

Uncommon  
Schools

ROCHESTER PREP

True North Rochester Preparatory Charter School  
West Campus Middle School

# Student and Family Handbook 2017-2018

True North Rochester Preparatory Charter School – West Campus Middle School  
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>THE SCHOOL</b> .....  | <b>3</b>  |
| AN OVERVIEW .....  | 3         |
| OUR MISSION AND VISION.....                                    | 3         |
| <b>RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY</b> .....                 | <b>3</b>  |
| PHILOSOPHY.....  | 3         |
| ROCHESTER PREP PARENT CONTRACT .....                           | 5         |
| <b>WHO WE ARE</b> .....  | <b>6</b>  |
| FACULTY AND STAFF .....  | 6         |
| BOARD OF TRUSTEES.....   | 7         |
| <b>CODE OF CONDUCT</b> .....                                   | <b>8</b>  |
| PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT.....                                | 9         |
| DISCIPLINARY PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES .....                    | 11        |
| DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS .....                | 13        |
| DIGNITY ACT .....  | 13        |
| STUDENT SEARCHES .....   | 13        |
| STUDENT RECORDS .....  | 14        |
| HEALTH POLICIES .....  | 14        |
| INTERNET SECURITY POLICY AND USE OF TECHNOLOGY .....           | 15        |
| SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY .....                                      | 15        |
| VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL.....                                    | 16        |
| DRESS CODE.....  | 16        |
| ADDITIONAL BEHAVIORAL GUIDELINES .....                         | 17        |
| <b>IN THE CLASSROOM</b> .....                                  | <b>19</b> |
| ATTENDANCE POLICY.....   | 19        |
| SNOW CLOSINGS.....   | 19        |
| LATENESS.....  | 19        |
| EARLY DISMISSAL POLICY .....                                   | 20        |
| HOMEWORK AND EXAMS.....  | 20        |
| STUDENT SUPPLIES .....   | 20        |
| SAMPLE STUDENT SCHEDULE.....                                   | 22        |
| SCHOOL CALENDAR.....   | 23        |
| PROMOTION POLICIES .....                                       | 24        |
| SUMMER COURSEWORK .....  | 25        |
| <b>BUILDING SAFETY AND SECURITY</b> .....                      | <b>26</b> |
| CLOSED CAMPUS.....   | 26        |
| FIRE, SAFETY AND EVACUATION PROCEDURES .....                   | 26        |
| TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY.....                                 | 26        |
| <b>GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION</b> .....                        | <b>28</b> |
| NONDISCRIMINATION .....  | 28        |
| OPEN MEETINGS LAW .....  | 28        |
| FREEDOM OF INFORMATION POLICY.....                             | 29        |
| NCLB, SCHOOL REPORT CARDS, AND HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS ..... | 31        |
| <b>STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING</b> .....                        | <b>32</b> |
| <b>APPENDIX 1 - NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA</b> .....   | <b>33</b> |
| <b>APPENDIX 2 - COMPLAINT POLICY</b> .....                     | <b>34</b> |

*Please note that additions and changes to school policies and this Handbook may be added during the year through correspondence with students and/or families.*

## THE SCHOOL

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### *An Overview*

**T** rue North Rochester Preparatory Charter School – West Campus (also known as “Rochester Prep”) opened in August 2011 and serves grades 5-8. Our school is based on some of the most successful charter middle schools in the Uncommon Schools Network, including True North Rochester Prep – Brooks Campus. These schools have consistently prepared all students to succeed in college, the same result we expect for Rochester Prep.

## OUR MISSION AND VISION

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### *Rochester Prep*

#### Our Mission

**T** he mission of True North Rochester Preparatory Charter School – West Campus (“Rochester Prep”) is to prepare all students to enter and succeed in college through effort, achievement and the content of their character. All Rochester Prep students will demonstrate excellence in reading, writing, math, science and history while consistently exemplifying the virtues of respect, integrity, diligence, responsibility, compassion, and perseverance.

#### Our Vision

In school, Rochester Prep students will be respectful and responsible, understanding that through their efforts, they will achieve, succeed and give back to their community.

## RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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### *Students, Parents, and Teachers*

#### **PHILOSOPHY**

**T** he choice to send your child to Rochester Prep demonstrates your high hopes and expectations of your child, and of us. We are committed to making your hopes and expectations a reality as we prepare your child for college. But we cannot do it without you.

Rochester Prep’s success depends on the students, families, and teachers all fulfilling their roles.

Students are expected to act respectfully towards all students and staff and to make positive contributions to the school community. They are expected to attend school daily and punctually, to actively participate in all classes, to complete all homework assignments, and attend tutoring when needed. Finally, students are expected to accept and to strive to learn from consequences for their behavior.

Parents and other family members are asked to uphold and support the school’s mission, policies, and Code of Conduct. Even if individual decisions can be challenging at times the Code of Conduct is established for the good of all. We ask that you ensure that your child arrives punctually each day, ready to participate and learn. We ask that you oversee your child’s completion of all homework assignments nightly, that you communicate consistently with the school, and that you support the requirement of Homework Club for students who do not

turn in all of their assigned homework on time. Finally, we ask that you help reward your child for positive behavior and help him or her accept and understand consequences for poor behavior.

Teachers are expected to prepare engaging, demanding lessons in all classes, to assign and evaluate appropriate homework each night, to arrange for tutoring or Homework Club when needed, and to guide students on the path to college. They are also expected to exemplify the school's virtues of respect, integrity, diligence, responsibility, compassion and perseverance.

To underscore this commitment we ask that parents sign the following Rochester Prep Contract for Achievement.

# Rochester Prep Parent Contract

## ATTENDANCE

- I will ensure that my child comes to school every day on time to begin school at 7:55 AM.
- I understand that if my child is absent more than 10 days per year, he or she may have to repeat his or her current grade.
- I will make sure that my child promptly makes up missed work following absences.
- I understand that an absence is excused only for illness, family emergency, or religious observance and that I must call on the morning of the absence (at the latest) and send a written note of explanation.
- I understand that my child may not earn credit for work missed due to unexcused absences, including but not limited to: family vacations, participation at sports tournaments, and attendance at other forms of entertainment.
- I understand that the school day ends at 4:20 PM, but my child may be required to stay until 5:30 PM if he or she has earned detention.
- I agree to make transportation arrangements as needed if my child must remain until 5:30 PM.
- I understand that my child may not be permitted to enter the building before 7:25 AM.
- I understand that for retention purposes that three tardies equal one absence.

## HOMEWORK

- I agree to check my child's homework nightly to ensure that it is complete.
- I understand that my child will be required to go to Homework Club if he or she does not complete assigned homework or completes homework that does not meet school standards.
- I understand that my child cannot be excused from Homework Club unless there is a family emergency or a student illness.
- I understand that if my child skips Homework Club, he or she will serve detention or be suspended.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

- I agree to promote and support the rules of behavior as outlined in the Student and Family Handbook.
- I understand that my child may be required to stay after school for detention if he or she behaves in a manner that interferes with the success of his or her peers.
- I understand that my child cannot be excused from detention unless there is a family emergency or a student illness, and will be required to make-up the detention at another time.
- I understand that my child will be suspended if he or she does not attend an assigned behavioral consequence such as detention.
- I will come to school for a meeting if my child is suspended or behaves disrespectfully towards his/her teachers, and I understand that my child will not be allowed to return to class until this meeting occurs.

## PROMOTION POLICIES

- I understand that my child needs to pass all core academic classes in order to be promoted to the next grade.
- I understand that my child will be retained if he or she fails 1 or more core academic classes.
- I understand that my child may be required to stay after school for extra help or tutoring.

## DRESS CODE

- I will ensure that my child comes to school in uniform, according to guidelines listed in the Student and Family Handbook.
- I understand that if my child comes to school out of uniform, he or she may not be permitted to attend class, may need to wait for the appropriate dress to be brought in from home, and/or may receive an automatic detention.

