



**2022 – 2023**

**Pinnacle Pointe Academy  
Scholar Handbook**

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The purpose of this handbook is to inform scholars and parents of the philosophy, policies, procedures, and regulations of Pointe Schools. Choosing to enroll and remain enrolled in a Pointe School indicates that the scholar and parent/guardian are committed to supporting and abiding by the expressed and implied tenets of all Pointe School policies, procedures, and regulations.

It is impossible for any handbook to account for all situations. Pointe reserves the right to handle such situations as they occur, always keeping the best interests of the scholars, staff, and school in mind.

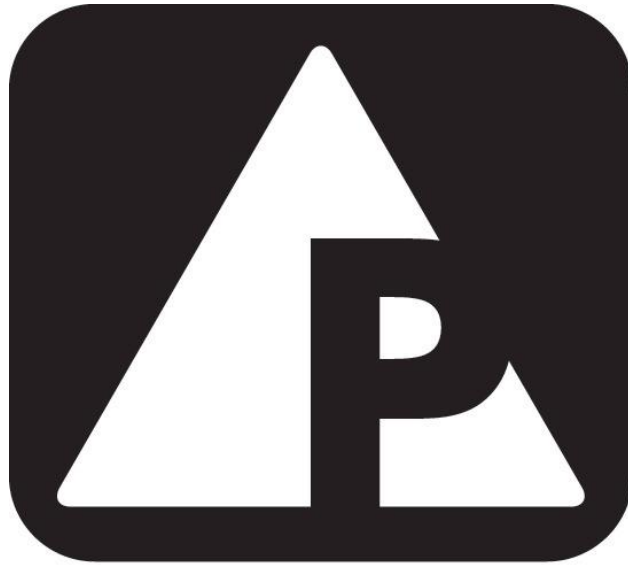
Parents and scholars should note that although most policies are the same at all Pointe schools, there are some important policy differences between the Academies (Preschool-7) and North Pointe (7-12). Secondary scholars are granted additional freedoms and responsibilities.

### **Discriminatory Statement**

Pointe Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its educational program or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

### **Charter**

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools



## Pointe Schools

Pointe Schools is an independent public charter school serving grades K-12 on three northwest valley campuses. Pointe also provides a private preschool.

<p><b>North Pointe Prep</b> 7-12 10215 North 43rd Avenue Phoenix, Arizona 85051 voice: 623.209.0017 fax: 623.209.0021 northpointeprep.com</p>	<p><b>Canyon Pointe Academy</b> K-6 4941 West Union Hills Drive Glendale, Arizona 85308 voice: 602.896.1166 fax: 602.896.1164 mycanyon.org</p>	<p><b>Pinnacle Pointe Academy</b> K-8 <b>Starting Pointe</b> Pre-Kindergarten 6753 West Pinnacle Peak Rd Glendale, Arizona 85310 voice: 623.537.3535 fax: 623.537.4433 goppa.org</p>
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## Purpose

Pointe Schools exists to assist parents in developing scholars who demonstrate scholastic and behavioral excellence and make positive impacts in their communities

## Promise

Pointe Schools will provide scholars opportunities to gain foundational knowledge, grow in character, and develop leadership skills.

## Plan

Pointe Schools is passionate about creating and sustaining environments where scholars are valued, trusted, and encouraged to take risks and achieve their dreams in academics, athletics and the arts.

# ADMISSION TO POINTE SCHOOLS

Admission to Pointe Schools is not limited based upon ethnicity, national origin, identity, gender, income level, disabling condition, proficiency in the English language, or athletic ability.

Subject to the limitations discussed below, Pointe Schools admits all eligible pupils who submit timely, completed application paperwork. Enrollment preference is given to pupils continuing at a school, transferring from another Pointe School (if transfer form is received by January 1st), to siblings of pupils already enrolled, and to children of employees. If, by the deadline for open enrollment, the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building, applicants will be selected for the available slots through an equitable selection process, such as a lottery, except preferences shall be given to returning pupils and siblings of a pupil.

After the school receives the completed registration paperwork, the office will notify the family of acceptance if there is space available in the program/class/grade level/building. Applications submitted after the open enrollment deadline will be accepted in chronological order and may be placed on a waiting list.

Pointe Schools has a demanding academic program with an emphasis on the development of analytical thinking, communication, knowledge, character and leadership skills. Pointe Schools believes that a motivated scholar, with parent support, will excel in an environment of high academic standards.

Scholars must have credits necessary for their academic program. Scholars who transfer midyear with one or more failing grade from another school or district may be required to participate in an Academic Intervention Program.

As allowed by A.R.S. 15-184(I), Pointe honors the expulsions of other schools/districts and does not enroll scholars who have been expelled or are in the process of being expelled from another school. Canyon and Pinnacle Pointe also honor the suspensions of other schools/districts. Scholars who have not been expelled and are not in the process of being expelled but are under active suspension from another school will be admitted if there is space, and required to serve out their suspension by attending Pointe's OSS Program prior to being scheduled for regular classes or participating in extracurricular and/or campus activities. Additionally, scholars with prior disciplinary actions may be required to participate in a Preventative Behavior Intervention Program.

## **Pointe Schools Transfer**

Pointe Schools operates under one charter; therefore a new application is not required for a current Pointe scholar who desires to transfer to another Pointe school. Scholars moving from one of the Academies to the Prep must submit a signed and completed transfer form by January 1st to maintain priority status. Transfer forms received after the January 1st deadline will be placed in chronological order with the rest of the applications.

