

2026-2027



Parent Handbook

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SCHOOL IDENTITY

This Handbook summarizes current policies and expectations, does not create a contract or guarantee enrollment, services, or any particular disciplinary outcome, and may be interpreted, modified, suspended, or discontinued by JOY Academy in its discretion, consistent with applicable law and the School's mission.

Parents/guardians and students acknowledge that enrollment and continued enrollment require cooperation with school policies, timely payment of applicable charges, and respect for JOY Academy's religious mission and community standards.

Mission Statement

Empowering students to become lifelong, self-directed learners and leaders.

Philosophy

JOY Academy supports students in their learning journey, values family time as part of that journey, and looks to God to provide a place to learn and grow.

Religious Mission and Community Standards

JOY Academy is a Christian school whose mission, instruction, and community standards are informed by biblical principles. Families who choose to attend JOY Academy acknowledge that the School looks first to God and biblical principles as the foundation for its beliefs and practices. Nothing in this Handbook permits harassment, bullying, threats, or demeaning treatment of any student, parent, employee, or visitor.

Non-Discriminatory Policy

JOY Academy of Southern Nevada admits students of any race, color, nationality, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, and other school-administered programs.

Nevada Licensing

As per NRS 392.070, 394.125, 394.130, NAC 389 Standards for private school licensing in the State of Nevada -"Our curriculum, exclusive of religious instruction, provides equivalent instruction of the kind and amount approved by the State Board of Education."

Exempt Status

JOY Academy of Southern Nevada is operated as an exempt school under the provision of NRS 394.211 and therefore is exempt from the provisions of the Private Elementary and Secondary Education Authorization Act.

IRS 501(c)(3) information

JOY Academy of Southern Nevada is recognized by the IRS as a public charity under section 501(c)(3) of the Code. Contributions to the JOY Academy are deductible under section 170 of the Code. JOY Academy is also qualified to receive tax-deductible bequests, devises, transfers, or gifts under sections 2055, 2106, or 2522 of the Code.

ENROLLMENT ELIGIBILITY

Enrollment and Continued Enrollment

Enrollment is subject to completion of all required application and registration materials, payment of applicable tuition and fees, submission of required health and emergency forms, and any custody or court-order documentation needed for the School to safely serve the student.

The School may request records needed for admissions, placement, safety, attendance, billing, or student support, including transcripts, immunization or health records, emergency contacts, and court orders affecting custody, pickup, school access, or communication.

Grade placement, class placement, and continued enrollment are determined by the School based on academic readiness, attendance, behavior, safety, cooperation with School policies, and consistency with JOY Academy's mission and community standards.

Re-enrollment for a future school year may be denied or conditioned when tuition or fees remain unpaid, required records or forms are incomplete, attendance is unsatisfactory, parent or student conduct is disruptive or unsafe, or continued enrollment is not in the best interest of the student or School community.

If the School is considering dismissal, expulsion, or required withdrawal, it will ordinarily provide notice of the concern and an opportunity for the parent/guardian and student to respond before a final decision is made, except when immediate removal is necessary for safety or operational reasons.

The notice may be written or electronic and may describe the concern, any interim restrictions, the meeting process, and whether any internal review may be requested.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Wellness Policy

JOY Academy is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all students. Students who are ill are generally more comfortable recovering at home and may also expose classmates and staff to illness while at school.

A student should not attend school if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- Stomach illness: vomiting more than twice in the last 24 hours or diarrhea twice within the last 24 hours
- Skin concerns: an unexplained or undiagnosed rash
- Eye symptoms: pink eye/conjunctivitis, including pink or red, itchy eyes with discharge

Prescription Medication

Students who need to bring prescription medication to school must leave it in the school office with clear instructions for administration, and the medication must remain in its original pharmacy-labeled container with the student's name, medication name, dosage, directions for use, prescriber's name, and prescription date.

School personnel will administer prescription medication to students as needed during school hours.

Emergency Medication

Students may self-carry and self-administer approved emergency medications, including EpiPens and asthma inhalers, as needed during the school day.

Non-Prescription Medication

Parent or guardian permission for non-prescription medications will be kept on file in the school office as part of the student's admission forms, and those medications may include ibuprofen, acetaminophen/Tylenol, Excedrin, Benadryl, Tums, and cough drops or throat lozenges.