## COMMUNICATION

- I agree to support my child's academic work by communicating regularly with my child's teachers and advisor, by scheduling appointments to talk with them as needed, and by attending all Family-Teacher Conferences.
- I agree to promptly sign and return my child's paycheck, homework log/agenda, and progress reports.
- I agree to attend family meetings and other school-sponsored events on a regular basis.
- I understand that in order to receive a report card, I must attend a Report Card Conference.
- I understand that failure to pick up the report card, have a conference or communicate with school will prevent my child from being eligible for any extracurricular activities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## WHO WE ARE

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### *Faculty and Staff*

**H**ere are some of the people you'll be seeing at the school during the year. You will meet your teachers at open house in September.

| First    | Last     | Role/Subject                     | Email  |
|----------|----------|----------------------------------|--|
| Adrienne | Sopinski | Principal                        | <a href="mailto:asopinski@rochesterprep.org">asopinski@rochesterprep.org</a>                 |
| Jonathan | Myler    | Director of Operations           | <a href="mailto:jmyler@rochesterprep.org">jmyler@rochesterprep.org</a>                       |
| Jennifer | Christie | Dean of Students                 | <a href="mailto:Jennifer.christie@rochesterprep.org">Jennifer.christie@rochesterprep.org</a> |
| Kris     | Hirsch   | Dean of Curriculum & Instruction | <a href="mailto:khirsch@rochesterprep.org">khirsch@rochesterprep.org</a>                     |

Our school staff consists also consists of an operations team and 40 teachers.

## WHO WE ARE

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### *Board of Trustees*

The school is governed by a Board of Trustees that brings community, educational, and professional perspectives to maintaining a viable and thriving school. Members of the Board of Trustees include:

| <b>Name</b>                  | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Board Position</b> |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Geoffrey Rosenberger</b>  | Retired Co-Founder, Clover Capital Management, Inc.                    | Chair                 |
| <b>James Gleason</b>         | Chairman, Gleason Corporation; Chairman, Gleason Foundation            | Trustee               |
| <b>Jean Howard</b>           | Former Chief of Staff, Office of Mayor Robert Duffy, City of Rochester | Trustee               |
| <b>Jim Ryan</b>              | President, Ryco Management LLC   | Trustee               |
| <b>Rebecca Sumner, Ph.D.</b> | Professional Development Specialist, RIT                               | Trustee               |
| <b>Ron Zarrella</b>          | Chairman Emeritus, Bausch & Lomb, Inc.                                 | Trustee               |
| <b>Jim Barger</b>            | Senior Vice President, Key Bank  | Trustee               |
| <b>Josh Phillips</b>         | Chief of Innovation and School Operations, Uncommon Schools            | Trustee               |

# CODE OF CONDUCT

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*High Standards for Academics, High Standards for Behavior*

## **Introduction**

True North Rochester Preparatory Charter School – West Campus (the “School”) is unequivocally committed to providing a safe and orderly environment in which students can improve their academic achievement. Students whose behavior does not meet the School community’s clearly defined standards for reasonable and acceptable behavior will not be permitted to disrupt the education of others.

Without a firm and consistent discipline policy, none of what we envision for the School can happen. Therefore, we cannot overemphasize the importance of providing a firm and consistent discipline policy. Students and families have a right to attend a safe and orderly school. Therefore, for every infraction, there will be a consequence. This is the basis of our student Code of Conduct. The School reserves the right to amend, supplement, or rescind provisions of this Code of Conduct at any time as it deems appropriate, in its sole and absolute discretion, consistent with applicable law and regulations.

## **Definitions**

For purposes of the code, the following definitions apply:

- 1) “School” is the True North Rochester Preparatory Charter School - West Campus (also known as “Rochester Prep”) that is charged with the responsibility of insuring a safe environment and an atmosphere of learning.
- 2) “Parent” means the parent, guardian, or person in parental relation to a student.
- 3) “School property” means on or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, parking lot or land contained within the real property boundary line of a public school, or in or on a school bus, as defined in Vehicle and Traffic Law §142.
- 4) “School function” means any school-sponsored extra-curricular event or activity.
- 5) “Violent student” means a student under the age of 21 who:
  - a. Commits an act of violence or uncontrolled behavior upon a school employee, or attempts or threatens to do so.
  - b. Commits, while on school property or at a school function, an act of violence or uncontrolled behavior upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or at the school function, or attempts or threatens to do so.
  - c. Possesses a weapon while on school property or at a school function.
  - d. Displays what appears to be a weapon while on school property or at a school function.
  - e. Threatens to use a weapon, facsimile or replica of any type weapon, while on school property or at a school function. In determining whether a threat exists, the victim’s perception shall govern.
  - f. Knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys the personal property of any school employee or any person lawfully on school property or at a school function.
  - g. Knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys school property.
  - h. Physically intimidates, threatens, or bullies others while on school property or at a school function.
- 6) “Weapons” include, but are not limited to, a firearm as defined in 18 USC §921 for purposes of the Gun-Free Schools Act, any other gun, BB gun, pistol, revolver, shotgun, rifle, machine gun, disguised gun, dagger, razor, stiletto, switchblade knife, gravity knife, brass knuckles, sling shot, metal knuckle knife, box cutters, cane sword, electronic dart gun, electronic stun gun, pepper spray or other noxious spray, explosive or incendiary bomb, or other device, instrument, material or substance that can cause physical injury or death. However, pursuant to the intent of this School policy, administrators will have considerable discretion in identifying any of these potentially dangerous implements as a weapon.

## **Prohibited Student Conduct**

Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion from school, for:

1. **Engaging in Insubordinate and/or Disorderly Conduct.** Examples of insubordinate and/or disorderly conduct include, but are not limited to:
  - 1.1. **Violating the Dress Code:** Parent(s)/guardian(s) may be required to pick up children who are not properly dressed for school or bring the missing Dress Code items to the school as the students may not be permitted to attend class. Violations of the dress code also may result in additional disciplinary consequences.
  - 1.2. **Arriving to Class Unprepared:** When class begins, students must be prepared and have all necessary materials (folder, pencils, books, etc.).
  - 1.3. **Failing to Complete Homework:** Completing homework is essential to the success of individual students and the classroom community. Students are expected to complete all assignments on time.
  - 1.4. **Arriving Late to School or Class:** Student tardiness disrupts class, inconveniences others, and often results in academic difficulties. Students may not be late to school or class.
  - 1.5. **Skipping School, Class, Detention, Homework Club, or Mandatory School Events:** Students are required to attend all academic classes, assigned detention, assigned Homework Club, , and mandatory school events. Students are not permitted to have unexcused absences or to leave the school building.
  - 1.6. **Misbehaving on School-Provided Transportation:** Students may not misbehave while walking to or from, waiting for, or riding on school-provided transportation, including the school bus (this policy applies to all students under the jurisdiction of the School, including public and private school students). Please note that students are subject to temporary or permanent denial of school-provided transportation (in which case students and parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for travel to and from school) in addition to other consequences. Misbehavior includes, but is not limited to, using inappropriate language, making excessive noise, touching other students inappropriately, being disrespectful of others, or failing to follow the bus driver's instructions.
  - 1.7. **Misbehaving inside or outside of Class:** Misbehavior inside or outside of class (at school and/or on school grounds; participating in a school-sponsored activity; walking to or from school or a school-sponsored event; walking to or from, waiting for, or riding on school-provided transportation; or walking to or from, waiting for, or riding on public transportation to and from school or a school-sponsored activity) is not permitted. Students may not engage in any willful act that disrupts the normal operation of the school community.
  - 1.8. **Disrupting Class and Preventing Teaching:** The School can fulfill its mission only if classrooms are safe and teaching is uninterrupted. Students may not interfere with or disrupt class or the educational process.
  - 1.9. **Being Disrespectful toward a Staff Member or His/Her Designee(s):** The School cannot function properly if students are permitted to be disrespectful toward adults. For that reason, students may not be disrespectful toward a staff member or any other adult associated with the School.
  - 1.10. **Lying to a Staff Member or His/Her Designee(s):** Honesty is an essential element of personal character and is needed to build a community based on trust and respect. Students are not permitted to lie or attempt to conceal the truth.
  - 1.11. **Failing to Comply with the Lawful Directive(s) of a Staff Member or His/Her Designee(s):** Failing to comply with the lawful directives of teachers, school administrators, other school employees, or their designee(s) is unacceptable.
  - 1.12. **Being Disrespectful toward a Student:** If students do not feel physically and emotionally safe in school, teaching and learning are made more difficult. Therefore, students may not be disrespectful toward other students.
  - 1.13. **Abusive or Profane Language or Treatment:** Students may not use abusive, threatening, lewd, vulgar, coarse, or degrading language or gestures (including racial epithets or sexist or homophobic remarks).
  - 1.14. **Selling, Using or Possessing Obscene Material:** Students may not sell, use, or possess obscene material.
  - 1.15. **Failing to Submit a Required Signature:** Students are required to secure the signature of a parent/guardian on homework assignments or school forms when requested.
  - 1.16. **Forgery:** Students may not forge a signature.
  - 1.17. **Running in Hallways.** Running in the School's hallways is dangerous and is prohibited.
  - 1.18. **Making Unreasonable Noise:** Students are not permitted to make unreasonable noise at school.
  - 1.19. **Gum, Food, and Beverages:** Students may not chew gum at school. Students may not eat or drink at unauthorized times or places at school.
  - 1.20. **Obstructing Vehicular or Pedestrian traffic.** Students are not permitted to obstruct vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
  - 1.21. **Blocking Access to any Part of the School Building:** Students are not permitted to block access to any room or part of the school building.
  - 1.22. **Creating a Hazardous or Offensive Condition.** Students may not create a hazardous or offensive condition.