## **Kindergarten**

Arizona Revised Statute 15-821. § C states that a child is eligible for admission to kindergarten if the child is five years of age. A child is deemed five years of age if the child reaches the age of five before September 1 of the current school year. The school may admit children who have not reached the required age if it is determined to be in the best interest of the children. If the child turns five after September 1 but before January 1 of the academic school year, the administration and/or teachers will evaluate the child. Upon evaluation, a decision by the evaluating team will be made as to whether the child qualifies for admission into the Kindergarten program.

**First Grade**

Arizona Revised Statute 15-821. § C states that a child is eligible for admission to first grade if the child is six years of age. A child is deemed six years of age if the child reaches the age of six before September 1 of the current school year. The school may admit children who have not reached the required age if it is determined to be in the best interest of the children. If the child turns six after September 1 but before January 1 of the academic school year, the administration and/or teachers will evaluate the child. Upon evaluation, a decision by the evaluating team will be made as to whether the child qualifies for admission into the first grade program.

# MISSION STATEMENT

Pointe Schools exists to support parents in developing scholars who demonstrate scholastic and behavioral excellence and make a positive impact in their community.

## PHILOSOPHY

Pointe Schools believes that the education of a scholar is a joint parent/teacher/scholar effort, that high standards are achievable, and that citizens with Knowledge, Character, and Leadership are vital to society. Therefore, the themes of Knowledge, Character and Leadership are woven throughout the school experience.

**Knowledge:** Pointe scholars receive a superior traditional education with a “classical” emphasis. Educational requirements provide all scholars with a solid, balanced education. Pointe Schools defines “a classical education” as the acquisition of basic, time-tested knowledge and skills in history, languages, literature, math, reading, science, and the arts that become increasingly complex throughout the course of study. Standards are set high in the firm belief that the higher standards will lead to higher scholar achievement.

**Character:** The value of responsibility, virtue, punctuality, obedience, compassion, orderliness, self control, and other positive universal character traits are systematically taught and modeled across the curriculum, through the Pointe Character Education Program and are reinforced throughout the year.

**Leadership:** Leadership skills are emphasized throughout the course of study and specifically taught and modeled. Practical opportunities for applying these skills are provided throughout the year.

**Parent Involvement:** One of the best predictors of the best predictors of scholar success is a family that encourages learning at home and is engaged in their child’s education. Pointe is committed to developing school-home relationships characterized by mutual respect and trust, and regular, two-way communication. It is important for families to stay informed about policies, activities, and their child’s progress, and to address any areas of concern as soon as possible. Volunteering is welcome but is not required. All families have equal access to teachers and administration.

**School Atmosphere:** Pointe fosters an atmosphere of excellence in academics, athletics, and the arts and provides school activities that are designed to create lifelong relationships and memories. Pointe is large enough to offer the extracurricular activities that are important to a well-rounded scholar but small enough for each scholar to be known and connected.

**Through the program offered at Pointe Schools, scholars will gain foundational Knowledge, grow in Character, and develop Leadership skills.**

# OUR CULTURE

At Pointe, we are intense about the 4 'A's - Academics, Athletics, Arts, and Activities. We believe scholars are only fully prepared for secondary education after they have been involved in a broad range of rich school experiences in the younger grades. Our school culture openly acknowledges that our passion for excellence in athletics and the arts, along with our zeal in providing experiences where life-long relationships and memories can be created, is equal to our commitment to academic achievement. We embrace a scholar-centered culture that is anchored in the core belief that a motivated scholar, who wants to be here, will learn!

It's also a culture where our faculty and staff:

- Enjoy spending their day with scholars, causing scholars to feel valued.
- Influence scholars to change, causing scholars to be motivated.
- Excel in their areas of responsibility, causing scholars to learn.

It's a culture where our scholars are:

- Engaged - focused, competitive, expressive, and connected
- Determined - taking risks and persevering through adversity
- Caring - sensitive to the needs of others and taking action to provide assistance

It's a culture where our families are valued, trusted partners who:

- Encourage learning at home
- Engage in their child's education
- Embrace Pointe's purpose, promise, and plan

It's a culture that:

- Purposefully seeks to assist parents in developing scholars who demonstrate scholastic and behavioral excellence and make positive impacts in their communities.
- Provides scholars with opportunities to gain foundational knowledge, grow in character, and develop leadership skills.
- Creates and sustains environments where scholars are trusted and encouraged to take risks and achieve their dreams in academics, athletics, and the arts; and a culture that promotes community through yearly themes.

It's a culture that unapologetically believes that our scholars and our schools are awesome!

# SCHOLAR LIFE

## **Academic Day & Office Hours**

The academic day begins at 8:00 am and ends at 3:00 pm. On half days, school ends at 12:00 pm. Drop-off runs between 7:30 am until 8:00 am. Pick-up runs between 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm. On half days, pick-up runs between 12:00 pm and 12:30 pm. Scholars may not be on campus during non-academic hours unless under the direct supervision of a teacher/coach/group director, or attending a public event. During regular school days, the office is open from 7:30 am until 3:30 pm. On half days, the campus closes at 12:30 pm. When school is on break, the office is open from 9 am - 12 pm, Monday through Thursday (excluding holidays). The school office is closed on school calendar holidays and the weeks of July 4<sup>th</sup>, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

## **Drop-Off and Pick-Up**

For the safety of our scholars, the school has developed traffic procedures in coordination with local law enforcement and city traffic and engineering experts. Scholars and families are required to follow the school's traffic plan. Scholars are required to follow all city traffic laws and must cross streets at city crosswalks.