If written permission is not on file, verbal permission may be accepted when needed, although written permission is preferred, and any verbal permission will be documented in the student's file.

Anxiety-Relief Devices

Anxiety or aromatherapy devices must be kept in the school office. Before a student may use one at school, the School must have written permission from a parent or treatment professional, and the permission must identify the student and specify the substance contained in the device. Students may use anxiety or aromatherapy pens only in the school office and under the supervision of school personnel.

SAFETY AND WELFARE

Self-Harm and Student Safety Response

If a student communicates or shows signs of a desire to self-harm, including behaviors such as cutting, scratching, burning, or hair pulling, the student must be brought immediately to the school office and must remain with an administrator or other designated adult.

School personnel will promptly share relevant information with Administration so that the student's parents or guardians can be contacted and informed. School personnel should not promise confidentiality to a student when there is a safety concern.

If the situation appears to present an immediate danger, the School will call 911, and if immediate emergency response is not indicated but an administrator or parent/guardian cannot be reached, the School may call 988 for immediate support.

Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting

JOY Academy requires employees and volunteers to comply with applicable mandatory-reporting duties under Nevada law, including immediate reporting and, in any event, reporting no later than 24 hours after the person knows of or has reasonable cause to believe that a child may be experiencing abuse or neglect. Internal notice to Administration does not replace any individual duty to make an external report.

JOY Academy prohibits retaliation against any person who makes a good-faith report.

Emergency situations require an immediate call to 911.

For non-emergency reports or general reporting in the Henderson/Las Vegas area, the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline is (702) 399-0081, and suspected abuse may also be reported to local police or the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Abuse/Neglect Detail dispatch at (702) 828-3364 or 311.

Faculty Qualifications and Child-Safety Screening

Lead teachers should have at least a bachelor's degree in Education, aides work under the direction and supervision of a lead teacher, and teachers are not required to hold a current state teaching license. As a condition of employment or volunteer service, JOY Academy requires compliance with applicable fingerprinting, criminal-background, and child-abuse-registry screening requirements.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Bullying/Harassment

JOY Academy is committed to maintaining a learning environment where students are treated with dignity and respect.

Bullying, harassment, intimidation, threats, retaliation, or repeated unkind conduct, whether in person, in writing, online, through electronic communication, or at a school-sponsored activity, should be reported promptly to a teacher, administrator, or school office staff member.

Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to report concerns as soon as possible so the school can respond appropriately. Reports should include the names of those involved, what happened, when and where it occurred, whether there were witnesses, and any related messages, screenshots, or other information.

JOY Academy will review reported concerns, involve parents/guardians when appropriate, and take reasonable steps to address behavior that affects student safety, learning, or the orderly operation of the School.

Students who engage in bullying, harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or related misconduct may be subject to disciplinary action consistent with the Honor Code, technology expectations, and consequences described in this handbook.

Retaliation against anyone who reports a concern or participates in a school review is not permitted.

Weapons, Drugs, and Other Contraband

JOY Academy is committed to a safe, drug-free, alcohol-free, vape-free, and weapons-free learning environment.

Students may not possess, use, share, sell, display, or be under the influence of prohibited items or substances on campus, at school-sponsored activities, or in any situation that affects the safety or orderly operation of the school community.

Prohibited items include weapons or look-alike weapons; alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, vaping, marijuana/cannabis, illegal drugs, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia; medication not properly checked in with the school office; lighters, matches, fireworks; and any item school personnel determine may be unsafe, disruptive, illegal, or inconsistent with school expectations.

Prohibited items may be confiscated, turned over to law enforcement when appropriate, and may not be returned, and parents or guardians may be notified, and disciplinary action may include suspension, dismissal, expulsion, required withdrawal, or limits on campus access or school activities.

Students must immediately report unsafe items, substances, threats, or concerns to a staff member. Failure to report known prohibited items or safety concerns may also result in disciplinary action.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS & VISITORS

Conduct and Cooperation

JOY Academy values a cooperative partnership between parents, guardians, students, teachers, and school leadership. Parents and guardians are expected to communicate respectfully, support school policies and procedures, and work with staff in a manner that promotes the safety, learning, and well-being of all students.