- 1.23. **Trespassing.** Students may not trespass onto school or other connected property.
  - 1.24. **Possession of Inappropriate Property:** Students cannot possess, cell-phones, cameras, laser pointers, electronic equipment, games, printed text or lyrics that are vulgar, profane, or sexually explicit, or any other items inappropriate for school. Such items will be confiscated and may be confiscated indefinitely irrespective of any costs or fees students and/or their families may incur as a result.
  - 1.25. **Defamation:** Students may not defame others by making false or unprivileged statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them through any medium, whether on or off school grounds.
  - 1.26. **Cheating, Plagiarism, or Copying Other's Work, or Allowing Others to Copy Work:** Cheating or copying the work of others (or allowing other students to copy work) is unacceptable.
  - 1.27. **Altering Records:** Students may not alter school or school-related records.
  - 1.28. **Gambling:** Gambling or betting is not tolerated.
  - 1.29. **Failing to Comply with School-Imposed Consequences:** Students must comply with school-imposed consequences, including but not limited to detention, Homework Club, school service, suspension from school and/or temporary or permanent denial of school-provided transportation.
2. **Engaging in Conduct that Endangers the Safety, Morals, Health, or Welfare of Self or Others.** Examples of such conduct include, but are not limited to:
- 2.1. **Theft, Loss, or Destruction of Personal or School Property:** Students may not steal, lose, vandalize, or damage the property of the School, other students, school personnel, or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function. In addition to facing other consequences for violation of this rule, students are expected to return property to its rightful owner in its original condition or to reimburse the owner and/or the school for lost, damaged, or stolen property.
  - 2.2. **Mistreatment or Inappropriate Use of Technology or School Property:** Students must treat computers, printers, and other technology with care. The School does not tolerate attempts to access the school's files or other inappropriate uses of technology or the internet. Students do not have the right to use school computers to access chat rooms or email or to access web sites or files that contain profanity, sexually explicit language or pictures, excessively violent themes, and/or other material inappropriate for minors. Students are prohibited from using school telephones. In the event of an emergency, students may be allowed to use school telephones, but only at the discretion of school staff members. Students must not mistreat other school property.
  - 2.3. **Violating the Civil Rights of Others:** Students may not violate the civil rights of others.
  - 2.4. **Harassment and/or Discrimination:** Harassment or intimidation of or discrimination toward any members of the school community on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability is not permitted. Students may not commit harassment, which includes a sufficiently severe action or persistent pervasive pattern of actions or statements directed at an identifiable individual or group which are intended to be, or which a reasonable person would perceive as ridiculing or demeaning.
  - 2.5. **Sexual Harassment:** Students may not make unwanted sexual advances toward or commit sexual harassment of any members of the school community.
  - 2.6. **Engaging in Sexual Activity or Inappropriate Touching:** A student may not engage in sexual activity of any kind or touch himself/herself or others inappropriately.
  - 2.7. **Indecent Exposure.** Students may not expose the private parts of the body in a lewd or indecent manner.
  - 2.8. **Hazing.** Students may not commit hazing, which includes any intentional or reckless act directed against another for the purpose of initiation into, affiliating with, or maintaining membership in any school sponsored activity, organization, club, or team.
  - 2.9. **Using or Possessing Drugs or Alcohol:** Students may not use or possess any non-prescribed controlled substance, narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs," or other intoxicants of any kind. Prescribed and over-the-counter drugs must be delivered to the Nurse or Office Manager by a parent/guardian with a doctor-signed Medication Authorization Form. Students may not be in possession of prescribed or over-the-counter drugs.
  - 2.10. **Selling or Transferring Drugs or Alcohol:** Students may not sell, distribute, or possess with intent to sell or distribute a prescribed or non-prescribed controlled substance.
  - 2.11. **Using or Possessing Tobacco Products:** The use of tobacco is banned. Students may not use or possess cigarettes, cigars, chewing-tobacco, or other tobacco products.
  - 2.12. **Selling or Transferring Tobacco Products:** Students may not sell, distribute, or possess with intent to sell or distribute cigarettes, cigars, chewing-tobacco, or other tobacco products.

- 2.13. **Inappropriately Using, Sharing, or Distributing Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drugs.** Students may not inappropriately use, share, or distribute prescription and over-the-counter drugs.
  - 2.14. **Inappropriate Use of Social Media** Students may not be involved in online activities that involve detrimental content to the School, its faculty or its students.
  - 2.15. **Using or Possessing “Electronic Smoking Device”** - Students may not use or possess electronic smoking devices. Students may not use or possess e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, e-hookahs, or vaporizers or vaporizer pens, or under any other product name or descriptor.
3. **Engaging in Violent, Disruptive, and/or Threatening Conduct.** Examples of violent, disruptive, and/or threatening conduct include, but are not limited to:
- 3.1. **Committing a Physical or Emotional Act of Violence on Self or Others.** Students may not commit assault, including sexual assault, or assault and battery on other students, school personnel or their designee(s), or any other person on school property. Assault is an attempt or threat to physically harm another person; assault does not require physical contact. Battery is any unlawful touching of another person. Students cannot engage in conduct that has the potential of resulting in violence on school property. Students can be disciplined for actions that threaten harm to themselves or others.
  - 3.2. **Causing Bodily Harm:** Students may not cause physical injury to other students, school personnel or their designee(s), or any other person on school property.
  - 3.3. **Fighting or Unwanted Physical Contact:** The School’s students may not fight with other students—from the School or any other school. Harassing, pushing, touching, or any form of unwanted physical contact is not tolerated.
  - 3.4. **Playfighting, Threatening, Bullying, and/or Intimidating:** Playfighting and/or the use of threats or intimidation threaten the safety of the community. Students may not playfight and/or threaten, bully, or intimidate others.
  - 3.5. **Possessing, Displaying, Using, or Threatening to Use a Firearm:** Students may not possess, display, use, or threaten to use a firearm.
  - 3.6. **Possessing, Displaying, Using, or Threatening to Use a Mock Firearm:** Students may not possess, display, use, or threaten to use a mock firearm.
  - 3.7. **Possessing, Displaying, Using, or Threatening to Use a Weapon or Dangerous Object:** Students are not allowed to bring a weapon of any sort to school, display, use or threaten to use any object in a dangerous or threatening manner, or have a weapon on him/her or his/her property.
  - 3.8. **Committing Arson:** Students may not set a fire.
  - 3.9. **Setting off a False Alarm or Making a Threat:** Students may not intentionally set off a false alarm, call 911, or discharge a fire extinguisher without valid cause or make a destructive threat.

### **Disciplinary Penalties and Procedures**

Students who are found to have violated the School’s Code of Conduct may be subject to the following penalties, either alone or in combination with one another:

1. Oral warning
2. Written warning
3. Written notification to parent/guardian
4. Conference with parent(s)/guardian(s)
5. Confiscation
6. Detention
7. Exclusion and/or removal from a particular class or event
8. Suspension from transportation
9. Suspension from cafeteria, commons, library, social, athletic, after-school, field trip, extracurricular, or other activities or privileges
10. In-school suspension
11. Short-term suspension (ten days or less) from school
12. Long-term suspension (more than ten days) from school
13. Expulsion from school

In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, school personnel authorized to impose disciplinary penalties may consider, among other things, the student's prior disciplinary record.