During school hours, only those listed on the scholar's Emergency Contact Form will be allowed to pick up the scholar (all sign-outs require valid photo identification). For this reason, it is important to submit a completed Scholar Information Change Form whenever the Emergency Contacts need to be updated.

Pointe expects that scholars will be picked up promptly after normal school hours or, if the scholar remains at school for an additional activity, promptly upon conclusion of such activity. If a scholar has not been picked up within thirty (30) minutes of the end of an activity, the school representative may contact local law enforcement and have the scholar taken into custody until a parent or guardian can pick the scholar up. Scholars who are not picked up promptly from extracurricular activities may lose the privilege of participation in future activities.

## **Bicycles/Skateboards/Scooters**

Bicycles, skateboards, and scooters are to be walked while on school property and promptly secured in the racks provided. They are not to be removed until the scholar is ready to go home. The school assumes no responsibility or liability for personal property or injury as a result of using a bicycle or skateboard on or off campus.

## **Textbooks/Educational Materials**

Scholars are responsible for the condition of any textbook/materials they are using; whether they are using it during the class period or have checked it out through the front office. Lost and/or damaged textbook/materials must be replaced at the scholar's expense.

## **Café**

During lunch time, scholars may purchase food and drinks for consumption in designated areas. Water is the only beverage allowed in buildings other than the Cafe.

## **Food Delivery**

Due to the burden on school staff, food allergies, safety concerns, food for scholars may only be delivered to the front office by a parent/guardian for their child only. Outside delivery services are not permitted at any time.

Scholars are only permitted to bring quantities of food/drink on campus each day that they can individually reasonably consume. With administration approval, a scholar may bring prepackaged and sealed food to share for a specific event.



## **Field Trips**

A variety of field trips are scheduled throughout the year. While attendance at field trips is not mandatory, scholars not attending will be required to attend school as required by A.R.S. 15-802 and 15-803.

## **Non-Educational Items**

Pointe Schools discourages scholars from bringing large amounts of money, electronic devices, and other valuables to school. The scholar, not Pointe, is responsible for all personal property. Personal property may not be used in a way that interferes with the educational environment. Balloons, flowers, and other celebratory items are not permitted on campus and will not be delivered to scholars (due to allergies, insufficient space, and the disruption caused to the educational environment).

## **Lost and Found**

The lost and found is located in the Cafe. At the end of each month, the school donates unclaimed items.

## **Electronic Devices**

Personal listening devices (cell phones, smart watches, ipods/ipads/tablets, mp3 players, etc.) may not be used during the school day and are to be stored in silent mode. Additionally, ear plugs/ear phones may not be worn or used during class time. Violation of the electronic device policy will result in the device being confiscated and will be treated as a disciplinary matter.

## **Campus Privacy**

Due to scholar and employee privacy issues, scholars are not allowed to take pictures or video sound and images - including recording, capturing, copying, duplicating, publishing, printing, uploading, posting, etc., while on campus or during school hours without prior permission from school administration.

## **Use of School's Electronic Devices/Systems**

The primary use of the school's electronic resources and networks is to support regular classroom resources and scholar research related to academic studies. Access is a privilege, not a right. School computers and internet access are not to be used for any illegal or inappropriate use, recreational use, or communicating outside the parameters set by the classroom teacher. Scholars are expected to adhere to the Pointe Schools' Code of Conduct while using school computer or accessing the internet, just as they are in classrooms or school buildings. The internet contains materials that are controversial, inaccurate, and not appropriate for scholars. Pointe has taken precautions to restrict access to these types of materials by teaching scholars about responsible use and by using filtering software to block scholar access to inappropriate materials. Scholar misuse of the network can come in many forms. Examples of misuse includes, but is not limited to, sending or receiving materials that indicate or suggest pornography or violence, unethical or illegal solicitation, racism, sexism, inappropriate language, violating copyright laws or regulations, or a malicious attempt to harm or destroy data. This includes the uploading or creation of computer viruses. Scholars may not use computers designated for school personnel. Information and files stored on school computers and servers are not private. Parents/guardians may revoke their scholar's internet privileges at any time by notifying school administration in writing.

## **Use of School Phones**

Scholars may not use school phones unless it is an emergency (as defined by school staff, not necessarily the scholar).

## **Using the School Office to Deliver Messages**

It is important for scholars to come to school prepared. The school office is not able to deliver messages or items to scholars except in cases of emergency (as determined by school staff). Please, help your scholar learn to come to school prepared. We have a small staff and are unable to deliver messages throughout the day.

## **Safe School Environment**

Everyone in the Pointe community has an integral role in sustaining a safe, supportive school culture and environment. The following behaviors will not be tolerated in any form and anyone who is subject of or witness to harassment, intimidation, or bullying have a responsibility to report it.

1. Harassment - persistent or repeated annoying or tormenting of another person.
2. Intimidation - to frighten, compel, or deter by actual or implied threats.
3. Bullying - Repeated acts over time that involve a real or perceived imbalance of power with the more powerful person or group attacking those who are less powerful. Bullying can be physical, verbal, or psychological. Cyber-bullying includes bullying through the use of technology.

