OVERVIEW

The regular school day begins at 8:15 and ends at 3:30. Breakfast is available from 8:15 am-8:30 am.

**BREAKFAST IS OVER AT 8:30 a.m.**

### Regular Daily Schedule (K-8<sup>th</sup> Grades)

8:00 Doors Open

3:30 End of school

### Lunch 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

Each student will have twenty minutes to complete his or her lunch. Each grade level has an assigned lunch period. Students are required to eat their lunch in the gym unless a staff member has given them permission to eat elsewhere.

### ADMISSION INTO ACADEMY

During the school year, parents wishing to enroll their child into Momentum Academy are required to complete an application and provide all requested documentation. If space is available, the parent will be contacted about a start date. If space is not available, the child will be placed on a waiting list and called in the order they signed in (based on date and time of submitted application).

During public enrollment for the proceeding school year, parents must also complete an application and provide all requested documentation. However, if space is not available, children will be admitted on the basis of the lottery system according to the Board of Directors policy. One week at the end of each school year is a designated period for parents wishing to reenroll their child. All parents will be required to complete a form to reserve their child's placement for the following school year.

### PARENT INVOLVEMENT AND COMMITMENT

By enrolling your child at Momentum Academy, you have chosen to participate in a unique educational experience that actively involves both you and your child. We ask that you demonstrate your commitment to Momentum Academy by...

- Ensuring your child will attend school on a regular basis. He/she should attend school unless he/she is unable to function at school due to illness. We also ask that you schedule vacation in conjunction with school breaks and holidays.
- Ensuring your child will be on time to school each day. Being on time is critical to minimizing interruptions to instruction and learning time for all children in a class. One child being 5 minutes late each day means a loss of two full school days in a school year for the entire class. Consider the loss over time when there are multiple tardies. Respect the need to have your child at school on time.
- Provide your child with the necessary materials and time to complete assignments requiring library references, computer access, and other research materials.
- See that your child is dressed properly in adherence to the dress code policy.
- Attend conferences and communicate with your child's teachers to monitor progress and to address questions and concerns as they occur.
- Read and return, on time, as requested, all informational materials sent home by the school and classroom teacher in order to ensure good communication.

- Adhering to policies and procedures within this handbook and at the school including behavior in the parking lot and on school grounds.
- Responding respectfully and appropriately to all staff, students, parents, and guests within the Momentum Academy community and at the school.

*Complaint Procedure: If you have a disagreement with a teacher or the administration, you should make every attempt to settle the problem with that person, without involving others. Should it not be settled, the two should go to the next line of authority to arbitrate the difficulty (Teacher → Principal → Superintendent → Board of Directors). It is the goal of Momentum Academy to respond to complaints and problems as soon as possible.*

## **DAILY PROCEDURES—ARRIVAL**

Students should arrive at school between 8:15-8:25 am, students will not be permitted to enter the building until 8:15 am. ***Please have students dress appropriately for weather if they will arrive prior to 8:15am—No matter the weather conditions they will not be permitted inside the building prior to 8:15 am.*** Students need to enter the building in an orderly fashion, they may not run, shout, or otherwise act in a disorderly manner. All students wearing hats need to remove them upon entering the building.

Prompt arrival into the classroom is essential. All entry doors open at 8:15 am. Any student arriving at 8:30 am and thereafter must report to the office for a tardy pass before proceeding to their classroom. Once class has begun, it is distracting to the other students to have their classmates entering the room late so please make every effort to have your child to school on time.

Parents may drop off their children at the designated entry door at 8:15 a.m. Upon arriving to school, all students are expected to remain outside of the school facility.

## **AM & PM FACILITY SAFETY PROCEDURES**

Parents are to follow the mapped out drop off and pick up procedures. They are not to park in undesignated spots. Students and parents are only to use the main entrance doors for entering & exiting the building between 8:30 am and 3:30 pm. All visitors during this time MUST report to the main office and sign in. No visitors will be permitted into the classroom corridors without prior approval. This is for the protection of all students and staff in the building.

## **LUNCH**

Each student will have twenty minutes to complete his or her lunch. Students are expected to follow the Lunch Room Behavior Code and respect all adults that are Momentum staff or parent volunteers when enforcing this Code.

- Students are expected to stay in the lunchroom and ask permission before leaving the lunchroom.
- Students are to use quiet voices when conversing with other students, yelling across the table or room is not acceptable.
- Students are expected to use good table manners while at lunch and to clean up their area after eating.

Any student that does not follow the Behavior Code will be referred to the Administration. Continual problems will result in loss of cafeteria privileges and the student will be required to eat in the school office or other assigned area with their parent/guardian if necessary.

A daily hot lunch program is offered to all students at Momentum from an outside food service. Menus are distributed to parents monthly.

There are no refrigerators or microwaves for student use. All lunches brought in need to be prepared ahead of time. Drink boxes, for example can be frozen the night before and packed in the student's lunch to keep items cool.

### **RECESS**

For grades PK-8, students have daily recess. Recess is held in the area behind the school or the enclosed area adjacent to the gym. Students are required to stay in the designated recess area and follow all school policies. All students are required to participate in the recess time. Please make sure they are dressed appropriately for the weather. Students will go outside for recess when the temperature is above 20 degrees.

In the event of rain or temperatures below 20 degrees, recess will be held in the student's classroom.

### **DISMISSAL**

At no time will Momentum Academy permit a student to be dismissed without a parent/guardian. Students are not permitted to leave with a friend without written parent/guardian permission and approval in the main office. Repeated offenses will be turned over to the principal and school social worker for review and follow-up.

Students are dismissed from the gym doors at 3:30pm after the buses are boarded. All students not picked up by 3:45pm will be sent to the office. Students will not be permitted to walk home without prior written authorization from a parent/guardian.

### **INDIVIDUAL STUDENT DISMISSAL**

Students will be dismissed from their classroom to a parent/guardian or emergency contact. Students will not be dismissed to any other adult or peer unless prior written arrangements are made with the Academy office. This procedure will guarantee the safety and well being of all students. Parent/Guardian is required to go to the office to pick up their child from the Academy at times other than normal arrival and dismissal. The Parent/Guardian is not to go directly to the classroom but report to the office where they will be required to sign students out of the Academy. After approval from the main office, the student's educator will send the student to meet the parent in the main office. Parents should not go to the classroom to pick up the student. This causes disruption to the learning environment.

### **TELEPHONE**

A telephone is available in the school office for EMERGENCY phone use by students. During the school day, permission to use the telephone must come from the office personnel. It is also school policy for students to work out any concerns with staff when adult intervention is needed, not with parents by phone. Cellular phones are not permitted at school. If a student brings a phone to school, they are required to leave it in the office in the morning. They can pick their phone up from the office at dismissal. If a student is found using a cellular phone, it will be confiscated and a parent must come in to obtain the phone after first confiscation. Refusal to turn in a cell phone will result in further disciplinary action. Please see policy for prohibited electronic devices for additional procedure of handling student in possession of cell phone.

### **THE ACADEMY VISITORS**

Adult visitors are always welcome. However, we are interested in knowing who is in the building and require all visitors to register in the office and wear a visitor's badge. Students or parents from other schools or Academies wishing to visit must make prior arrangements with the principal and a fifteen-minute observation will be scheduled with an educator. Any visitors that will be spending more than two hours in a week at the Academy will be required to meet all criminal/background screening. This is to ensure the safety of all



Momentum students and staff.

### **VOLUNTEER POLICY**

The Educational Service Provider recognizes that certain programs and activities can be enhanced through the use of volunteers who have particular knowledge or skills that will be helpful to members of the professional staff responsible for the conduct of those programs and activities.

The Principal in cooperation with the Educational Service Provider shall be responsible for recruiting volunteers, reviewing their capabilities, and making appropriate placements. She/he shall not be obligated to make use of volunteers whose abilities are not in accord with school needs. The Administration shall conduct appropriate background checks on all volunteers in the same manner as required for other professional staff for any volunteer that is assigned to the school for more than two hours per week.

The Administration is to inform each volunteer that she/he:

- Shall agree to abide by all Board policies and school guidelines while on duty as a volunteer including signing, if appropriate, the School's Network and Internet Access Agreement Forms;
- Will be covered under the School's liability policy but the School cannot provide any type of health insurance to cover illness or accident incurred while serving as a volunteer, nor is the person eligible for workers compensation;
- Will be asked to sign a form releasing the School of any obligation should the volunteer become ill or receive an injury as a result of his/her volunteer services.
- To attend the appropriate training for the assigned tasks prior to volunteer services at the school.