Concerns should be brought directly to the appropriate teacher or administrator in a timely and constructive manner, and parents and guardians are expected to avoid disruptive conduct, threatening or harassing language, gossip, or public criticism that harms the school community, or communication that interferes with the orderly operation of the School.

Failure to cooperate with school policies, repeated disrespectful communication, refusal to follow safety or operational procedures, or conduct inconsistent with JOY Academy's mission may result in limits on campus access, required meetings with school leadership, or other appropriate action, and in serious or repeated situations JOY Academy may determine that continued enrollment is not in the best interest of the student or school community.

Communication and Meetings

School staff should respond to parent emails, phone calls, and other communications as soon as possible and within twenty-four (24) hours.

Parent meetings should ordinarily take place at school with an administrator present, and any off-site meeting attended by a teacher or aide must also include an administrator.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

JOY Academy offers parent/teacher conference opportunities throughout the year. Parents will receive updated written information at least once per trimester for K-8 students and once per quarter for high school students.

Visitors and Campus Access

JOY Academy is committed to maintaining a safe, focused learning environment. All visitors, including parents, guardians, volunteers, and guests, must report to the school office upon arrival and receive approval before entering any classroom, hallway, playground, or other student area. Students may not bring guests to campus without prior permission from school administration.

For student safety, parents and guardians should not go directly to classrooms during the school day unless authorized by school personnel.

Campus access may be limited or denied when necessary to protect student safety, preserve instructional time, maintain confidentiality, or support orderly school operations.

JOY Academy reserves the right to ask any visitor to leave campus and may restrict future access when a visitor's conduct is disruptive, unsafe, disrespectful, or inconsistent with school policies or the mission of JOY Academy.

AFTER SCHOOL



Pickup

JOY Academy will release students only to parents, guardians, or other adults listed as authorized pickup persons in the student's school records, and parents and guardians are responsible for keeping pickup information current and notifying the School of any changes.

The School may require photo identification before releasing a student, and if there is uncertainty, a dispute, or a safety concern at pickup, JOY Academy may delay release while contacting the parent or guardian, school leadership, or law enforcement as appropriate.

Custody and Court Orders

If custody arrangements, parenting plans, restraining orders, or other court orders affect a student's pickup, school access, or communication, the parent or guardian must provide the school office with a complete and current copy of the signed court order.

JOY Academy cannot enforce verbal agreements, informal arrangements, or court orders that have not been provided to the School.

JOY-Key

JOY-Key is an after-school program offered to students in grades K-12 at JOY Academy of Southern Nevada after each school day from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The cost is \$10.00 per afternoon per child. Payment must be received before a child attends JOY-Key.

Stranded Students

If a student has not been picked up and the parents or guardians listed on file cannot be reached by 4:30 PM, school personnel will contact local law enforcement or Child Protective Services (CPS).

Child Protective Services: Call the Clark County Department of Family Services 24/7 Hotline at (702) 399-0081

Local Law Enforcement: Call the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) Abuse/Neglect Detail dispatch at (702) 828-3364.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS (K - 12)

Honor Code

Students at JOY are expected to make good choices with how they behave and treat others. JOY Academy students are expected to uphold these Codes when attending each day or participating in any JOY Academy activity.

I will follow God's example and look to Him in what I say and do.

I will respect everyone, including myself.

I will work when it is time to work and be engaged in good causes.

I will listen when it is time to listen and allow others to do the same.

I will be kind in both words and actions.

I will not use foul language of any kind.

I will not use or bring to school harmful/illicit* substances or items.

I will use technology wisely and only use it for good.**

*illicit = illegal/not approved

**USE OF TECHNOLOGY: Any student or JOY family member found to be using technology in or out of school, to bully or engage in any conversation, or to send pictures, that makes someone uncomfortable, OR is not kind, respectful, or appropriate will follow the consequences for not following the code. IF students have cell phones or access to the internet, we expect Parents to monitor its use.

Dress Code

Appropriate and tasteful clothing at all times is expected. It covers the shoulders, midriff, and the length is minimally at the fingertip. No clothing should be tight or revealing.

Sayings on t-shirts should not be foul or unkind.

Shoes should be supportive, sensible, and safe for the day's activities. NO flip-flops. Crocs ONLY on days you don't want to run around.

Consequences

1st - Conference with staff

2nd - Conference with staff and parent

3rd - Conference with staff, parent, and a 3-day suspension with the option of not returning, should the problem reoccur or the student refuse to abide by the Code.