## **Scholar Concerns During School Hours**

Scholars with concerns during school hours should immediately talk to the supervising staff member. Scholars may also do the following:

1. Visit the school office before school, during lunch, or after school and ask to speak to an administrator.
2. Complete and submit a Scholar Concern Report to the office
3. Go immediately to the office and ask to speak to an administrator.

## **Scholar Concerns During Extracurricular Activities**

Scholars with concerns during extracurricular activities should immediately contact the faculty member/staff person/coach/group leader in charge of the activity.

# SCHOLAR HEALTH AND SAFETY

In case of non-emergency illness or injury during the school day, scholars must check in with the supervising staff member.

## **Emergency Procedures**

In the event a scholar is injured or ill, the school will notify the parent/guardian. Some situations may require the scholar to go home immediately. In an emergency situation where the parent/guardian cannot be notified, emergency personnel will be called and the scholar will be transported to the nearest emergency facility at the expense of the parent/guardian. The parent/legal guardian's signature on the Scholar Health Form is consent for emergency treatment.

## **Medication**

Scholars may not have prescription or over-the-counter (OTC) medications in their possession on campus. No medications, including OTC medications such as pain relievers, vitamins, and cold medication can be dispensed or used at school unless such medications are checked in with the school office and accompanied by a completed Medication Administration Consent Form. This form must be on file in order for medications to be dispensed during the school day or by school personnel. Prescriptions must be for the scholar, current, and must bear a pharmacist's label with the recommended dosage. Inhalers, epinephrine, and insulin pumps may be carried by the scholar with doctor's orders on file in the school office (other methods of insulin delivery must receive permission from the principal for self-carry). Scholars who carry inhalers, epinephrine, or insulin should understand that sharing or otherwise misusing the medication/device will result in disciplinary action.

## **Search and Seizure**

If a reasonable suspicion exists that a scholar has possession of some item or material that is detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of scholar or others, administration may conduct a search of the scholar and their personal affects/belongings (e.g. backpack, purse, etc.). Any school property (e.g., lockers, desks) is subject to school control, supervision, and search. A scholar and or their personal affects/belongings may be searched with or without notifying law enforcement officials and parents.

## **Drug Free School Zone**

In accordance with A.R.S. 13-3411, all Pointe Schools are "Drug Free School Zones". This means that each campus and the area within three-hundred feet of each school is drug free and violations have enhanced legal penalties. In accordance with federal, state, and city laws, Pointe campuses are also alcohol and tobacco free campuses. This includes electronic nicotine delivery systems.

## **Alcohol and Drug Testing Policy**

Pointe Schools has a legitimate concern to prevent, deter, and detect scholar alcohol and drug use and reserves the right to conduct alcohol or drug testing upon reasonable suspicion the scholar is under the influence of alcohol, an illegal substance, or medication that has not been prescribed to the scholar. Usually, testing is conducted at the school by a certified technician at no cost to the scholar. Parents who prefer the testing be conducted at the lab must pay for the testing and must provide transportation to the lab within an hour of being notified such testing is required. Failing to be tested within the specified time or providing a sample with indications of drug-testing countermeasures, including but not limited to diluted or spiked samples, will be treated as a positive test. During off campus school activities/trips, administration may use breath analyzer equipment to test scholars for alcohol use. Refusing to be tested during an off campus activity/trip will result in the scholar being removed from the activity/trip at the parent's expense, additional testing requirements, and disciplinary actions.

This policy includes but is not limited to scholars participating in extracurricular activities sponsored by the school.

# SECURE CAMPUS

Pointe prioritizes scholar safety. The principal has the authority to allow/restrict access to the campus.

## **Scholars**

The school is a secured, closed campus during the academic day and scholars must remain on campus unless an authorized person with ID checks them out through the school office for a medical appointment or an emergency.

## **Visitors**

Parents/guardians are not required to sign-in to enter the campus during drop-off (before 8:00 am) however, entering classrooms requires a scheduled appointment. Parents/guardians of enrolled scholars who wish to visit during the regular school day need to make an appointment, sign in at the school office, obtain and display a visitor's pass, and adhere to school policies, including the school's Campus and Classroom Visitation Guidelines.

Visitation by anyone other than a parent/guardian, including siblings and other family members, is not permitted unless approved by the principal at least one day in advance. All visitors must sign in at the school office, obtain and display a visitor's pass, and adhere to school policies, including the school's Campus and Classroom Visitation Guidelines.

## **Volunteers**

School volunteers must be approved, sign in at the office, obtain and display a visitor's pass, and adhere to school policies, including the school's Campus and Classroom Visitation Guidelines. Volunteers must also adhere to applicable state and federal regulations including FERPA. School Volunteers may not supervise or be alone with scholars unless they have a current Arizona Department of Public Safety Class One Fingerprint Clearance Card on file in the office and have obtained school administration approval.

# COMMUNICATION

## General Information

For daily insights, scheduling, and event updates, Pointe utilizes the various communication platforms linked on the schools' websites and will send pertinent information in Friday Folders. Friday Folders must be reviewed, initialed, and returned to school on the following school day.