### **Detention**

Teachers, the Principal, other school personnel, and their designee(s) may use after-school as a penalty for violations of the Code of Conduct. Parents will be notified by phone when and if their students are required to serve detention.

### **Suspension from Transportation**

Students who do not conduct themselves properly on a bus may have their riding privileges suspended by the Principal or the Principal's designee(s). In such cases, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will become responsible for seeing that his or her child gets to and from school safely.

### **Short Term In-School Suspension or Short Term Suspension from School (less than ten days)**

When the Principal or Principal's designee (referred to as the "suspending authority"), such as a Dean of Students, proposes to impose in-school suspension or suspend a student charged with misconduct for less than ten days, the suspending authority must provide notice and the opportunity for an informal conference. However, the student may be removed from class and/or school immediately if the student's presence in school poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disruption to the academic process.

After the conference, the Principal or his/her designee shall advise the parent(s)/guardian(s) in writing of his or her decision. If the parent(s) /guardian(s) are not satisfied with the decision of the Principal or his/her designee, they may file a written appeal to the Board of Trustees via the Principal within five business days of the date of the Principal's decision. The appeal to the Board will be handled by the Board's designee, the School's Chief Operating Officer from Uncommon Schools, Inc., or his/her designee.

### **Long Term In-School Suspension or Long Term Suspension from School (ten or more days)**

When the Principal determines that a suspension for ten or more days may be warranted, the student may be removed from class and/or school immediately if the student's presence in school poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disruption to the academic process. The Principal or his/her designee shall give reasonable notice to the student and the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) of their right to a fair hearing.

At the hearing, the student shall have the right to be represented by counsel or advocate (at the student's/parent's expense), the right to question witnesses against him/her, and the right to present witnesses and other evidence on his/her behalf. The Board's designee, the School's Chief Operating Officer from Uncommon Schools, Inc., or his/her designee, shall personally hear and determine the proceeding or may, in his/her discretion, designate a hearing officer to conduct the hearing. The Board's designee or the hearing officer shall be authorized to hear testimony and request documents in conjunction with the proceeding before him/her. A record of the hearing shall be maintained, but no stenographic transcript shall be required. A tape recording shall be deemed a satisfactory record. The hearing officer shall make findings of fact and recommendations as to the appropriate measure of discipline to the Board's designee. The report of the hearing officer shall be advisory only, and the Board's designee may accept all or any part thereof.

If the parent(s) /guardian(s) are not satisfied with the decision of the Board's designee, they may file a written appeal to the Board of Trustees via the Principal within five business days of the date of the decision of the Board's designee. The Board may adopt in whole or in part the decision of its designee and will make its decision based solely upon the record before it.

The School will provide alternative instruction to students suspended in-school or out-of-school within 24 hours of any suspension in accordance with New York's compulsory education laws.

### **Expulsion**

Expulsion is reserved for extraordinary circumstances, including but not limited to circumstances where a student's conduct posed or continues to pose a danger to the safety and well-being of themselves, other students, school personnel, or any other person lawfully on school property, attending a school function, or on school-provided transportation. The procedure for expulsion shall be the same procedure set forth for long-term suspension.

### **Discipline of Students with Special Needs**

The School recognizes that it may be necessary to suspend, remove, or otherwise discipline students with disabilities to address disruptive or problem behavior. The School also recognizes that students with disabilities enjoy certain procedural protections whenever school authorities intend to impose discipline upon them. For students with IEPs, ten days of suspension in aggregate triggers certain procedural safeguards and may result in an amendment of a student's IEP. The School is committed to ensuring that the procedures followed for suspending, removing or otherwise disciplining students with disabilities are consistent with the procedural safeguards required by applicable laws and regulations. The discipline policy for students with special needs will be available for review in the School's main office.

### **Dignity Act**

The Dignity Act prohibits discrimination and harassment against any student, by employees or students on school property or at a school sponsored function, that creates a hostile environment by conduct, with or without physical contact and/or by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse of such a severe nature that:

- (1) has or would have the effect of unreasonably or substantially interfering with a student's education performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional and/or physical well-being; or
- (2) reasonable causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety.

Such conduct shall include, but is not limited to, threats, intimidation, or abuse based on a person's:

- Actual or perceived Race
- Color
- Weight
- National Origin
- Ethnic Group
- Religion
- Religious Practices
- Disability
- Gender Identity
- Perceived Gender Identity
- Sexual Orientation; or
- Sex

The school has a Dignity Act Coordinator who can handle questions and concerns that families have about bullying. Please reach out to the Dean of Students with your questions or concerns.

### **Student Searches**

The School authorizes the Principal and the Principal's designee(s) to conduct searches of students and their belongings if the authorized school official has reasonable suspicion to believe that the search will result in evidence that the student violated the law or the School's Code of Conduct or otherwise constituted a threat to the health, safety, welfare, or morals of the School, other students, school personnel, or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function. In authorizing searches, the School acknowledges both state and federal constitutional rights which are applicable to personal searches of students and searches of their possessions.

An authorized school official may search a student or the student's belongings based upon information received from a reliable informant. Individuals, other than the School's employees, will be considered reliable informants if they have previously supplied information that was accurate and verified, they make an admission against their own interest, they provide the same information that is received independently from other sources, or they appear to be credible and the information they are communicating related to an immediate threat to safety. School employees will be considered reliable informants unless they are known to have previously supplied information that they knew was not accurate.

Students may be subject to personal searches and searches of their possessions where reasonable individualized suspicion exists to conduct such search. Reasonable individualized suspicion to conduct a search of a student or a student's possessions and the scope of the particular search shall be based upon, among other things, the student's age, the prevalence and seriousness of the problem to which the search is directed, the urgency necessitating an immediate search, and the probative value and reliability of information used as justification for the search.

Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy rights in school lockers, cubbies, desks, or other school storage places. The School exercises overriding control over such school property, which may be opened and subjected to inspection at any time by school officials.

# TRUE NORTH ROCHESTER PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL WEST CAMPUS

## Student and Family Handbook 2017-18

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### **Student Records**

The School recognizes the legal requirement to maintain the confidentiality of student records. Access to student records shall be consistent with federal statutes, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) and its implementing regulations.

The School also recognizes its responsibility under the Local Government Records Law to ensure the orderly retention and disposition of the School's student records.

At least once each year, the School shall by means of an individual mailing or by inclusion in one of the School's regular publications, notify all parents and eligible students of their rights under FERPA. The notice will include a statement that the parent or eligible student has a right to:

- 1) Inspect and review the student's education records;
- 2) A specification of the intent of the School to limit the disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in a student's education records except:
  - a. by prior written consent of the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) or the eligible student;
  - b. as directory information; or
  - c. under certain limited circumstances, as permitted by FERPA.
- 3) Request that records be amended to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights;
- 4) File a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education alleging failure of the District to comply with FERPA and its regulations; and
- 5) Obtain copies of this policy and the locations where copies may be obtained.

The policy applicable to the release of student directory information, which includes the student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of degrees and awards received, and the most recent educational agency or institution attended by the student, applies equally to military recruiters, the media, colleges and universities, and prospective employers.

The School shall arrange to provide translations of this notice to non-English speaking parents in their native language.

The School does not plan to publish a directory of student information. In the event that the School plans to publish a directory in the future, FERPA permits the disclosure of certain categories of directory information, i.e., name, age, address, etc., without specific permission from the parents having been obtained. However, while permission is not required, the School must give parents/legal guardians the opportunity to object to the publication of some or all of this information.

### **Health Policies**

The School provides the health services required by law. Students with serious injuries are taken to the hospital for emergency medical care and the parent(s) or guardian(s) are notified immediately.

If a student requires medication of any kind (including Tylenol, aspirin, and asthma inhalers), the student's parent/guardian must submit an Authorization to Dispense Medication form and must give the medication in the original container to the Nurse or Office Manager.