The Administration shall also ensure that each volunteer is properly informed of the School's appreciation for his/her time efforts in assisting the operation of the School

### **THE ACADEMY EMERGENCY CLOSINGS**

In the event of the Academy closing due to weather or other emergencies, please check Channel 7/ABC, Channel 4/WDIV, and Channel 2/FOX News. In the event of a school emergency, you will be contacted by Swift Reach K12 call so it is important that you keep your information updated at the front office.

### **TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLIES**

Students are responsible for the proper care of all books and supplies issued each year through the Academy. Students who lose books or damage the Academy property will be assessed a replacement fee or repair cost to offset the replacement or repair cost. All costs are to be paid prior to receiving all report cards or the transfer of student records.

### **HOMEWORK**

Homework is a very necessary and integral part of a child's education. The purpose of homework is to reinforce those skills and concepts taught in the learning environment. Homework also includes work not finished during class time. Parental support and cooperation are very important in this area. Helping students with their homework shows you are interested in their education. Each educator is responsible for the classroom homework. This is to ensure age-appropriate requirements. Please note that homework can come in many forms and while the Academy recognizes that age appropriate learning also consists of social and family activities at home, we request your support and cooperation while we try to find the best ways to reinforce learning at home. When traditional forms of homework are not necessary, the educators may have

alternative projects and such instead. Please direct all homework questions to your student's educator.

### **REQUEST FOR HOMEWORK**

A request for homework for a child that is ill should be made in the morning. This will allow time for the educator to organize the materials. Homework may be picked up in the office at the end of the day. Our educators will make every effort to have homework ready to be picked up in the office at the end of the day. Please remember that much of the learning at Momentum Academy is done in a hands-on and experiential way and many times cannot be sent home to be completed. That is why it is vital that all students are at school as much as possible.

### **STUDENT RECORD "RIGHTS"**

The Federal "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974" provides parents or guardians of students under the age of 18 the right to examine official records, files, and data relating to the student. If you wish to review your child's record, please contact the office.

### **STUDENT RECORDS**

The Board of Directors for Momentum Academy believes that all student records shall be treated as confidential and exist primarily for local Academy use or as otherwise stipulated. To request a review of your students records a parent/guardian must contact the main office to schedule an appointment. To request a hardcopy of your student's records a parent/guardian must submit the request in writing to the main office. The Office Manager will then contact the parent/guardian to notify of when the request can be reasonably fulfilled, not to exceed 15 days.

In situations where the parents of a student are divorced or separated, each parent custodial and/or non-custodial has equal rights to their child's records unless a court order specifies otherwise. The Academy's personnel shall not recognize private agreements between the student's parents.

Parents shall have an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the content of their child's school records to ensure that the records are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of students; to provide an opportunity for the correction or deletion of any such inaccurate, misleading or otherwise inappropriate data contained therein; and to insert into such records the parent's written explanation of the content of such records.

Any eligible parent/guardian or student may inspect the records of the student during regular Academy office hours with a scheduled appointment. The district reserves the right to interpret selected records to students and/or parent/guardians at the time of the inspection.

If circumstances prevent a parent/guardian from exercising their right to come to the Academy to review a student's education records, the Academy will provide a copy of the requested records to the requesting party following the procedure above. The Academy will not destroy any educational records if there is an outstanding request to inspect and review a student's records.

Whenever a student attains 18 years of age, the consent required of and the rights accorded to the parents of the student shall thereafter only be accorded to the student. Parents/guardians are responsible for updating the academy when emergency phone number and address information has been changed.

### **MOVING?**

Please notify the Academy office before transferring to another school. A copy of the immunization form will be given to you to present to the new school.

We want to know:

- New address and phone number
- Date of the move
- Name of the new school
- Students are expected to:
  - o Return all library and textbooks*
  - o Settle all outstanding debts*
  - o Collect all personal items*

In the event that the above is not returned the student's records will not be transferred and the last report card will not be mailed to the parent/guardian.



# SCHOOL WIDE POLICIES

## **CELLULAR PHONES, MP3 Players, IPODs, and Other ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

The telephones are for the Academy business and emergencies only. Students will be permitted to use the telephones for emergency purposes only. Students should take care of information business with parents prior to coming to school.

At no time are students permitted to bring pagers, video games, musical electronic listening devices or any other electronic devices into the classroom. If cellphones are brought into the school, they are to be given to the office for safekeeping. They are to be kept turned off. Failure to follow policy will result in disciplinary action and forfeit of device to the academy until the end of the school year. Momentum will not accept responsibility for the personal items of students lost, stolen, or confiscated under any circumstance.

- First offense the item will be taken and returned to student after a meeting with administration.
- Second offense the item will be returned to parent or guardian
- Third offense-the item will be returned at the end of the year.
- Refusing to surrender a cell phone will result in further disciplinary action.

## **STUDENT CAMERAS**

For the safety and well being of all of our students, student cameras are not permitted at school. We recognize the importance of school day memories and will designate specific dates and events which cameras will be permitted for. This will require teacher supervision of the photographs being taken as well as administrative approval. Please understand that we want to ensure the safety and well being of every student at Momentum and that circumstances such as the internet and other predators are at large and we want to protect and ensure you are aware of exposure of your child.

Students in possession of cameras that are not approved by administration will be confiscated and if necessary pictures deleted prior to release of camera to parent/guardian.

## **INTERNET USE POLICY**

Momentum Academy adheres to the federal requirements and guidelines stipulated under Title XVII—Children's Internet Protection Act.

### **A. Educational Purpose**

Momentum Academy Internet system has a limited educational purpose. Activities that are acceptable include classroom activities, career development, and high-quality personal research. Momentum Academy has the right to place reasonable restrictions on material you access or post through the system. You are expected to follow the rules set forth in the Momentum Academy disciplinary code and the law in your use of the network. *Students who use laptops for personal (non-academic) purposes during the school day will be prohibited from bringing their laptop to school or using an Academy laptop during the school day.*

### **B. Internet Management**

Embracing the Internet as a critical and essential component in today's world is essential if our students are to become functional members of society. The benefits attained by the advancement of technology bring with it associated costs and a wide range of risks, in particular, the exposure of student to inappropriate material and people. As part of our commitment to Internet security, we offer a firewall (a web-blocker application program). This has the ability to block objectionable material and captures the window when questionable material is accessed.

## **C. Unacceptable Uses**

The following uses are considered unacceptable:

### *1. Personal Safety and Personal Privacy*

Students will not post personal contact information. This includes students' address, school address, telephone number, and name on the Internet. This includes other people as well as the student. Students will promptly disclose to the teacher any message or website that is inappropriate or makes students feel uncomfortable.

### *2. Illegal Activities*

Students will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to Momentum Academy Network or to any other system through the network beyond authorized access. Students will not attempt to deliberately disrupt the computer system or destroy data by spreading computer viruses or by any other means. Students will not use the network to engage in any other illegal act, such as arranging for illegal activities or threatening the safety of other people.

### *3. System Security*

No software is to be downloaded on the computers at any time without explicit consent of the system administrator.

### *4. Inappropriate Language*

Restrictions against inappropriate language apply to public messages, private messages, and material posted on Web pages. Students will not use obscene, profane, vulgar, rude, threatening or disrespectful language. Students will not post information that could cause damage or a danger of disruption. Students will not engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks. Students will not harass another person. Students will not knowingly post false or defamatory information about another person or organization.

### *5. Respecting Resources*

Using the computer systems and Internet is a privilege. Students need to respect the computer by using it appropriately.

### *6. Plagiarism*

Students will not plagiarize works that they find on the Internet or any other print source. Plagiarism is taking the ideas or writings of others and presenting them as if they were your own.

### *7. Copyright*

Students will respect the rights of copyright owners. Copyright infringement occurs when you inappropriately reproduce a work that is protected by a copyright. If a work contains language that specifies appropriate use of that work, students should follow the expressed requirements. If students are unsure or have questions, they should ask a teacher.

### *8. Inappropriate Access to Material*

Students will not access material that is designated for adult use only or is profane or obscene, that advocates illegal or dangerous acts, or discrimination towards other people. If students mistakenly access inappropriate information, they should immediately tell the teacher. This will protect students against a claim that they have intentionally violated the rules.

#### **D. Disciplinary Actions**

Students should only expect limited privacy in the contents of personal files or records of Web research. Routine maintenance and monitoring of the network may lead to discovery that you have violated the Policy, the school disciplinary code or the law. An individual search will be conducted if there is reasonable suspicion that you have violated this Policy, the Momentum Academy disciplinary code or the law.

Momentum Academy will cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation related to any illegal activities conducted through the school.