## Emergency Information

Pointe Schools utilizes an electronic notification system to send information to families through phone calls, text messages, and email. To comply with wireless carrier requirements and protect against unsolicited messages, scholars and parents may receive an SMS message to the cell phone number requesting the selection of 'opt in' to receive information from the school or district via SMS message. Upon receipt of this message, scholars and parents should reply, 'yes,' 'subscribe,' or 'optin.' Standard text messaging rate may apply. In the event of an emergency, additional detailed information will be posted on Canyon and Pinnacle Pointe's Principal Blogs. A link to the Principal's Blog is available on the school's website, [goppa.org](http://goppa.org).

## Emergency Notification

Pinnacle/Canyon Pointe utilizes various Emergency Responses including but not limited to Evacuation, Lockdown, and Shelter-in-Place. Although responders (e.g. fire, police) may engage and communicate with the media following an emergency situation, the Pinnacle/Canyon Safety Team's communication will be limited to scholars and parents/guardians.

### Training

Parents will not usually be notified prior to or after training or drills.

### Events

In the event of a fire, lockdown, campus evacuation, or active shooter, parents will be notified through the school's Emergency Communication system.

## Use of Recording Devices

Due to scholar and employee privacy rights and issues, taking pictures or video sound and images (including recording, capturing, copying, duplicating, publishing, printing, uploading, posting, etc.) during parent meetings (including but not limited to conferences and IEP meetings) is not permitted.

## Translation Services

Please, notify the school office if you need translation services.

## Scholar Academic Progress

Communication between the school and home is vital for scholar success. Parents/guardians are encouraged to stay informed and involved in scholar grades and classroom behavior through the school's online academic resource and/or directly emailing teachers.

## Contacting School Personnel

School personnel email addresses are located on the school's website. Pointe faculty and staff will respond to an email by the end of the next school day (unless the person is absent or the school is on break).

## Conflict Resolution

Pointe Schools believes concerns should be communicated directly with the administrator, faculty member, staff, or extracurricular coach/group leader involved in the situation. If the faculty member, staff, or extracurricular coach/group leader is unable to resolve a concern, the parent/guardian may request the assistance of a school administrator. If the administrator is unable to resolve the situation to the parent/guardian's satisfaction, the principal's decision is final.

# ATTENDANCE

Pointe Schools believes that regular attendance is essential to the pursuit of academic success. Additionally, state law requires that every person who has custody of a child between the ages of six and sixteen, ensures that the child attends school for the full time school is in session unless unable to attend due to illness or other legitimate reason (A.R.S. 15-802 and 15-803). The State holds each school accountable for accurate attendance records and for the district's absentee rate. Regular attendance has a positive affect on both individual scholar success and the State's overall performance rating for our school and Pointe's charter.

## **Excused Absences**

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-901(A)(1), the Arizona Department of Education defines an excused absence as an absence due to illness, doctor appointment, bereavement, family emergency, and out-of-school suspension. Pointe also excuses absences due to religious observances.

In order to excuse an absence for the prior reasons, parent/guardians must notify the school in advance or at the time of any absence (A.R.S. § 15-807(B)).

Therefore, prior to 9 am of the day of the absence, the parent/guardian must contact the school office (phone, attendance line, email) to excuse an absence.

Because of state reporting guidelines, when reporting the absence, parents/guardians must provide the following information:

1. Name of parent/guardian calling to excuse the absence.
2. Scholar name and grade.
3. Duration of absence (if known).
4. Report specific absence reason: respiratory illness, digestive illness, fever, conjunctivitis, strep, chickenpox, other (please explain). "Scholar doesn't feel well" does not provide us with the information the state requires.

## **Illness Guidelines**

Do not send your scholar to school if they have a fever of 100 or higher, are vomiting, have diarrhea, are excessively coughing or sneezing (unless related to asthma or allergy), have pink eye, have lice, or have an unidentified rash.

## **Chronic Illness**

If your scholar has a chronic illness, please submit a Certificate of Chronic Health Form to the front office.

## **Unexcused Absences**

Unexcused absences reflect poorly on scholar achievement, so we strongly encourage families to minimize the number of unexcused absences they incur. The state requires Pointe Schools to provide a minimum number of instructional minutes. We take this responsibility very seriously and we count every minute of our school day to ensure that scholars meet the requirements and receive the maximum possible benefit. The following are some examples of missed school days that will be counted as unexcused absences:

- Family Trips
- Non-school related activities (e.g. sporting events, cultural activities, celebrations, trips)
- Truancy (non-attendance)

## **Excessive Absences**

Scholars must attend at least 90% of class sessions in a semester in order to receive a passing grade and to be promoted to the next grade level. If a scholar is absent for more than 9 days in a semester, the scholar may be held back the following school year. Both excused and unauthorized absences count toward the 9 absences per semester limit. This policy does not include absences or tardies due to school activities. Cases involving prolonged illness or unusual circumstances will be reviewed by administration. In accordance with state law, a scholar will be withdrawn from school on his/her 10th consecutive unexcused absence.

## **Appointments and Emergencies**

On the rare occasion when emergencies arise or doctor's appointments cannot be made outside of the school day, the scholar may be checked out of school. All requests for early pick up must be in writing or in person by an adult on the scholar's Emergency Contact Form or Scholar Information Change Update Form. Scholars will not be called out of class until the parent/guardian or pre-authorized adult has provided a picture ID and signed out the scholar in the school office. The school office is unable to call scholars out of class during the last 30 minutes of school (after 2:00 pm on regular school days and after 11:30 am – on half days).