The parent/guardian of any student who is required to carry an asthma inhaler on his/her person must provide an Authorization to Dispense Medication form specifying that the student needs to carry the inhaler with him/her and a second inhaler that is kept in the Nurse's office or with the Office Manager.

The School abides by all New York State immunization requirements. Each new student must have a certificate of immunization at the time of registration or not later than the 14<sup>th</sup> day of school. Parents/guardians must present documentation that their children have received all required doses of vaccines or are waiting to receive the subsequent doses at the appropriate time intervals. Parents seeking to waive the immunization requirement should submit their request to the school Nurse or Office Manager. The Nurse will review the request and will advise the Principal, who will make the final decision on whether to grant the waiver request.

### **Internet Security Policy and Use of Technology**

**Undesirable Materials:** The School will take all possible precautions to restrict access to undesirable materials including, but not limited to, installing content filtering software/hardware solutions on its network or using an Internet provider which uses content filtering software on its equipment to screen all Internet web sites by URL and/or by keyword search. However, students must also accept responsibility for restricting access to these materials. Students who gain access to undesirable Internet materials must report this material to their teacher.

**Security:** Students must not allow others to use their network accounts (both Internet and School accounts). Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Designated school personnel may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on school file servers will always be private.

**E-Mail:** Student use of email is not allowed.

**Social Networking, Blogging, Chat and Other User Groups:** Student use of social networking, blogging, chat and other user groups is not allowed without approval from the supervising teacher.

**Copyright and Citations:** Any copyrighted materials are subject to the Fair Use provision of copyrighted materials as it relates to education. Internet materials used in reports or other documents must be cited. If there is no direct citation, the Uniform Resource Location (URL) must be cited. The use of internet sources without proper citation constitutes plagiarism.

**Downloading:** Downloading from the Internet without approval from the supervising teacher is not allowed.

**Private Internet Providers:** Students may not use school computers to access private Internet providers.

**Acceptable Internet Usage:** The School will ensure age-appropriate internet usage among students who use its internet facilities. This will enforce the School's commitment to student safety with regard to:

- i. safety on the Internet; and
- ii. appropriate behavior while on online, on social networking Web sites, and in chat rooms, including but not limited

to:

- Unauthorized access including "hacking" and other unlawful activities undertaken online by minors;
- Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors;
- Cyberbullying awareness and response ; and
- Other behavior determined to be threatening, intimidating or otherwise inappropriate in any way.

**Telephones:** Students are prohibited from using school telephones. In the event of an emergency, students may be allowed to use school telephones, but only at the discretion of school staff members.

### **Social Media Policy**

Social Media is a powerful and effective tool for keeping people connected and the School respects the rights of parents to engage in free and open communication of their personal information through the individual use of weblogs, internet diaries, social websites like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, Vimeo, and other forms of online discourse ("Personal Online Activities"). However, when these Personal Online Activities contain content that could be detrimental to the School, its faculty or its students, they become an appropriate focus of the School's policy.

Parents are personally responsible for the content of their Personal Online Activities, and the following guidelines should be followed:

1. The content of Personal Online Activities may not contain:
  - a. any reference to confidential or privileged information or activities of School students or their families, whether by name or implication;
  - b. any reference to confidential School information;
  - c. any reference to School students, faculty, staff, administrators, or trustees whether by name or implication, that would in any manner defame such individual;

- d. any reference to confidential or privileged information or activities of School faculty, staff, administrators, or trustees; or
  - e. any material that in the sole discretion of the School is considered obscene, defamatory, threatening, harassing, illegal, or abusive to any person or entity associated with the School.
2. When posting classroom photos, please be respectful of the fact that other parents may not want their child's photograph posted to your Social Media site(s). Do not post photos of your child's classmates without their permission.
  3. Remember to THINK before you post anything pertaining to Rochester Prep students:  
T - Is it true?  
H - Is it helpful?  
I - Is it inspiring?  
N - Is it necessary?  
K - Is it kind?

### **Visitors to the School**

The School encourages parent(s)/guardian(s) and other School citizens to visit the School's classrooms to observe the work of students, teachers and other staff. Schools are a place of work and learning, however, and certain limits must be set for such visits. The Principal is responsible for all persons in the building and on the grounds. For these reasons, the following rules apply to visitors to the schools:

- 1) Anyone who is not a regular staff member or student of the school will be considered a "visitor".
- 2) All visitors to the school must sign in and report to the main office.
- 3) Teachers are expected not to take class time to discuss individual matters with visitors.
- 4) Any unauthorized person on school property will be reported to the Principal. Unauthorized persons will be asked to leave. The police may be called if the situation warrants.
- 5) All visitors are required to abide by the rules for public conduct on school property contained in this Code of Conduct. By entering school property, visitors accept these rules.

The School is committed to providing an orderly, respectful environment; therefore, it is necessary to regulate public conduct on school property and at school functions.

### **Dress Code**

Clothing worn by students at Rochester Preparatory Charter School – West Campus should emphasize the fact that the school is both a community and a place of work. Students should dress in a way that expresses their membership in the community and that suits the standards of a workplace. Their attire should be neat and tidy and should conform to the Rochester Prep uniform at all times.

### **Rochester Prep's uniform for middle school students consists of:**

- An official Rochester Preparatory Charter School – West Campus "polo" shirt. Shirts must remain tucked in at all times.
- Undershirts must be solid white, grey, navy, blue and black.
- The official Rochester Preparatory Charter School sweater is optional, although students will not be allowed to wear other sweaters or jackets indoors.
- Students will not be allowed to wear long sleeve undershirts.
- Khaki pants, skirts or shorts (cannot be shorter than one inch of knee). Jumpers, jeggings and tight pants are not permitted.
- Dark colored dress shoes in solid brown or black. Students may wear lace-up style shoes, but they must not be open-toed, nor may lace-up shoes be worn unlaced. Students may not wear boots, boat shoes or moccasins. Sneakers are not acceptable except during recess activities.

- A dark colored belt in solid brown or black. Belts with studs or designs are not permitted.

**The student uniform at Rochester Prep specifically forbids the wearing of:**

- Any clothing with legible writing or images (other than the Rochester Prep logo). This refers even to clothing worn under another shirt.
- Jeans. This includes khaki-colored jeans.
- Leggings
- Sneakers (except for Physical Education or any other time designated by the School)
- Hats, caps, bandanas, hoods or night wraps. (Students may wear headbands for the purpose of holding back hair, but they may not cover the majority of the head).
- Jackets or overcoats (except while outdoors)
- iPods, cell-phones or other electronic items. These items will be confiscated and returned only to a parent or guardian. Parents who wish for their children to carry cell-phones for safety reasons should contact the Principal to make arrangements.
- Any clothing tied around the waist or neck
- Temporary tattoos or pen drawings
- Makeup (except for clear lip gloss)

**A student may not be admitted to class if his/her attire does not meet the requirements listed above.** The Principal should be consulted if there are any questions about whether a particular item of clothing meets the requirements of the above policy. Further, the Principal, the Dean of Students, and the faculty reserve the right to restrict individual items of clothing as necessary, given notification of a parent or guardian, if such clothing interferes with normal school activities. Rochester Prep reserves the right to amend the dress code for designated school functions or privileges.

**ADDITIONAL BEHAVIORAL GUIDELINES**

*Respecting the Community*

The school is extremely fortunate to own and occupy space at 432 Chili Avenue. As members of this community, dependent upon its good will to succeed, all students are expected to be thoughtful and respectful toward neighbors, visitors and other members of the community at all times.

- Students will exhibit courteous behavior whenever traveling to or walking in other parts of the school building.
- If a Rochester Prep student has a negative interaction with any member of the community, that student should inform a Rochester Prep staff member and allow the Principal or his/her designee to resolve the situation.
- Students traveling to and from school on foot or via bus should to conduct themselves as if they were in the school hallways: travel on the sidewalk in a safe and orderly fashion; dispose of waste appropriately; do not loiter outside or near the school building; and remember that they are representatives of Rochester Prep and treat all neighborhood community members with respect.
- Families who drive their children to or from school should drop their children off at the main entrance.

*Bus Behavior*

- Students who take the bus to school are expected to act responsibly and respectfully at all times.