#### **E. Limitation of Liability**

Momentum Academy makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through the school Network system will be error free or without defect. Momentum will not be responsible for any damage that may be suffered, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. The school is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the system. The school will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the system. Parents or guardians will be responsible for any harm to the system as a result of intentional misuse.

#### **LOST AND FOUND**

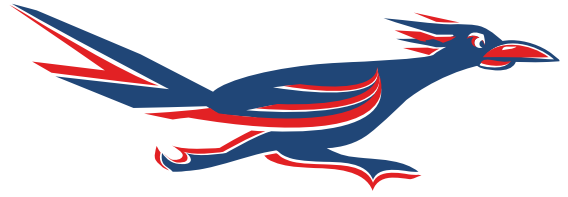
Found articles of clothing or miscellaneous articles will be placed in the lost and found area (see front office for location). The last Friday of the month all the lost and found items will be removed and donated to a local charity organization. To help alleviate the problem of lost articles, PLEASE PUT YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON ALL CLOTHING.

#### **STUDENT SOLICITATION**

Students may solicit only for the Academy-sponsored activities. All the Academy activities at the elementary level discourage door-to-door solicitation in the community. There will be no exchange of money among students for any purpose unless authorized by the office.

#### **THE ACADEMY CELEBRATIONS**

All celebrations are at the discretion of each educator and the academy administration. If you choose to have your child not participate in an activity, please speak with your child's educator. If the activity is due to religious or other beliefs an opt-out activity will be provided for your student. At Momentum Academy, we try to recognize celebrations and traditions of many different cultures. Understanding cultural diversity is an integral part of society. If you have other suggestions for educators or the school in regards to celebrations and traditions of different cultures please let us know and we will be happy to consider the additions.



# **MOMENTUM** **ACADEMY**

## Attendance Policies



## **ATTENDANCE POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

All students are expected to attend the Academy for the entire academic year. Parents are strongly discouraged from taking their students out of the Academy for family vacations.

### *I. ATTENDANCE*

1. Parents are asked to call the Academy by 8:00 am when their child is going to be absent. This does not constitute an excused absence.
2. Whenever students are absent from the Academy, notes or medical excuses are required explaining the absence. The note should also have day, time, and phone number where the parent can be reached.
3. Parents may arrange, in advance, for absences. Prearranged absences are not automatically excused (guidelines apply for excused/unexcused absences).
4. Medical and funeral excuses only are exempt from the attendance count.
5. Students absent from school the day of a scheduled after-school or evening sponsored activity/event will NOT be allowed to participate in that activity/event.

### *II. FAMILY VACATIONS:*

1. We would like to encourage you to schedule family vacations at times other than when the Academy is in session. When you must schedule a family trip during Academy time, contact the educator in advance concerning how your child will complete missed assignments.
2. Time given for the completion of makeup work will be one (1) day for every day absent.

### *III. ATTENDANCE PROCESS /TRUANCY:*

1. A letter from the administration will be sent to the student's parent/guardian on the **fifth absence** per quarter.
2. A mandatory conference will be held between administration and the student's parent/guardian upon the **eighth absence** per quarter.
3. If the student reaches **eleven absences** per semester, they may be retained in the current grade level due to lack of formal instruction. The student maybe referred to the OISD truancy officer.

### *IV. THE PROCEDURES FOR APPEALS:*

1. Students, who exceed the number of absences with justifiable cause, may petition the appeals board for a hearing. The appeals process is only presenting proof of justifiable absences. It is not intended for any other use.
2. Students who wish to use the appeals process must present a completed form to the Principal's office clearly giving reasons for their absences. Excuses such as getting up late, car problems, or missing a ride will not be accepted.
3. Each case will be heard and judged on its individual merits.
4. It is the parent's responsibility to provide the necessary materials on his/her behalf.
5. The appeals board will be comprised of two (2) educators and one Administrator.
6. The decision of the board will be final.

#### V. TARDY/LATE ARRIVAL/EARLY DISMISSAL:

1. Classes begin at 8:15 a.m. Students can be dropped off as early as 8:15 a.m. Students arriving in the learning environment after 8:25 a.m. will be considered tardy. Due to state guidelines, all attendance must be documented and reported to Oakland County ISD including late arrivals.
2. A letter from administration will be sent to the student's parent/guardian on the **fifth tardy** per semester. *(Unless decided otherwise by administration)*
3. A mandatory conference will be held between administration and the student's parent/guardian upon the **eighth tardy** per semester. *(Unless decided otherwise by administration)*
4. If the student reaches **eleven tardies** per semester, they may be retained in the current grade level due to lack of formal instruction. The student maybe referred to the OCS D truancy officer.

#### PROCEDURE FOR LATE ARRIVAL

1. Parents are asked to call the Academy when their child is going to be late. Upon arrival, student must report to the office before entering class.
2. A student will be considered absent for the morning if he/she arrives after 11:30 a.m. and for the afternoon if he/she leaves before 11:30 a.m.
3. All documentation will be maintained in the student record.

#### ATTENDANCE AND CREDITS EARNED

A student who has *MISSED 11 DAYS OF CLASS* within a given semester *MAY BE RETAINED IN THEIR CURRENT GRADE*. **\*The Principal will issue final decision on retention at the end of the school year.**

#### ATTENDANCE FOR RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

Momentum Academy will cooperate with parents who wish to provide religious instruction for their child but also recognizes its responsibility to enforce the attendance requirements of the State. Upon the signed request by the student's parent, the Board will allow exceptions to the student's continuous attendance at school:

1. For religious instruction outside the school building for no more than two (2) class hours per week
2. For attendance at confirmation classes provided is twelve (12) or thirteen (13) years of age and the instructional period is no longer than five (5) months in either of those years.

The student must be properly registered and a copy of such registration must be filed with the principal, which will be maintained in the student file. The time release for religious instruction or education shall be arranged by the Principal in keeping with the regulations of the State Board of Education. The student will also assure the appropriate continuance of the instructional program at Momentum during such release times. No solicitation for attendance at religious instruction shall be permitted on school premises. No member of the staff shall encourage nor discourage participation in any religious instruction program.



# Dress Code Policies

## DRESS CODE OVERVIEW

*Take pride in how you look at all times. Uniforms can help keep you safe and prevent you from being judged by others for not looking a certain way. They also create a serious, distinguished look that tells the world YOU are about business. Always be mindful of your personal appearance – it speaks volumes about your character.*

## DRESS CODE

Our basic standards regarding student dress are based on cleanliness, neatness, modesty, safety and minimizing learning distraction. Uniforms are to be worn at the Academy by all students in grades K-8.

### DRESS CODE – Grades K-8

The Momentum Academy dress code must be strictly followed. Uniform checks will be performed. If students come to school wearing inappropriate attire, they will be sent to the office by the classroom teacher. Parents may be contacted and will be responsible for bringing proper clothing that same day.

#### Permitted attire:

1. School shirts (Polo Style) navy blue or red. Polo shirts **in the approved colors** are allowed under **PLAIN** navy blue jumpers ONLY.
2. **Navy blue** sweaters may be worn over the polo shirts and must be in the approved colors only. **NO HOODIES.**
3. Dress slacks are to be navy blue worn at the waist. Knee length shorts in navy blue are permitted. Exceptions may be made in the event of unseasonably warm weather.
4. Dress slacks, knee-length shorts, skorts, skirts or jumpers in navy blue.
5. Jewelry may be worn providing it is not distracting and does not present a safety hazard.
6. Black dress shoes/ athletic shoes are required. All shoes **MUST** be closed toe and closed heel. Heelies and shoes with lights are prohibited.

Jeans must be school appropriate. NO torn, tight, ripped, or low rise jeans that reveal body parts are permitted. If students want to wear free dress they must pay \$1. All attire must be school appropriate.

Participation in Jean Day is a privilege that can be revoked to any student by school administration for any length of time deemed necessary.

Dress code policy will be enforced for all students in grades K – 8th:

Any uniform violation will cause student to move to next step (i.e. no uniform shirt causes step 1 and next time will move student to step 2).

**Step 1:** Dress code violation form will be sent home for a parent to sign.

**Step 2:** Call home from administration.

**Step 3:** Student will serve lunch detention.

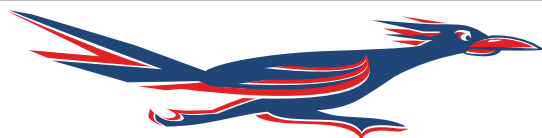
**Step 4:** In-House Suspension.