JOY Academy students are expected to uphold these Codes when attending each day or participating in any JOY Academy activity.

ACADEMICS (K - 8)

Grading

At JOY Academy, grading is used to help students grow and to help families clearly understand each child's progress. Teachers look at more than test scores or final grades; they also consider effort, participation, problem-solving, creativity, responsibility, and care for self and others.

Students are active participants in the grading process. Through teacher conferences and reflection on completed work, students learn to understand what they are doing well, where they are growing, and what next steps will help them continue making progress.

The 4 "A" levels help students and teachers talk about progress in a simple, encouraging way:

"Amazing" - Does your work show: superiority, dominance, mastery?

"Acceptable" - Does your work show: Satisfactory, adequate, competence?

"Advancing" - Does your work show: Approaching, near, making progress?

"Avoidance" - Does your work show: Evasion, dodging, "not getting it done"?

Grading: K – 4th

The 4 "A" levels are used to help students understand their progress while giving parents and teachers a clear, supportive picture of each child's academic growth, effort, responsibility, and readiness for the next level.

Grading: 5th – 8th

The 4 "A" levels continue to help students reflect on effort, understanding, and growth. In 5th–8th grade, the standard 10-point grading scale is also introduced gradually so students and families can clearly understand academic progress while preparing for the expectations of high school. Our goal is for grading to encourage growth, not create pressure or comparison.

Homework

Homework is not assigned. Students in middle school (grades 5 - 8) who do not use their time wisely during the school day may need to take work projects home to be completed.

Projects

JOY Academy is a project based learning environment. Students are given time to complete projects at school. Students not completing assigned work during designated school time or who have been absent, will complete the project at home.

Testing

San Diego Quick reading assessments are used 3 times a year for grades 1st - 8th to show growth.

New students are given a math assessment for placement purposes and to track future growth.

Once a year Standardized tests will be given to SGO students and to any student whose parent makes the request. Cost for the standardized test is \$50. (subject to change)

ACADEMICS HIGH SCHOOL (9 - 12)

Grading

High school students are graded on a standard 10-point grading scale. Courses meet or exceed Nevada graduation requirements and are designed to prepare students for college, career pathways, and life beyond graduation.

Grade	Percent
A	90–100%
B	80–89%
C	70–79%
D	60–69%
F	Below 60%

Homework

Students are not assigned homework, but if assignments are not completed during the week, students are expected to complete them on their own time. Fridays are unscheduled school days designated as student workdays, as needed.

Testing

Assessments in English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Electives are given throughout the school year to evaluate understanding. JOY Academy may require high school students to participate in standardized testing, including the ACT, as determined by the school. Testing requirements for graduation will be stated in JOY Academy's graduation plan and may be updated from time to time

Technology

Students may use cell phones and other electronic devices before school and during lunch, provided their use is lawful, respectful, school-appropriate, consistent with JOY Academy's values, and does not involve harassment, bullying, inappropriate content, privacy violations, or disruption to the learning environment.

Attendance

The state of Nevada requires JOY Academy of Southern Nevada High School to provide the appropriate number of instructional days. Regular attendance is an essential component of academic success. Attendance is recorded for each class period (in addition to the day). In K-12 education, the industry standard is that students are considered for denial of credit when they begin to miss more than 10% of class meetings.

Excessive absences or tardiness may result in parent notice, a conference, an attendance improvement plan, make-up work requirements, probation, or other appropriate intervention.

Before credit is denied based on attendance, the School will ordinarily provide written notice, an opportunity to review the attendance record, and an opportunity to submit information showing that an absence or tardy was recorded in error or should be treated differently under School policy.

A parent/guardian who disagrees with an attendance-based decision may request internal review.



PARENT HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed the Parent Handbook for JOY Academy of Southern Nevada. I understand that I am responsible for becoming familiar with the policies and expectations in the Handbook and for complying with those that apply to my family and student.

I acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification regarding the provisions of this Handbook.

I understand that this Handbook is not a contract and that JOY Academy may update or revise the Handbook from time to time.

I understand that enrollment and continued enrollment are subject to compliance with School policies, payment obligations, and JOY Academy's mission and community standards.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature (if applicable): _____ Date: _____