If the Principal determines that the student has behaved inappropriately on the bus, the Principal may impose any of the following consequences: detention, suspension, and loss of bus privileges for up to the remainder of the school year.

## **IN THE CLASSROOM**

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### *Student Expectations and Classroom Procedures*

#### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students can only be successful if they are present at and prepared for school every day. At Rochester Prep, excessive absences will not be tolerated. If a student is absent with or without excuse for more than 10 days of the school year, that student may be required to repeat his or her current grade.

Parents and guardians are expected to call the school as early as possible but no later than 7:30 AM if their child will be absent. Calls should be made as far in advance as possible and may be left on the school's main voice mail if necessary. If a student is not in homeroom and the school has not been notified that he or she will be absent, his or her parent or guardian will be called at home and/or work. In phone calls, voice mails, and notes, please leave or list your child's name, your relationship to the child, and the reason for and date(s) of the child's absence.

Questions regarding student attendance and attendance records should be directed to the school's Office Manager.

A student is considered absent with excuse when the student's family has contacted the school regarding an illness, emergency, or religious observance. All other absences will be considered unexcused, including but not limited to, family vacation, participation at sports tournaments, attendance at entertainment events, or when the family has not contacted the school with a satisfactory reason.

If prior notification has not already been provided, the student is required to bring a signed note from his or her parent or guardian explaining the reason for the absence upon his or her return. A note from a doctor may be required in lieu of the parent note, especially in the case of an extended absence.

If a student is absent for the first five days of school, or at least five consecutive days during the school year, and there has been no successful contact between the family and the school to explain his or her absences, the school may take action to un-enroll the student.

Students who are absent from school cannot attend or participate in school sporting events, dances, or any other school-sponsored activities occurring on the day of the absence, unless the school has given advance permission.

Please note that students earn ten scholar dollars per day of school they attend. If a student is absent, they are unable to earn those dollars, regardless of the reason for the absence. This will show on their weekly paycheck as an absence deduction.

#### **SNOW CLOSINGS**

In the event of poor weather conditions such as heavy snow, please listen to your local television or radio stations for relevant information regarding school cancellation. Except on days when Rochester Prep is in session and City schools are not, Rochester Prep follows the exact same cancellation policies as Rochester City Schools. If Rochester City Schools are closed or delayed, so is Rochester Prep.

#### **LATENESS**

Students late to school who arrive after 7:55 AM should go to the Main Office.

Breakfast is not offered after 7:55AM.

For every three latenesses, a student will earn an absence. Students who are late will also lose scholar dollars. Excessive lateness will not be tolerated.

### **EARLY DISMISSAL POLICY**

Should an early dismissal be required, a parent or guardian should contact the school in advance. In order to minimize disruptions to class, we ask that notification regarding early dismissals be made as far in advance as possible, but no later than 7:45 AM of the day of the early dismissal. We also ask that doctor and dentist appointments be limited to non-school hours whenever possible to avoid students missing class time.

Students will not be dismissed unless a parent, guardian or designated emergency contact has come to the Main Office. If we do not have a signed form designating an individual as an emergency contact and/or if we are not able to corroborate the identity of a contact with proper ID, we will be unable to release your child. For your child's safety, we will not be able to comply with phone calls or notes requesting that children be released to adults who are not official guardians.

Students who repeatedly miss the same classes as a result of early dismissals may be required to make up missed class time and may earn full-day absences as a result.

### **HOMEWORK AND EXAMS**

#### Homework Club

Each student is expected to complete all of his or her assigned homework on time every day.

Homework is collected as school begins at 7:40 AM each day. If a student does not satisfactorily complete his or her assigned homework, he or she is required to attend Homework Club *that day* making up the missed work, beginning the next night's work, or completing any other work assigned by the Homework Club supervisor. Homework Club takes place during the school day. Please note that students stay for Homework Club either because the assignment was not completed or because the homework did not meet school standards. (Teachers will review homework standards with all students at the start of the year.)

#### Exams and Quizzes

If a student is absent with excuse for a test, he or she should be prepared to make it up on the day of his or her return, unless alternative arrangements have been made

### **STUDENT SUPPLIES**

Rochester Prep will provide students with the following supplies:

- One binder (\$3 for additional binders)
- A homework folder
- A pencil case

- 2 yellow pencils

Students will not need additional supplies unless requested by the School.

We encourage all students not to bring non-essential items of value to school – monetary or otherwise – since they cannot be securely stored. Rochester Prep is not responsible for any lost or stolen items. Students who bring inappropriate items to school, including, but not limited to, toys, hats, CD players, iPods, mp3 players, laser pointers, , pagers, hand held video games, wearable technology such as iWatches and cell phones, will have such items confiscated. A parent or guardian must come to the school to retrieve confiscated items.

TRUE NORTH ROCHESTER PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL WEST CAMPUS  
Student and Family Handbook 2017-18

**SAMPLE STUDENT SCHEDULE**

*Note: This is a sample schedule only. For each student, times, schedule, and course offerings may vary.*

| <b>Sample Schedule</b> |                          |                          |                          |                          |                                   |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Time</b>            | <b>Monday</b>            | <b>Tuesday</b>           | <b>Wednesday</b>         | <b>Thursday</b>          | <b>Friday</b>                     |
| <b>7:25-8:00</b>       | AM Homeroom                       |
| <b>8:00-8:30</b>       | ELA                      | ELA                      | ELA                      | ELA                      | ELA                               |
| <b>9:00-9:30</b>       |                          |                          |                          |                          | Math                              |
| <b>9:30-10:00</b>      |                          |                          |                          |                          | Math                              |
| <b>10:00-11:00</b>     | History                  | History                  | History                  | History                  |                                   |
| <b>11:00-11:30</b>     | Science                  | Science                  | Science                  | Science                  | History or Science                |
| <b>11:30-12:00</b>     |                          |                          |                          |                          |                                   |
| <b>12:00-12:30</b>     | Lunch                    | Lunch                    | Lunch                    | Lunch                    | Lunch                             |
| <b>12:30-1:00</b>      | Tutoring                 | Tutoring                 | Tutoring                 | Tutoring                 | PM Homeroom<br>Dismissal at 12:40 |
| <b>1:00-2:00</b>       | Specials                 | Specials                 | Specials                 | Specials                 |                                   |
| <b>2:00-3:00</b>       | Math                     | Math                     | Math                     | Math                     |                                   |
| <b>3:00-3:30</b>       |                          |                          |                          |                          |                                   |
| <b>3:30-4:00</b>       | Blended Learning<br>Math | Blended Learning<br>Math | Blended Learning<br>Math | Blended Learning<br>Math |                                   |
| <b>4:00-4:20</b>       | PM Homeroom              | PM Homeroom              | PM Homeroom              | PM Homeroom              |                                   |
| <b>4:20-4:40</b>       | Dismissal                | Dismissal                | Dismissal                | Dismissal                |                                   |

*Breakfast and Morning Meeting*

The Rochester Prep school day begins at 7:40 AM with a 15-minute morning work and breakfast block, then students will transition to their designated first period class on most days. Occasionally, breakfast will be followed by Morning Meeting, a community building activity that reinforces students' academic achievement and character development.

*Advisory Groups*

Students at Rochester Prep each have an assigned Advisor. The Advisor is responsible for helping students achieve their best. While students should feel free to speak with any of their teachers about difficulties or

challenges they encounter in or out of class, their Advisor is the person who is most aware of their particular needs. The Advisor also speaks with parents or guardians periodically to report on specific academic and behavioral progress. Families are strongly encouraged to call their child's Advisor with any questions or family information.