**Step 5:** Out of School Suspension.

#### Attire that is NOT permitted (K-8):

1. Pants made of nylon, leather, sweat pant material, mesh, denim, or cotton knit. No jeans of any type or color.
2. Any body piercing-(ear piercing is acceptable)
3. Hats or visors inside the building. No bandanas or other scarf on the head, princess crowns, or any other distracting figures, of any kind can be worn during the school day.
4. Any decoration on clothing.
5. Ripped or torn clothing.
6. Hooded shirts of any kind (except Momentum Academy Spirit Wear Hoodies)
7. Any shirt worn wrapped around the waist.
8. Jackets/outerwear may not be worn in class.
9. Any clothing that exposes a part of the body between the neck and knees.
10. Students who are in violation of the dress code because of sloppiness or “stretching” the rule will be corrected and a detention will be issued. This includes sagging pants. If there are extenuating circumstances, such as a foot injury, that may require your child to wear special shoes, please call the school office and let us know. Of course, we make exceptions in these cases.

\*\* Administrative discretion maybe used at any time in regards to dress code issues.



**MOMENTUM**  
ACADEMY

# Students with Special Needs

## **SPECIAL SERVICES**

The services of a speech-language therapist, psychologist, social worker, special education educator, and occupational therapist are available on a referral basis. If you would like more information, please contact your child's educator. The following special services are available to all students who qualify under state guidelines.

- Occupational Therapist: Provides services to students who need fine motor therapy.
- School Psychologist: Provides services to students who need evaluation for special education needs.
- School Social Worker: Provides services to students who are experiencing personal or social adjustment problems in the Academy or at home.
- Speech Therapist: Works with students who are impaired by speech and language difficulties.
- Special Education Teacher: Services are provided for students with special needs in a resource room or on a consultant basis.
- Vision and Hearing: The Oakland County Health Department provides tests annually for designated grade levels.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION POLICY**

The Board of Directors of Momentum Academy wants each child to fulfill their ultimate learning potential. To the extent that an educator or parent feels that child may demonstrate some learning disabilities, the following board policy to evaluate a child's academic progress shall be followed:

- After either a parent or educator expressed a concern about a child's school performance, Response To Intervention, RTI, plan will begin in which an educator is making documented attempts to develop strategies that increase success of student. If the RTI process is not successful after all options have been exhausted, a child study meeting will be held to determine if formal testing is needed. The student's educator, special education educator, learning specialist, school social worker or counselor and principal will attend the child study meeting.
- If it is determined that formal testing is needed, within ten days parents must be notified and request made for their written authorization for testing.
- Once the parents provides consent for formal testing of their child, the Academy has thirty days to complete the evaluation process and hold an Individualized Education Program Team (IEP) meeting in which determines if special educational services are needed.
- For a child to qualify for special education services there must be proof that the child's academic progress is impacted by a discrepancy in achievement or other tested data.
- After a decision is made on the student's eligibility for special education services, the IEP meeting is held with general education educator, special education educator, principal and parent in attendance.
- It will be determined at the IEP meeting how many hours per week and what special education services the child will receive.
- Once a child is in special education, the child's IEP goals will be reassessed annually.
- Every three years the child must be reevaluated to determine continued eligibility for special education services. It is the ultimate goal for each child eligible for special education services that the achievement gap will be closed and that the special education intervention strategies have worked to no longer require services.

## **SECTION 504**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is designed to prohibit discrimination based on disability in any program or activity receiving federal money. This statute obligates public schools to provide equal access and equal opportunity to otherwise qualified persons with disabilities. For a student to be eligible for a 504 plan, the student must meet all of the following criteria. It must be because of this disability that the student is unable to gain equal access and benefit from school programs and services.

The publication, *A Parent Guide to Section 504 Of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, is a resource available to parents through their school.

- A physical or mental impairment (has a history of having a physical or mental impairment)
- That **substantially** limits one or more major life activities

If you believe that a student may be eligible for Section 504 support, please contact Mrs. Alexander (Principal) for additional information.

## **HOMELESS STUDENTS: MCKINNEY VENTO ACT**

**Educational Rights of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness:** *If you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness, please notify the school so we can help. This is not something to be ashamed of as there are many resources to assist families in this situation. Momentum Academy is committed to keeping all information strictly confidential.*

### **Children and youth experiencing homelessness have the right to:**

- Go to school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there. Students who are homeless must be given access to the same public education provided to other students.
- Continue in the school they attended before becoming homeless or the school last attended if that is their choice and feasible. The school district's local liaison for homeless education must assist you, if needed, and offer you the right to appeal a decision regarding your choice of school if it goes against your wishes.
- Receive transportation to the school they attended before they became homeless or the school last attended, if a request is made for such transportation and transportation is feasible.
- Attend a school and participate in school programs with students who are not homeless. Students cannot be separated from the regular school program due to the fact that they are homeless.
- Enroll in school without providing a permanent address. Schools cannot require proof of residency that might prevent or delay school enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes in the school of their choice even while the school and student who is homeless seek to resolve a dispute over enrollment.
- Receive the same special programs and services, if needed, as provided to all other students served in these programs.
- Receive transportation to school and to school programs.



These rights are established under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. This act is the primary piece of federal legislation dealing with the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in U.S. public schools. It was reauthorized as Title X, Part C, of the No Child Left Behind Act in January 2002. To qualify for these rights, children and youth must be considered homeless according to the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness.

### **How does the McKinney-Vento Act define homelessness?**

According to U.S. Department of Education (USDE) guidance, people living in the following situations are considered homeless under McKinney-Vento: doubled-up with family or friends due to economic hardship; in motels or hotels due to lack of other suitable housing; in homes for unwed or expectant mothers because they have nowhere else to go; in homeless and/or domestic violence shelters; in transitional housing programs; on the streets; in abandoned buildings; in public places not meant for housing; in cars, trailers, and campgrounds; or awaiting foster care. Runaway and/or "throwaway" children and youth are also considered homeless under McKinney-Vento.

*The description above refers to people living "doubled-up". What does that mean?*

"Doubled-up" refers to people who are living with friends and relatives due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason. However, families who have chosen to move into adequate housing situations with friends or relatives for reasons of cultural preference or convenience are not covered by McKinney-Vento.

*Are migrant students considered homeless under McKinney-Vento?*

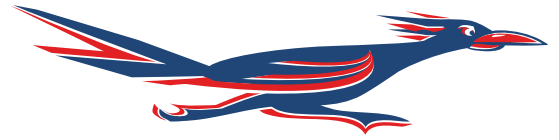
Migrant students are considered homeless if they meet one or more of the definitions of homelessness under McKinney-Vento. However, migrant students should not be considered homeless simply because they are migrant.

*Are children in foster care considered homeless?*

No. The McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness includes children who are awaiting foster care placement only. Once children have been placed in foster care, they are no longer considered homeless.

**If you would like additional information on the rights of homeless students or you would like to notify us of a situation involving a homeless student, please contact the following Momentum Academy Homeless liaison:**

Mrs. Katie Alexander, Principal at [kalexander@momentumacademy.org](mailto:kalexander@momentumacademy.org) (248) 682-5000.



# **MOMENTUM** **ACADEMY**

## Additional Information

### **BOOK BAG/LOCKER CHECK**

Random book bag and locker checks are to help prevent any illegal substances or weapons from being housed in the student possession. It is the responsibility of the school administration to check bags and lockers. The school administration may be assisted by the police and canine unit from time to time when conducting locker or personal bag checks. Momentum Academy is not responsible for items that are stolen out of book bags or lockers. Students should never bring valuable expensive coats, jackets, jewelry, shoes, supplies etc. to school. Students are not allowed to share a book bag or house another student's belongings in their bag.

### **MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS**

State Law and the Oakland County Immunization Code require all students entering the Academy to provide evidence of having received the required immunizations for Diphtheria, Tetanus, Peruses, Polio, Measles, Rubella, and Mumps, HIB shot, Hepatitis B, and Chicken Pox or a signed statement that a child has not been immunized because of religious or other reasons. State Law and Oakland County Immunization Code prohibit the Academy from admitting children without the required immunizations.

### **INJURIES AND ILLNESS**

Children should report all illnesses and injuries occurring in the Academy to their educator or supervisory personnel. Only immediate and temporary care will be given in the Academy. Parents will be notified by phone when a child needs additional care. If injury or illness is of an urgent nature, the local emergency services will be contacted. The school office will also notify the child's parent/guardian.

### **MEDICAL EXCUSES**

A student may be excused from physical education and recess for one day with a note from parent/guardian. Extended excuses will be honored upon receipt of a physician's note. In the event of an extended excuse a physician's note may be required to return to physical education, recess, and after school activities.