## **Absentee Assignments**

Scholars are responsible for the information and assignments missed during all absences. However, credit will not be given for work missed for an unexcused absence. It is the scholar's responsibility to complete any missed assignments or tests due to an excused absence as follows (this does not apply to classes missed due to a school event):

1. Make-up work – A scholar has two days for each absence to complete missed assignments.
2. Make-up privileges shall not exceed one week without written administrator approval.
3. Missed test – Scheduled tests will be administered at the teacher's discretion, which may be during tutoring (this does not apply to semester exams).
4. Missed quiz – Pop or announced quizzes will be made up at the teacher's discretion.

## **Tardies**

Scholars who are late to class not only miss instructional time but also disrupt the education of other scholars. A scholar is considered tardy if he/she is not seated and ready to learn when the tardy bell rings. All tardies are unexcused unless they are accompanied with a health care professional's note. Scholars with excessive tardies will be placed on an attendance contract.

# ACADEMICS

Pointe Schools will provide scholars the opportunity to gain foundational knowledge, grow in character, and develop leadership skills. Pointe Schools believes these core values are fostered in an engaging academic environment where scholars are challenged to learn, encouraged to grow, and affirmed when they lead.

## Keys to Academic Success

The educational philosophy of Pointe Schools is based on a deep respect for learning. The primary task of this school, its faculty, and its scholars, is the pursuit of excellence in educational achievement. Scholar achievement requires patience, hard work, and full effort. Very few scholars are capable of doing quality classroom work without considerable time and effort spent outside of school hours. A regular schedule for home study should be arranged, and parents should insist that their scholar spend several hours each week in preparation of their school assignments. The following suggestions are listed to serve Pointe Schools' scholars:

### At school

1. Be organized.
2. Attend school and be prepared.
3. Write it down - take notes and record assignments every day.
4. Ask questions. If you do not understand directions or a concept, make sure that you talk to the teacher before you leave class that day.
5. Use class time wisely. When a teacher gives you time to start the assignment in class, make good use of the time. The information is still fresh in your mind and if you don't understand something, the teacher is still available for help.
6. Complete assignments neatly and on time.
7. When absent, make sure you know the information that was covered in class and complete any class work or home work assignments.
8. Do not wait until you are behind or failing to get help. If you have been doing your work but are still falling behind, talk to the teacher and set up a tutoring schedule.

### At home

1. Have a quiet, well-lit place to study at home, with all the necessary materials on hand. Avoid interruptions and distractions during your study time.
2. Set aside a regular time to review classroom work. Remember that studying is just as important as completing an assignment. Before starting a lesson, review briefly what has been covered.
3. Re-read the assignment to master the details. Be sure you understand the problem to be solved before you attempt to solve it.
4. For work that involves reading: Pay special attention to the first and last paragraphs in a chapter, and the first and last sentences in each paragraph. Read each paragraph, and as you read, try to pick out the topic sentence or summary sentence. Pause at the end of each paragraph and see if you can summarize it in your own words. Get in the habit of looking up information when you come to an unfamiliar term or phrase.
5. Study by the whole rather than by parts. Get the picture of the whole assignment or topic to see how much you understand. Then go back and study in detail, section by section.
6. Prepare each lesson without fail every day as assigned. Do not get behind in your work.
7. Prepare an action plan for long term assignments: have an accurate understanding of the directions, determine which tasks need to be completed first, schedule mini-due dates for the completion of the assignment in order to avoid "cramming."

## Curriculum

See the school's website for curriculum information: [mycanyon.org](http://mycanyon.org) or [goppa.org](http://goppa.org).



## Homework

Although Pointe Schools believes that all scholars can learn, we recognize not all scholars learn to the same level of mastery by expending the same effort. Pointe's staff is committed to utilizing class time effectively and efficiently, and respecting scholar time outside of class. We believe scholars need time to unwind, reflect, and be involved in other areas of interest not offered during school hours. However, scholars should expect to spend time reviewing material that was taught in class and preparing for class.

The purpose of homework is to practice a skill, review material taught in class, and/or prepare for class. Homework also serves as a "check for understanding: that teachers use to guide instruction and scholars use for future study.

1. Homework will be specifically related to a state standard.
2. Homework will be assigned with a purpose.
3. Homework will not introduce a new topic.
4. Homework is independent practice for the scholar. Please, notify the teacher if your scholar does not understand the assignment.
5. Homework will not be assigned as a punishment.

School breaks (Summer, Fall, Thanksgiving week, Winter, and Spring) are homework-free times for scholars. Scholars will not be held responsible for review, preparation, or homework (including long-term assignments) during these times.

Teachers will provide additional practice work upon parent request. Teachers may choose to offer creative projects as extra credit on occasion; however, teachers will not assign "craft" type projects to complete at home.

## Mandatory Tutoring

A scholar will be required to participate in mandatory tutoring when his/her grade falls below "C" Prior to the mandatory tutoring, the teacher will present the scholar with an Individualized Academic Plan (IAP). At a minimum the plan will include mandatory tutoring until the grade improves to a "C" or higher.

## Report Cards

In addition to daily updates, quarter and semester grades are posted on the school's online academic resource. Elementary report cards are issued at the end of each quarter (four times a year).