## **SCHOOL CALENDAR**

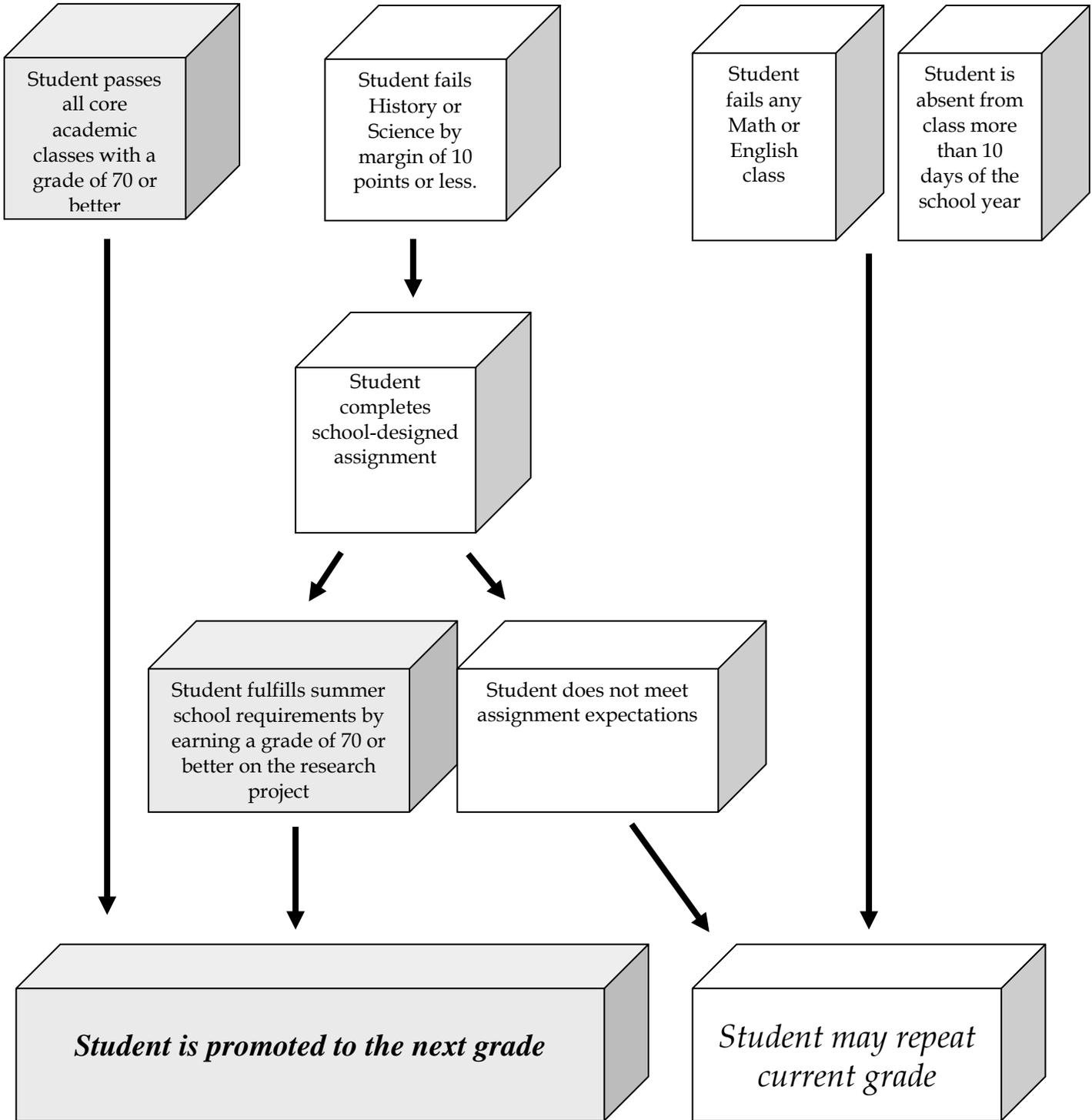
### *More Days of Instruction*

In order to fulfill our mission of preparing students for college, Rochester Prep offers a school year of 185 days, approximately 5 more days than most school districts. In general the school year starts at the end of August and finishes the second to last week of June.

### *Progress Reports, Report Cards, and Family-Teacher Conferences*

Teachers and staff use regular bi-weekly progress reports and end of quarter report cards to communicate students' academic and behavioral performance. Progress reports are sent home with students every two weeks to be signed by their parents and brought back to school the next school day. Report cards are distributed at Family-Teacher Conferences, which families must attend in order to receive their students' report cards. If a family cannot attend Family-Teacher Conferences, they must schedule another time with the school to meet with teachers and pick up their student's report card.

**PROMOTION POLICIES**



## **SUMMER COURSEWORK**

Summer coursework may be required if a student does not pass a class with a 70 or higher or at a teacher's discretion. Summer coursework allows students another opportunity to develop and demonstrate the mastery that will be required to succeed in the next grade's material.

## **BUILDING SAFETY AND SECURITY**

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*Rochester Prep*

**T**here are a number of basic procedures the school has in order to ensure the safety and security of its students and staff. Cooperation on everyone's part will go a long way in guaranteeing that the business of the school – teaching and learning – can take place.

### **CLOSED CAMPUS**

Under no circumstances are students to leave the school building or grounds without parent/guardian permission.

### **IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**

In case of an emergency, parents or guardians should contact the Main Office either by phone or in person. Under no circumstances should parents or guardians contact students in their classrooms, including Homework Club and Detention, or attempt to withdraw students from the building without notifying and receiving permission from staff members in the Main Office.

### **FIRE, SAFETY AND EVACUATION PROCEDURES**

*Please note, some procedures may change once the school year has officially begun. Students will be notified of and trained in any significant changes.*

In case of an emergency, students must follow the direction of staff members who will lead students outside the building to the designated locations, where school staff will line up students by class and take attendance.

During the first week of school, and periodically throughout the school year, students and staff will participate in fire drills to ensure that the entire school community is familiar with the appropriate response in the event of an emergency.

Should it be necessary to evacuate our school before, during, or after the school day—and it appears that we will be unable to return to the school for an extended period of time or for the rest of the day—school staff and students will evacuate, according to the school's evacuation plan.

More information on emergency procedures is contained in the school's SAVE plan, which will be shared with all parents and available from the Main Office.

### **TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY**

*Arrival and Dismissal*

Students should not arrive to school before 7:25 AM. At dismissal, students should leave the school building; attend after school tutoring, or detention; or participate in an official school event such as an athletic team. Students who are not participating in one of the above activities must wait in the Main Office or in another designated afterschool location, under the supervision of a staff member. Students may not wait outside without staff supervision.

Bus transportation will be provided by the Rochester City School District. Buses will pick up and drop off students at 432 Chili Avenue.

We ask for families to please cooperate with this policy to guarantee a safe, timely, and orderly environment for all students and families at dismissal.

*Students Who Walk*

For students who walk to and from school, a number of streets must be crossed. Families should instruct students to use all of the appropriate crossing lights at each intersection, and to cross each intersection only when it is safe to do so within the designated crosswalks. Rochester Prep encourages students who walk to travel together or in groups. The school is happy to help parents identify other families who live near them for this purpose.

## GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

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*Rochester Prep*

### NONDISCRIMINATION

Rochester Prep does not discriminate in admission to, access to, treatment in, or employment in its services, programs and activities, on the basis of race, color or national origin, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI); on the basis of sex, in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; on the basis of disability, in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA); or on the basis of age, in accordance with the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1974 (ADEA). In addition, no person shall be discriminated against in admission to Rochester Prep on the basis of race, sex, color, creed, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, athletic performance, special need, proficiency in the English language or a foreign language, or prior academic achievement. No person shall be discriminated against in obtaining the advantages, privileges or access to the courses of study offered by Rochester Prep on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation. Finally, pregnant students are allowed to remain in regular education classes and participate in extracurricular activities with non-pregnant students throughout their pregnancy, and after giving birth are permitted to return to the same academic and extracurricular program as before the leave (Title IX).

*Uncommon values and embraces its inclusive and diverse school communities and strives to provide a welcoming, safe and supportive environment for all students and families regardless of their race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity. If a student or his or her family would like to explore a particular accommodation based upon cultural or religious practices, or due to one's disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity, the student or the student's parents or guardian should contact a School Leader or adult the student feels comfortable with to schedule a meeting to discuss a plan to address the student's particular circumstances and needs.*

### OPEN MEETINGS LAW

True North Rochester Preparatory Charter School – West Campus (“Rochester Prep”) abides by all of the following procedures in accordance with the Open Meetings Law, Article 7 of the Public Officers Law:

#### *Board Meetings*

The Board of Trustees opens its meetings to the general public, except when an executive session is called. Reasonable efforts are made to provide access to anyone interested in attending a meeting. If videoconferencing is used, Board provides an opportunity for the public to attend at any site where a member participates. A calendar of regular meetings is posted at the school in a location that is open to the public. In addition to this posting, notice of all meetings scheduled one week in advance is provided to the news media at least 72 hours in advance. Notice of meetings scheduled less than one week in advance, is provided to the news media within a reasonable time prior to the meeting to the extent practicable. If videoconferencing is used, public notice will say so, identifying the locations from which members may participate, and will state that the public has a right to attend from any of these locations. This policy applies with equal force to Board committee meetings.