### **COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

Any student evidencing a rash, sores, or other physical problems with possibility of being contagious, the student will be sent to the office to be sent home. When a child is absent with a contagious disease or illness, the parent/guardian should notify the Academy office. In order for your child to be admitted back into the Academy, parents must comply with the Oakland County Health guidelines. Please contact the Academy office for further information.

### **ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION**

In accordance with Momentum Academy's policy, no medication is to be in the student's possession at any time. Should children be required to take medication during the school hours, a form must be filled out by the physician indicating the name of the drug, the dosage to be taken and any other instructions that are necessary. The medication must be brought from the home by the parent/guardian or other responsible adult. The medication container must have the dispensing instructions noted on it. At school, the medication will be kept under lock and key and only the office staff will administer the medication. A record is kept of the medication that is administered to each child. A log will be kept indicating when each dose is administered to each child and signed by administrating staff and when possible a witness.

*NOTE: Over-the-counter throat lozenges are not allowed in the student's possession at any time. At no time should a student be sent to school with medication that does not follow these guidelines. Student's are not to self medicate while at school nor are they to possess medications to offer opportunity for other students to ingest and possibly overdose.*

## **ILLNESS AND ACCIDENTS**

If a child must go home because of an injury or illness, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to pick up the child at school. When a situation appears to be life threatening, the staff will act on the side of caution and will call an ambulance. The cost of the ambulance is the responsibility of the parent/guardian. The situation becomes challenging if parents cannot be reached in the case of an emergency therefore, the emergency phone number becomes crucial since it is the first number the office attempts to contact.

## **POLICY FOR REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE**

In a perfect world, all children are loved, well cared for, safe, and treated with respect. Because our world isn't perfect, this is not true for some children. As educators and other Academy staff members, we not only have the privilege of teaching, learning from and getting to know our students, but we must take on the responsibility of listening to and helping them when they need us to. When there is reasonable cause to suspect child neglect or abuse the following policy will be followed.

### *MAKE AN ORAL REPORT*

In accordance with the law, any Momentum Academy employee who suspects child abuse or neglect will report it to Child Protective Services immediately. Suspicion can be based on many factors such as observations, bruises or marks, student report, and so on. The abuse does not have to be confirmed. After an internal investigation, the Oakland County Department of Social Services will determine the correct course of action. The Department caseworkers will interview the student as soon as possible. Any Academy employee having knowledge of the incidents or concerns about the child on question should be prepared to share any such information with the child protection services caseworker or with any law enforcement personnel.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

The purpose of a field trip is to give students a better understanding of their culture and acquaint them with real life experiences. Students are expected to follow all the Academy rules and policies and pay for any cost incurred. For those who cannot afford such trips, some funding and/or fundraising options may be available. Please notify the office in such cases. If a Field Trip Permission Form is not submitted by a parent/guardian in the proper time frame, if the student is not dressed properly, or a student has had behavior issues which may jeopardize the safety of self, others or the school, the child may not attend the trip. Students not attending will still be expected to attend school and will be provided parallel learning activities.

Student safety is the main priority on field trips. Sponsoring and chaperoning adults are expected to adhere to Academy policies and procedures on the field trip as well as sign a chaperone agreement provided by the classroom teacher specifying specific expected chaperone behavior. Sponsors and chaperones should acquaint themselves in advance with those students who have medical conditions, which may need emergency care. The classroom teacher must accompany the group and adequate male/female supervision should be provided.

*Responsibilities of Parents Chaperoning Field Trips:* Parents play an important role in making a field trip successful. Field trips are planned to supplement the content through a “hands-on” experience. In preparing for a field trip, the following points need to be understood by parent chaperones.

1. The classroom teacher is the final authority for all field trip preparations including: volunteers, schedules, student discipline, and learning objectives.
2. Chaperones are required to remain with their assigned group for the duration of the field trip. Chaperones are never to leave any student in their care unsupervised.
3. Situations involving student discipline should be reported immediately to the classroom teacher. Chaperones should rely on positive reinforcement redirection until the classroom teacher can be contacted. Chaperones should never touch a student in a physically aggressive way or speak to them disrespectfully.
4. Chaperones may not participate in smoking of tobacco products or consumption of alcoholic beverages during the entire duration of the field trip. If this cannot be adhered to then please do not volunteer we will not tolerate this type of participation.
5. Since the field trip is viewed as an extension of the regular classroom, all Momentum Academy discipline codes apply.
6. Parents who offer to supervise on a school field trip must understand that their full attention is needed to ensure the students’ safety. Therefore, siblings are not permitted on school field trips.
7. We also only permit a certain number of chaperones and do not permit additional parents and family members to meet us at fieldtrip locations. A group that is too large makes it difficult for us to ensure safety and appropriate learning experiences for our students.

## **ATHLETICS AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

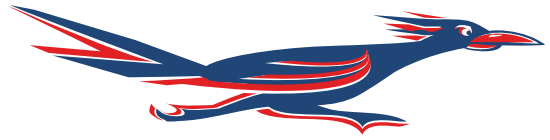
Athletics and other school clubs formed by staff members will be posted and available to all students to register. Some criteria may be required such as, specific age, prior game knowledge, etc. Some fees may apply. See bulletin boards in the hallway for more details on Momentum’s athletic program and after school clubs.

## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

The Board of Directors recognizes the value of student social events in enhancing and enriching the educational experience for the children at Momentum. The Board of Directors along with the administrative staff will make school facilities available and provide appropriate staff to conduct the student social event after approval by the principal.

School social events, which take place outside school facilities, must be approved by administration. As voluntary participants in school social events, students are held responsible for compliance with the rules set forth for their conduct, and infractions of those rules will be subject to the same disciplinary measures applicable during the regular school day.

Participation at school events is not a right, it is a privilege and as such will be denied to any student who has demonstrated disregard for the rules of the school, including students on suspension and academic probation.



**MOMENTUM**  
ACADEMY

# Grading Policies

## GRADING

A	93-100	A-	92-90		
B+	89-87	B	86-83	B-	82-80
C+	79-77	C	76-73	C-	72-70
D+	69-67	D	66-63	D-	62-60
E	59 and below				

## HONOR AWARDS

At the end of each marking period, special recognition is given to those students who have achieved excellence in their academic progress as well as social development. Students are given awards based on their individual accomplishments during the previous trimester.

Honor Roll: Letter grades of all A's or B's

At the end of the year special recognition is given to those that have achieved excellence in their academic progress as well as social development. Students are given awards based on their individual accomplishments for the previous trimester.

## BEHAVIORAL PROBATION

A student may also be placed on behavior probation because of involvement in serious incidents at school including but not limited to fighting, insubordination, bullying, etc. Students on behavioral probation may not attend social field trips or others where safety and the reputation of the school is a concern, participate in after school activities, or receive other student privileges until their behavior corrects consistently and proves otherwise.

## REPORT CARDS – CONFERENCES

Academic reports for students in grades K-8 are distributed at the end of each quarter. Parent-Educator Conferences are scheduled during this time. Parent/guardian or students of age 18 are required to attend the conference to receive their child's report card. In the event the parent is unable to attend the conference one will be rescheduled. *It is understood that educators shall, if necessary, arrange additional periodic conferences with parents. Conferences with educators must be scheduled during non-instructional time.*

## APPOINTMENTS WITH EDUCATORS

If you would like an appointment to meet with your child's educator, you may make an appointment by note or call the Academy and leave a message. Phone calls to educators during school hours are reserved for emergencies only. Meetings with educators are best when an appointment is made in advance.

## RETENTION

The Academy recognizes that the personal, social, physical, and educational growth of children will vary and that they should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their needs at the various stages of their growth.

It is the policy of the Board of Directors that each student is moved forward in a continuous pattern of achievement and growth that is in harmony with his/her own development.

A student will be promoted to the succeeding grade level when he/she has received a C average. The



student must also have demonstrated the degree of social, emotional, and physical maturation necessary for a successful learning experience in the next grade. The student must also have attended school with a maximum of 20 absences.

Students who are failing (below C average) may not be promoted to the next grade and will receive additional assistance the following school year. Written notification of concern will be provided to the parent/guardian. A retention meeting will be held with the student's educator, parent, administrative representative and any other staff members that have worked with the student throughout the school year. At the retention meeting, the reasons for not promoting the student will be given to the parent as well as a plan for the following school year to academically develop the student.