## Grading Scale

Pinnacle/Canyon grades are based on the level of scholar mastery of each Arizona State Standard in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Each standard is measured using a 4 point scale (1.0 – 4.0).

Enrichment/Elective course grades may be calculated differently.

1.0	Minimally Proficient	The scholar demonstrates little or no understanding of the standard. With assistance, the scholar can achieve some success with vocabulary and simpler processes.
2.0	Partially Proficient	The scholar demonstrates an understanding of the vocabulary and processes of the standard.
3.0	Proficient	The scholar consistently demonstrates proficiency in the skill and/or standard. The scholar fully understands the vocabulary and processes of the standard.
4.0	Highly Proficient	The scholar consistently demonstrates mastery of the skill and/or standard. The scholar has a mastery understanding of the vocabulary and processes of the standards.

## **Movies and Media**

On occasion, movies or other media (or a portion thereof) may be presented in the classroom as part of a lesson. Such showings will be aligned to state standards and pre-approved by the administration. Only media with a G or comparable rating will be shown in class without additional parental notification. If media with a more restrictive rating will be presented, parents will be notified and may request an alternative instructional activity.

## **State Mandated Testing**

As a charter school, Pointe Schools is required to provide all state mandated testing. Pointe scholars participate in a variety of testing programs outside of regular content area assessments.

## **Missed Assignments**

It is the scholar's responsibility to complete any missed assignments or tests due to an excused absence as follows:

1. Make-up work – A scholar has two days for each absence to complete missed assignments.
2. Make-up privileges shall not exceed one week without written teacher approval.
3. Missed test – Scheduled tests will be administered on the day the scholar returns to class (this does not apply to semester exams).
4. Missed quiz – Pop or announced quizzes will be made up at the teacher's discretion.

## **Late Assignments**

Scholars are expected to turn in work on time (when called for by the teacher during class time). Acceptance of late work is at the discretion of the teacher as outlined in their course syllabus.

## **Free Choice Reading Material**

Scholars are expected to have a "free choice" book to read at school. Scholars are expected to choose reading materials that are consistent with his/her family's values and do not violate general or specific aspects of the Scholar Handbook (including Conduct Code). It is the child's responsibility to gain permission from his/her parent regarding reading choices

## **Retention**

Scholars are promoted based upon the recommendation of the scholar's teacher in accordance with A.R.S. 15-521(3). The teacher may choose to retain a scholar based on one or more of the following criteria:

1. Scholar's lack of mastery of required state standards in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies as measured through class assignments, projects, and tests.
2. Failing to meet the state standards on standardized tests (Note: in accordance with state law, any scholar not meeting the state reading standard in third grade must be retained.)
3. Excessive absences (being absent for 10% or more of the school year).

Parents of scholars being considered for retention will be notified prior to the beginning of the fourth quarter. Written notification of retention will be sent out before the end of the school year.

# SCHOLAR CONDUCT CODE

## Guiding Principles

Scholars play an integral role in creating and sustaining the school culture and environment. Pointe is committed to creating and sustaining environments where scholars are valued, trusted, and encouraged to take risks and achieve their dreams in academics, athletics, and the arts. Scholar conduct supports a positive school environment and its orderly operation. Pointe scholars are expected to treat each other and adults with dignity and respect at all times, comply with all school rules, and assume responsibility for their behavior. Consequences are administered for the purpose of improving character and future behavior. Consequences may also serve to protect scholars, staff, or the learning environment. The Scholar Conduct Code is in force on all Pointe campuses, while traveling to and from school, and at all school related events. The final decision in matters pertaining to the Scholar Conduct Code shall be determined by administration in adherence to the school's Mission Statement.

## Consequences for Violating the Scholar Conduct Code

The following consequences are listed in order of severity, low to high. Due to the complex nature of disciplinary issues, the steps may not be administered in sequence and may not begin with step one. The formalities of each step may be altered at the discretion of school administration. In situations involving loss, damage, or defacement of others' property, restitution will be required. Law enforcement will be contacted if required by law or deemed appropriate by administration.

<b>Informal Talk</b>	School official talks with scholar and attempts to reach an agreement on how the scholar's behavior should be altered and brought into compliance.
<b>Minor Penalty</b>	School official administers a minor penalty ranging from loss of classroom privileges, work detail, or similar consequence.
<b>Parent Involvement</b>	School official contacts the parent and a conference may be conducted with the scholar and parents.
<b>Detention</b>	School official determines a specific location and period of time where the scholar will serve detention. A scholars who fail to complete their detention will be subject to further disciplinary actions.
<b>Behavioral Contract</b>	An administrator places scholar on a behavioral contract that defines the desired behavior and consequences for breaking the contract.
<b>Loss of Privilege</b>	An administrator or designee meets with scholar and reviews the Loss of Privilege Form. Loss of privilege may include, but is not limited to, loss of extracurricular participation- including before/after school care. Scholars who fail to comply with the instructions given by administration will be subject to further disciplinary actions.
<b>In School Suspension (ISS)</b>	An administrator or designee meets with scholar and reviews the Suspension Documentation Form and notifies parent/guardian of instructions regarding the process. Scholar is required to spend one or more days in an isolated place at school and may be permitted to work on class work. Scholars who fail to complete their ISS will be subject to further disciplinary actions.
<b>Out of School Suspension (OSS)</b>	Administrator or designee meets with scholar and reviews the Suspension Documentation Form and notifies parent/guardian of instructions regarding the process. Scholar is not allowed on campus or at any school related activities for 1 to 9 days (up to 10 days if a recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion is forwarded to the Disciplinary Committee). Scholars will not receive credit for work missed during OSS.
<b>Long-Term Suspension</b>	An administrator or designee meets with scholar and reviews the Suspension Documentation Form and notifies parent/guardian of instructions regarding the process. Scholar is not allowed on campus or at any school related activities during long-term suspension. Long-term suspensions are determined by the District Disciplinary Committee.
<b>Expulsion</b>	In addition to, and/or separate from, the Out of School Suspension process, an administrator or designee and/or the District Disciplinary Committee, notifies the scholar and parent that the scholar has been recommended for expulsion and provides instructions regarding this process. Expulsions are determined by the District Disciplinary Committee.