#### *Executive Sessions*

An executive session may be held with a majority vote of the trustees taken in an opening meeting, identifying the areas of consideration. Provided no formal action shall be taken to appropriate public moneys, an executive session may be held for:

- Matters which will imperil the public safety if disclosed;
- Matters which may disclose the identity of a law enforcement agent or informer;
- Information relating to current or future investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense which would imperil effective law enforcement if disclosed;
- Discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation;
- Collective negotiations pursuant to article fourteen of the civil service law;
- The medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation;
- The preparation, grading, or administration of examinations; and/or
- The proposed acquisition, sale, or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities, or sale or exchange of securities held by such public body, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value.

Attendance at an executive session shall be permitted to any member of the public body and any person authorized by the public body.

#### *Minutes*

Minutes are recorded at all open meetings consisting of a summary of all motions, proposals, resolutions, and any other matter formally voted upon and the vote thereon. Minutes are taken at executive session of any action taken by a formal vote which shall consist of a summary of the final determination of such action and the date and vote thereon. The summary need not include any matter that is not required to be made public by the Freedom of Information Law. Except for minutes of Executive Sessions, which shall be available within one week, minutes shall be made available to the public within two weeks of the date of the meeting.

#### *Grievances*

A person having a grievance against the school for failure to enforce or comply with the Open Meetings Law (Article 7 of the Public Officers Law) may commence a proceeding pursuant to Article 78 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules and/or an action for declaratory judgment and injunctive relief.

#### *Exemptions*

These policies shall not apply to any matter made confidential by applicable federal or state law including, but not limited to, judicial or quasi-judicial proceedings.

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION POLICY**

True North Rochester Preparatory Charter School – West Campus (“Rochester Prep”) complies with the following in order to abide by the New York State Freedom of Information Law (Article 6 of the New York Public Officers Law):

Any requests for school records or information from Rochester Prep must be in writing and submitted to the Director of Operations. Within five business days of receipt of a written request, the school, depending on the requested information, responds by:

- Making the information available at the school itself during normal business hours to the person requesting it;
- Denying the request in writing; or

- Providing a written acknowledgment of receipt of the request that supplies an approximate date for when the request will be granted or denied, which date will be reasonable under the circumstances of the request.
- If a request will be granted in whole or in part, but cannot be granted within 20 days of the date of the school's acknowledgement of the request, the school shall state in writing the reason why it cannot be so granted and give a date certain when it will be granted in whole or in part, which date will be reasonable under the circumstances of the request.

If the person requesting information is denied access to a record, s/he may, within 30 days, appeal such denial to the Superintendent. (The records access officer and the appeals entity shall not be the same person) Upon timely receipt of such an appeal, the school, within 10 business days of the receipt of the appeal, fully explains the reasons for further denial or provides access to the record(s) sought. The school also forwards a copy of the appeal, as well as its ultimate determination, to the Committee on Open Government immediately after receipt or determination, respectively. If further denied, the person requesting information may further appeal through an Article 78 proceeding. Likewise, if the School does not follow the FOIL appeal procedures, it will constitute a denial of the FOIL appeal for purposes of allowing the requester to bring as Article 78 proceeding.

The school may deny access to requested records if:

- Such records are specifically exempted from disclosure by state or federal statute;
- Such access would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- Such records, if disclosed, would impair present or imminent contract awards or collective bargaining negotiations;
- Such records are trade secrets and which, if disclosed, would cause substantial injury to the competitive position of a commercial enterprise;
- Such records are compiled for law enforcement purposes and which, if disclosed, would meet the conditions set forth in Public Officers Law §87(2)(e);
- Such records, if disclosed, would endanger the life or safety of any person;
- Such records are computer access codes; and/or
- Such records are internal materials which are not statistical or factual tabulations of data, instructions to staff that affect the public, a final policy, nor external audits.

The school maintains:

- A record of the final vote of each trustee in every proceeding in which the trustees vote;
- A record setting forth the name, public office address, title and salary of every officer or employee of the education corporation; and
- A reasonably detailed current list, by subject matter, of all records in the school's custody or possession.

There is no fee to inspect or search for records. Photocopies of records can be made on-site for 10 cents per page. By law, the fee for copying records shall not exceed 25 cents per page for photocopies not exceeding 9 by 14 inches. The fee for photocopies of records which are not an appropriate size for the School's photocopy equipment shall not exceed the actual reproduction cost, which is the average unit cost for copying a record, excluding fixed costs of the agency such as operator salaries.

The school will publicly post a notice setting forth the name and address of its records access officer, its records appeals officer, and the location where records will be made available.

## **NCLB, SCHOOL REPORT CARDS, AND HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS**

*No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) is federal legislation enacted with the goal of all students reaching academic proficiency by 2014 and all students being taught by a Highly Qualified teacher by 2007. As part of that goal, schools are required to issue to parents an annual report card that specifies the school's mission, indicates the demographic breakdown of its student body, presents their performance on standardized exams such as the New York State Assessments, and specifies the percentage of Highly Qualified teachers as defined by NCLB. Parents can request in writing to the Principal the educational credentials and licensure of any of their students' teachers. A list of our teachers with their educational credentials and professional backgrounds is included annually within this Handbook.

## STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

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*Rochester Prep*

I have received and read a copy of Rochester Prep's Student and Family Handbook and understand the rules, regulations, and procedures of the school. I understand that if I ever have any questions regarding school policies, I can always ask my parent or guardian, or other member of the school community for a further explanation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Please return a signed copy of the Statement of Understanding within one week of the first day of school. Thank you for your cooperation.*

## Appendix 1

### **Notification of Rights under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Schools**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the School principal [or appropriate official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:  
Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-4605

## Appendix 2

### Complaint Policy

In accordance with Education Law §2855(4), any individual or group may bring a complaint to the True North Rochester Preparatory Charter School Board of Trustees alleging a violation of Education Law Article 56, the charter, or any other provision of law relating to the management or operation of the school. Nothing in the following suggested procedures precludes a group or individual from bringing a complaint under Education Law §2855(4) directly to the school's Board of Trustees.

An individual who has a complaint about a school practice or policy that does not concern the alleged violation of law or charter (e.g., a concern about an academic grade, the school's uniform policy, the school's cell phone policy, or the bus schedule) should address the complaint in writing to the Principal. The Principal will respond to the complaint in writing or in person within 14 days. If this does not resolve the complaint or if the complaint is about the Principal, the individual or group may file a complaint in writing to the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, who shall then appoint the School's Managing Director from Uncommon Schools or another designee(s) to review the complaint. The Chairperson's designee will respond to complaints in writing within 30 days.

Should an individual wish to file a complaint with the Board of Trustees, it must be submitted in writing at least one week prior to the next Board meeting. Complaints submitted later will be addressed at the subsequent meeting of the Board of Trustees. Emergency issues will be dealt with on an as-needed basis, with the Board's designee responding at or prior to its next regular public meeting.

Every effort will be made to respectfully address each matter to the satisfaction of the individual or group that presented the complaint. Rochester Prep will encourage all families to resolve all complaints at the school level in cooperation with the Principal. The Board, as necessary, may direct the Principal or other responsible party to act upon the complaint and report to the Board. The Board of Trustees shall render a determination in writing if appropriate or required.

If, after presentation of the complaint to the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, the individual or group determines that the Chairperson or his/her designee has not adequately addressed the complaint, the complainant may present the complaint to the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York, which shall investigate and respond. If, after presentation of the complaint to the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York, the individual or group determines that the school has not adequately addressed the complaint, the complainant may present the case to the Board of Regents, which shall investigate and respond. The Trustees of the State University of New York and the Board of Regents have the power and the duty to take remedial action as appropriate.