In addition, the following factors are considered when making a decision for retention by the student's educator, parents, principal, Title 1 Coordinator, school social worker and other involved staff in the student's academic and social livelihood:

- Student performance based on report cards, portfolio, academic records, assessments
- Discipline record
- Attendance record
- Maturity and social level
- Age of the student
- Reading level

The school principal, however, reserves the right to retain a student in the same grade when in his/her judgement, despite the objection of a parent, and in combination of the above-listed factors strongly suggests that a student needs to have another year of growth in order to be successful at the next grade level.

## **STANDARDIZED TESTS**

The Academy gives the following standardized tests every year. Parents can receive results and are encouraged to review the findings. Call for an appointment.

- Michigan Educational Assessment Program (M-Steps): Administered to grades 3-8.
- Performance Series (NWEA) assessment will be administered to each student in grades Kindergarten-8. The assessments will measure their academic growth throughout the Academy year.
- Unit benchmark assessments will be administered to each student in Kindergarten-Eighth grade.



**MOMENTUM**  
ACADEMY

# Discipline Policy

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Each student has the responsibility to:

- Respect the inherent human dignity and worth of every individual.
- Be informed of and adhere to all rules and regulations established by Momentum Academy and implemented by school administrators, teachers, and support staff for the welfare and safety of all students.
- Study diligently and strive to reach the highest possible level of academic achievement.
- Be punctual to school and classes.
- Refrain from slanderous remarks and obscenity in verbal and written expression.
- Dress and present oneself in a manner that meets the standards of health, cleanliness, safety, and the Momentum Academy Dress Code.
- Help maintain and improve Momentum Academy's school environment, preserve school property and exercise the utmost care while using school equipment and facilities.
- Conduct oneself in an appropriate manner while in attendance at all school sponsored and/or related events.
- Continue to be, or strive to become, more actively involved in one's education and personal growth.

## DISCIPLINE & SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

School officials may suspend a disabled student (as identified by IDEA 2004) for up to ten (10) consecutive days without implementing procedural safeguards. However, a suspension in excess of ten (10) consecutive school days constitute a "change in placement" for which procedural safeguards must be implemented.

Before implementing a suspension for a disabled student for more than ten (10) consecutive school days, the school district must provide due process protection given non-disabled students, and must take the following steps:

1. Notify the student's parent or guardian in writing of proposed change in placement; and
2. Convene an MDR/IEPT to determine:
  - a. Did the disability cause, or have a direct and substantial relationship to the act of the misconduct?
  - b. Did the District's failure to implement the IEP cause the misconduct?
3. If the answer to both questions is NO, a suspension of more than ten (10) days must be imposed. However, the school district is still responsible for providing special education services during the course of the long-term suspension and an IEPT must be convened to determine what the special education services will be.

At any stage, the parent always has the right to appeal a decision made as part of the IEPT process. In the event of an appeal, the school district must operate under the "stay put" policy allowing the student to remain in the present program. *Momentum Academy will follow IDEIA 2004 mandates.*

## **ACADEMY WIDE RULES:**

The Academy's ultimate goal is to produce students that are respectful, responsible, and resourceful.

Respectful students are polite and use manners. They use appropriate language and appropriate voice levels when talking in the building and to others. They listen to and follow the direction of authority figures. They walk in the building. They keep their hands, feet, and objects to themselves. They keep a comfortable distance away from other peoples personal space. They allow the teacher to teach and minimize disruptions to the learning environment. They use safe measures and decision-making when dealing with themselves, other students, staff, parents, and the school. They utilize good communication skills when dealing with others including listening and responding appropriately to concerns.

Responsible students make decisions to follow rules appropriately. They behave in a safe way for themselves and others. They care about the cleanliness of their school environment and take pride in helping to keep it clean. They make sure they are in proper uniform when they leave for school in the morning and remain in proper uniform throughout the school day. They make sure they have all they need for the day including finished homework, signed papers, and a lunch and are prepared to learn. When a choice or decision has the potential for negative consequences, responsible students admit wrongdoing and are accountable for their actions.

Resourceful students are able to problem solve. They utilize people, places, and things to find answers to problems that they are having. They seek the appropriate help when they need it including adults that are on staff and the closest to get to. They help others when they can by getting an appropriate adult, or informing an appropriate adult if another student or person needs help. They try to use conflict resolution strategies to solve student-to-student issues appropriately and when that doesn't work they seek help of an appropriate adult. If they are in immediate danger they use good decisions to get out of it as soon as possible and then inform the nearest appropriate adult.

### **Specific School Rules:**

#### **1) Be prepared to learn:**

Including: be on time, bring all necessary school materials (including completed homework), do not disrupt the learning environment, and take care of other business outside of the classroom.

#### **2) Follow the direction of the teacher or staff members in charge:**

Including: teacher directives include classroom and school rules, requests to sit down or in a specific seat, requests to take notes, read, or any academic tasks or behavioral tasks, etc.

#### **3) Be respectful:**

Including: use your manners, clean up after yourself, be nice and cooperative to the teacher, other staff, other students, guests, and self. Use appropriate language at all times throughout the school. Talk in an appropriate tone and level when speaking with authority, students, and guests and within the building and classrooms. Keep hands, feet, and objects to self. Keep an appropriate distance from the personal space of others. Take appropriate care of the school facility, furniture, grounds, and materials.

**4) Be safe:**

Including: walk at all times both in the school and outside, upon dismissal and at arrival. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself and do not spit or bite others. Keep an appropriate distance from others. Keep toy weapons at home – (guns, knives, handcuffs, etc. are NOT PERMITTED)

**5) NOTE: Gum chewing, energy drinks are not permitted. **Inappropriate Public Displays of Affection** between students including holding, kissing, inappropriate touching, etc, are not permitted.**

## **MOMENTUM ACADEMY'S STUDENT DISCIPLINE POLICY**

Momentum Academy and Momentum Academy's Board of Directors, endeavors to ensure that Momentum Academy is a safe place for teaching, learning and working. In order to achieve this goal we have instituted a **Zero Tolerance Discipline Policy**. Regardless of circumstances these policy guidelines will be followed. Momentum Academy will notify the police and take swift and appropriate disciplinary action for the following infractions:

### **Physical Assaults Against Academy Personnel:**

Physical assault is defined as intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another through force or violence.

Any student who commits a physical assault against an Academy employee or against a person engaged as a volunteer or contractor for the Academy on Academy property, on an Academy bus or other Academy related vehicles, or at an Academy-sponsored activity or event will be suspended and may be permanently expelled for a period of not less than one hundred eighty (180) days or one full academic school year.

### **Physical Assaults against Students:**

Physical assault is defined as intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another through force or violence.

The Academy board or designee of the Academy board shall **expel** any student from Momentum Academy if at Academy a student:

- Possesses a dangerous weapon
- Commits arson
- Commits criminal sexual conduct

Any student may be suspended or expelled for the following:

- Physical assault against another student
- Physical assault against an Academy Staff or Official (expel)
- Verbal assault, as defined by Academy board policy, against an Academy Official or Staff member
- Bomb threat or similar threat
- Other serious in nature offense, which significantly jeopardizes the student, other students, staff, guests, or the Academy

### **Verbal Assaults:**

Verbal Assault means a threat of an immediate harmful or offensive touching, coupled with apparent immediate ability to commit same, and which puts a person in a reasonable apprehension of such touching, or, the use of offensive language directed at a person, where such language is likely to provoke a reasonable person to physical violence, a bomb threat (or similar threat) directed at an Academy building, other Academy property, or an Academy related event. For purposes of this policy, the definition of assault also includes written threats.

Any student who commits a verbal assault on Academy property, on an Academy bus or other Academy related vehicle, or at an Academy sponsored activity or event against an Academy employee or against a person engaged as a volunteer or contractor for the Academy shall be suspended or expelled, depending upon circumstances, for up to one hundred eighty (180) days or one full academic school year.

### **Criminal Sexual Conduct:**

Criminal sexual conduct means sexual penetration or touching of a person's intimate parts. Intimate parts are defined as the breast, buttock, inner thigh, and groin or genital area.

Without consent:

- Any sexual touching of person's intimate parts: With or without consent
- Any sexual touching of a person under 10 years old

### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY**

For the purpose of this Policy, "sexual harassment" shall mean ANY unwelcome advance of a sexual nature, requests for sexual favors, and/or **verbal or physical conduct** or communication of a sexual nature.

**Sexual Harassment:** Discriminatory harassment on the basis of sex is hereby prohibited.

**Compliant Procedure: Report.** A person who believes that this Policy has been violated should promptly report the alleged violation to the school administrator/principal. All alleged violations should be reported no later than sixty days from the date the person first becomes aware of the alleged incident. However, the school reserves the right to investigate and act upon reports submitted beyond the sixty day period.

**School Action:** The school administrator/principal and a representative from the educational service provider (ESP), shall assist in the complainant to pursue effective resolution of the complaint. This may be handled through an informal or formal process, depending on the severity of the situation. In the event that the administrator or representative from the ESP or among the persons complained of, their positions shall be filled by a member of the Board of Directors, as determined by the Board.

**Informal Process:** The complaint shall be handled by an informal process unless the situation complained of is deemed so severe by the investigating team or the Board of Directors as to require a formal process, or the complainant demands a formal process, or the action complained of would constitute a criminal act if proven true. The informal process shall involve the investigating team meeting with the alleged offender and all other persons or parties as it deems appropriate, this includes meeting with the student without a parent/guardian present. The alleged offender(s) shall be informed of the complaint and the complainant has requested resolution. If the complaint is resolved to the satisfaction of all parties, no further action will be taken unless required by law or if deemed appropriate by the investigating team. If all parties are not satisfied with the action taken, a formal complaint can then be made by any of the parties.

**Formal Complaint:** A formal complaint must be signed and clearly state the nature of the alleged offense, the name of the alleged defender and the specifics (including time, date and location of the incident(s)). The formal complaint must be filed with the investigating team. If the investigating team deems that the circumstances require action, the complaint will be investigated in a timely and thorough manner to protect the rights of both the complainant and the alleged harasser(s). In the course of the investigation, the following process will be followed:



- a. The investigating team will attempt to convene as soon as is reasonably possible after the filing of the formal complaint.
- b. The investigating team will attempt to gather all appropriate facts in as timely a manner as is reasonably possible.
- c. The investigating team will report to the board at the next regularly scheduled board meeting, or if the investigating team and the Board President deem appropriate, at a special meeting of the board.
- d. The board shall determine appropriate action to be taken.

**Sanctions:** The person(s) who is found to have violated this Policy may be subject to sanctions which may include, but need not be limited to, suspension, removal from school environments/activities/events, expulsion from the school, banishment from the campus, and/or dismissal from service at the school. Violators may also be subject to civil action or criminal prosecution.

**Confidentiality:** Discretion will be exercised. However, there can be no guarantee of confidentiality or anonymity since any investigation will involve discussions with other parties. Information about the complainant giving rise to the complaint will be reviewed only as investigatory and disciplinary processes require, or as otherwise required by law or courts having competent jurisdiction. Confidentiality will be observed to the extent permitted by law and to the extent consistent with protecting the welfare of the School Community and the interest of the school. However, the investigating team, the Board and/or the school administrator/principal may report the incident to appropriate authorities as they deem necessary or appropriate.

#### **CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT**

Child abuse or neglect means harm or threatened harm to a child's health or welfare by a parent, or legal guardian, or any other person responsible for the child's health or welfare, or by an educator or educator's abode.

**Suspected child abuse and or neglect must be reported. (See Momentum Academy's Child Abuse and Neglect policy)**

#### **EDUCATOR EMPOWERMENT TO SUSPEND**

Pursuant to MCL 380.1309(2), the type of conduct of which educators may unilaterally suspend students from a class subject or activity for up to one day, is expressly limited to misconduct involving a physical assault committed against another student or other Academy personnel. Physical assault is defined as intentional causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another through force or violence. Following an educator initiated suspension; the educator shall send the student to the Principal's office, immediately report the suspension and reason for the same to the Principal. The educator shall schedule as soon as possible a conference with the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) and the Principal to discuss the suspension. The educator and administrator(s) shall be in attendance at the conference. Any student suspended pursuant to this policy shall not be allowed to return to the class from which he or she was suspended from until the passage of one full Academy day from the time of the student's infraction unless otherwise permitted to return by the educator who ordered the suspension and the Academy Principal's concurrence. Further, suspended students under this section shall not be permitted, during the term of the suspension to attend other classes in the Academy building or extracurricular activities, unless the Principal or designee permits the student to continue the Academy day under appropriate supervision.

This policy does not negate the Principal's discretion to impose a multiple day suspension or expulsion beyond the educator's statutorily limited suspension period when the student's conduct warrants more severe disciplinary action in the Principal's sole discretion.

## ***Application to Students with Disabilities***

*This policy shall be applied in a manner consistent with the rights secured under federal and state law to students who are determined to be eligible for special education programs and services.*

### **STUDENT BEHAVIOR CODE**

Students are expected to follow the rules and regulations of the Student Behavior Code. The Academy will uphold the code and will exercise proper discretion as it pertains to each incident. For further information on expulsion and due process, see the main office.

Self-discipline is our goal for all of the students of Momentum Academy. To encourage the development of this virtue, positive reinforcement will be used. Students are expected to follow the rules and regulations of Momentum Academy. The Academy will uphold the code and will exercise proper discretion as it pertains to each in student.

### **DEFINITION OF DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS:**

#### **Conference with student:**

Conferences are held for all disciplinary problems. Usually it is also a first step for minor violations resulting in a warning being issued. All behaviors and resolutions will be documented.

#### **Parent Conferences:**

A parent conference can be personal or by verbal phone call. This can be used as a second disciplinary action or can be required for other violations. **All conferences and resolutions will be documented.**

**Referrals:** if a resolution is not created, any staff member within the school will refer student to school administration. All students will be responsible for returning their referral with a parent/guardian signature by the next school day.

**Detention:** May be served during recess, lunch, classroom celebrations, and before or after-school for unacceptable behavior.

**In-School Suspension:** *(At the discretion of the administration)* For chronic irresolvable or major discipline problems, a student will remain in a designated area for the entire duration. They will work on a writing assignment given to them by the administrator without talking. They are to ask permission to leave for any reason and will be required to eat their lunch in there. They are to make up all missed assignments and have the same number of days to complete it as they are absent. They will receive an unexcused absence for any time served. Work completed during In-House Suspension may earn full credit.

#### **Rules for In-School Suspension**

1. Students will sit in their assigned seats given to them by administration.
2. Students will be in the in-house room by the 8:15am.
3. While in the in-house room there will be no talking, note writing or any other type of communication.
4. Students are responsible for keeping their area clean. Any waste can be kept on their desktop until their break time or end of the school day.
5. Students are not allowed to leave their seat unless they have permission to do so.

6. Restroom and drinking fountain breaks will be given and will be limited. If abuse of this privilege occurs they can lose the remainder of their privileges.
7. There is no food allowed in the in-house room except for the designated lunch period.
8. If a student refuses to follow the in-house rules they will be given an out of school suspension.
9. If a student is absent the scheduled day of in-house or misses any part of the day, they will make up any absent time the next day in attendance.

**Suspension:** For chronic, irresolvable or severe discipline problems. A student who is suspended out of school will be required to remain in the office until picked up by a parent or guardian. While in the office they will follow the same routine as an In-School suspension. Once serving their out of school suspension they are not to be on school grounds during or after school or attend any after school activities. They are to make up all missed assignments and have the same number of days to complete it as they are absent. They will receive an unexcused absence for any time served. Work completed during Out of School Suspension may earn up to half credit.

**Expulsion from the Academy:** In extreme cases expulsion from the Academy may be necessary. A student who is expelled may not return to the school for a time period equivalent to one full academic school year. After the expulsion is completed it is up to the Academy to permit re-enrollment into the Academy.



**MOMENTUM**  
ACADEMY

# Discipline Actions & Penalties

**DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AND MINIMUM PENALTIES:**

Every student has the innate right to an education free from being threatened in any fashion. In addition, every teacher has the right to teach just as every student has the right to learn. Any disruption to this process will not be tolerated. The following is a list of some unacceptable student behaviors and the penalties involving out of class resources. Should a violation not be listed, administrative discretion will be exercised and proper penalty imposed for the violation. Repeat offenders will excel the penalty process.

**Violations may have different circumstances and therefore administrative discretion may be imposed to apply appropriate consequences and penalties to each individual situation to ensure fairness.**

***If a student misses class for an in school or out of school suspension, they are responsible for speaking with their teacher and making up the work from the class period(s) they missed. All penalties will happen in the order that appears unless administrative approval is granted.***

There are 5 Levels to our discipline plan. Each level will result in a consequence to correct and to prevent further discipline infractions from students. Each level is color coded and is as follows:

**Level 1: Repeated minor/moderate impulsive behavior that disrupts the learning environment**

**TEACHER HANDLES**

<b><u>IF</u></b>	<b><u>THEN</u></b>
Talking, laughing, shouting or other types of communication at inappropriate times or levels	1.) Student-Teacher conference 2.) Call home
Action that disrupts the learning of others in a manner that does not physically endanger others (e.g., making noises, growling playing at desk, growling etc.)	1.) Student-Teacher conference 2.) Call home
Not following a teacher’s instructions	1.) Student-Teacher conference 2.) Call home
Off-task behaviors	1.) Student-Teacher conference 2.) Call home
Not appropriately following classroom procedures (e.g., sharpening pencils, using restrooms, getting tissues, turning in homework, etc.)	1.) Student-Teacher conference 2.) Call home

**Level 2: Repeated minor/moderate impulsive behavior after receiving Level 1 disciplinary action**

**TEACHER HANDLES**

<b><u>IF</u></b>	<b><u>THEN</u></b>
Defiance (e.g. resisting clear instructions from an adult after appropriate wait time has been given)	Parent Contact AND, exclusion from activity, restitution teacher detention.
Disrespect (e.g. talking back or arguing with an adult). Inappropriate physical contact that doesn't endanger the safety of others, play fighting and horseplay	Parent Contact AND, exclusion from activity, restitution teacher detention
Inappropriate actions, such as throwing objects, that don't necessarily endanger others	Parent Contact AND, exclusion from activity, restitution teacher detention
Leaving a classroom without permission 1 <sup>st</sup> offense	Parent Contact AND, exclusion from activity, restitution teacher detention
Minor damage to school property less than and or equal to \$100	Parent Contact AND, exclusion from activity, restitution teacher detention
Intentional dress code violation (student refusing to tuck shirt/tie shoes, etc.)	Parent Contact AND, exclusion from activity, restitution teacher detention
Teasing (i.e distracting or irritating behavior that causes frustration)	Parent Contact AND, exclusion from activity, restitution teacher detention

**Level 3: Severe impulsive or intentional misbehaviors that are not severe enough to be considered criminal.**

**Administration**

<u>IF</u>	<u>THEN</u>
Malicious or willful behavior that endangers the safety of others (e.g. pushing, shoving, kicking, spitting)	<b>Required:</b> For Special Education students, contact Special Education if student has been suspended 5 or more days accumulated before assigning disciplinary action
Blatant defiance (i.e., failure to cooperate or comply with instructions of school personnel on a serious or important issue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Required:</b> If there are victims involved, timely notification of the victims’ parent/guardian is required as soon as possible</li> </ul>
Threats towards fellow students (gun, knife, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Required:</b> Administration, teacher, parent conference</li> </ul>
Gang affiliation and/or exhibiting characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lunch Detention</li> </ul>
Falsification of records or scholastic dishonesty (including cheating and plagiarism)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Out-of-School Suspension</li> <li>• Restitution</li> <li>• Counseling</li> <li>• Exclusion from school activities</li> <li>• In-school suspension</li> </ul>



**Level 3: Severe impulsive or intentional misbehaviors that are not severe enough to be considered criminal. (continued)**

**Administration**

<u>IF</u>	<u>THEN</u>
Use of profanity or other inappropriate language directed at others	<p><b>Required:</b> For Special Education students, contact Special Education if student has been suspended 5 or more days cumulatively before assigning disciplinary action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Required:</b> If there are victims involved, timely notification of the victims’ parent/guardian is required as soon as possible</li> <li>• <b>Required:</b> Parent/Guardian- and administration conference</li> <li>• In-School Suspension</li> <li>• Out-of-School Suspension</li> <li>• Restitution</li> <li>• Counseling</li> <li>• Exclusion from school activities</li> <li>• School-sponsored community clean-up</li> <li>• Lunch detention</li> </ul>
Bullying/cyber-bullying (i.e. Intimidating behavior that threatens emotional or physical harm and or involves social rejection)	
Indecency (e.g. inappropriate clothing, physical exposure, major public displays of romantic affection such as. kissing or groping, or inappropriate pictures)	
Smoking, tobacco possession or use	
Attending school activities on school property after student has been suspended	
Defacement/damage of property – up to \$100	
Coercion, extortion or blackmail	

**Level 4: Severe impulsive or intentional misbehaviors that are not severe enough to be considered criminal**

IF	THEN
Fighting	<p><b>Required:</b> For Special Education students, contact Regional Special Education if student has been suspended 5 or more days cumulatively before assigning disciplinary action</p> <p>• <b>Required:</b> If there are victims involved, timely notification of the victims’ parent/guardian is required as soon as possible</p>
Leaving school grounds	
Skipping class	
Throwing object in a manner that endangers others	
Skipping detention	
Theft/possession of stolen property	<p>• <b>Required:</b> Parent/Guardian- Administration or Principal conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-School Suspension</li> <li>• Out-of-School Suspension</li> <li>• Counseling</li> <li>• Exclusion from school activities</li> <li>• Restitution</li> </ul>

## Level 5: Severe impulsive or intentional misbehaviors that are severe enough to be considered criminal

<u>IF</u>	<u>THEN</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arson</li> <li>• Theft or possession of stolen property above \$250</li> <li>• Sexual harassment</li> <li>• Criminal sexual misconduct</li> <li>• Threats of against the teachers or the school, including bomb threats</li> <li>• Fighting, physical assault and/or battery of another person resulting in bodily harm</li> <li>• Possession, concealment, threat, attempted use, or use of a weapon or look alike weapon including, but not limited to, knives with blades less than three inches in length, box cutters, air or BB guns, tasers, mace, or pepper-spray</li> <li>• Being under the influence or possession of any illegal or controlled substance including alcohol and drugs</li> <li>• Use, distribution, or attempted use or distribution of any illegal or thought to be illegal or controlled substance, including alcohol and drugs</li> <li>• Possession of fireworks, explosives and/or chemical substances</li> <li>• Gang related activity</li> <li>• Defacement/damage of property – over \$100</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Required:</b> Management company contacted by Principal before assigning disciplinary action; reference expulsion process</li> <li>• <b>Required:</b> For Special Education students, contact Special Education before assigning disciplinary action</li> <li>• <b>Required:</b> If there are victims involved, timely notification of the victims' Parent/Guardian is required as soon as possible</li> <li>• <b>Required:</b> Parent/Guardian- Principal conference</li> <li>• Contact police</li> <li>• Restitution</li> <li>• Long-term suspension</li> <li>• Expulsion</li> </ul> <p><b>Note: Please ensure the Expulsion process is initiated prior to assigning a long term suspension or expulsion</b></p>

## **PARENT GRIEVANCES**

Any and all parent concerns and grievances should be brought to the attention of the teacher. If, after consultation and discussion with the teacher, the parent feels the matter has not been satisfactorily settled, the parent may bring the matter to the attention of the Principal. If, after consultation and discussion with the Principal, the parent feels the matter has still not been satisfactorily settled, the parent may make a written appeal to the Principal. The Principal will respond in writing informing the parent if and when the hearing of the grievance will take place. If appropriate the grievance will be relayed to the Momentum Superintendent and/or the Momentum Board of Directors. Please be aware that the Momentum Academy Principal, Superintendent, and Board members are in their official capacity to respond to the grievance when and only when they are meeting formally regarding it. Individually (in the hallways, at games, on the telephone, etc) they are not to discuss official business of this nature, as it would be considered inappropriate.

## **EARLY AGE PERMANENT WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL**

Michigan law requires attendance of each student until sixteen (16) years of age, it is in the best interests of both students and the community that they complete the educational program that will equip them with skills and increase their chances for a successful and fulfilling life beyond Momentum.

No student under the age of eighteen (18) is permitted to withdraw without the written consent of a parent or the approval from the principal.

---

*For all other Academy policies approved by the Board of Directors, feel free to request a time to review the Board Policy Manual with the Board of Directors Recording Secretary or the Academy Principal.*



**Student/ Parent Handbook Acknowledgement Form**

The 2022-2023 Momentum Academy Student/ Parent Handbook contains policies with regard to attendance, dress code, technology and cell phones, student conduct expectations and discipline management, grading/reporting/ testing, information, and more.

**PARENT AND STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

I, the parent of (student name) \_\_\_\_\_ hereby confirm that I have received a copy of the 2022-2023 Momentum Academy Student/ Parent Handbook, and further understand the responsibilities expected of Momentum Academy students and parents; the policies, procedures, rules, regulations and practices as stated in this document; and, that all students will be held accountable for their behavior and may be subject to disciplinary actions listed in the handbook.

By signing this document, I acknowledge that I have received, read, and agree with the contents listed in the 2019-2020 Momentum Academy Student/ Parent Handbook.

Student Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Disclaimer: Momentum Academy reserves the right to make changes to this document at any given time. You will be notified of any changes that are made.