Conduct Code Violation	Definitions/Policies	Range of consequences
<b>Alcohol, Drugs, Medication, and Tobacco</b>	<p><b>Promoting, use, possession, distribution, or being under the influence of alcohol or non-prescribed drugs on school property or at school events; possession of paraphernalia associated with drug use. Possession or use of tobacco products. Sale or distribution of alcohol, prescription, or non-prescription drugs.</b></p> <p>As a public Arizona school, the campus is a “drug free school zone.” The Scholar Conduct Code maintains a ZERO TOLERANCE policy toward alcohol, drugs, and illegal substances. Violations will result in immediate disciplinary action and notification of the appropriate law enforcement agency. Scholars are not permitted to promote, possess, consume, or distribute any form of tobacco or tobacco products. This includes the use of all forms of smokeless tobacco. Tobacco paraphernalia, including lighters, are also forbidden under this policy.</p> <p>Scholars are not permitted to have prescription or over-the-counter medications in their possession on campus. All medications are to be checked into Scholar Health Services per school policy.</p>	<b>Suspension to Expulsion</b>
<b>Assault</b>	<b>Physical attack upon another person who does not indicate willingness to engage in the conflict; sexual contact with any non-consenting person.</b>	<b>Suspension to Expulsion</b>
<b>Computer Use Violation</b>	<b>Violation of school’s Computer Use Policy.</b>	<b>Informal Talk to Expulsion</b>
<b>Cumulative Violations</b>	<b>Documented violation of school rules, which occurs frequently enough to demonstrate a lack of intent to follow school rules.</b>	<b>Suspension to Expulsion</b>
<b>Disorderly Conduct</b>	<p><b>Any behavior or action that is disruptive to school climate or the educational process.</b></p> <p>This includes vulgar, profane, obscene or disrespectful behavior, language or material, horseplay, and fighting.</p>	<b>Informal Talk to Expulsion</b>
<b>Dress Code Violation</b>	<b>Failure to comply with the school dress code.</b>	<b>Informal Talk to Suspension</b>
<b>Failure to Report</b>	<b>Withholding knowledge of behavior that violates the Conduct Code including but not limited to disruption to the orderly operation of the school, damage to property, threats, and violence. Scholars who do not report make themselves an accomplice to the violation.</b>	<b>Parent Involvement to Expulsion</b>
<b>Fighting</b>	<b>To attempt to harm or gain power over another scholar by blows or with weapons (this includes closed-fist hitting).</b>	<b>Long-term Suspension to Expulsion</b>
<b>Gang Association and Symbols</b>	<p><b>Gang related behavior, association, apparel, symbols, paraphernalia, and/or activities.</b></p> <p>Scholars are not permitted to engage in gang related behavior. A gang is defined as a group of two or more that exhibits one or more of the following characteristics: have a name, claim a territory, have rivals, interact together and exclude others, and exhibit anti-social behavior.. The use of hand signals, graffiti, or the presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory or manner of dress or grooming that, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, symbol or any other attribute indicates or implies membership or affiliation with such a group is prohibited. Any scholar wearing, carrying, or displaying gang paraphernalia and/or exhibiting behavior or gestures that symbolize gang membership, or causing and/or participating in activities that intimidate or adversely affect the educational activities of another scholar, or the orderly operation of the school, shall be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion.</p>	<b>Parent Involvement to Expulsion</b>
<b>Good Neighbor Violation</b>	<p><b>Failure to obey school rules, traffic/pedestrian laws and act as a good neighbor while going to and from school.</b></p> <p>Scholars must not trespass on, disturb in any way, or interfere with the property of our neighbors. Scholars are required to follow all traffic laws and must cross the street at the city crosswalks. Scholars waiting to be picked up must remain in designated areas. Scholars are not permitted to wait for pickup or hang out on the street in front of the school or in front of neighbor’s homes.</p>	<b>Informal Talk to Expulsion</b>

Conduct Code Violation	Definitions/Policies	Range of consequences
<b>Harassment, Bullying, Verbal Abuse</b>	<p><b>Verbally, physically, or psychologically intimidating, demeaning, or threatening others. This includes any form of hazing and includes any form of sexual harassment.</b></p> <p>Scholars are responsible for refraining from making threats, acts of intimidation or other harassment (whether verbal, physical, or electronic). Harassment that occurs off campus but threatens to disrupt (or succeeds in disrupting) the educational process or the orderly operation of the school is also subject to disciplinary action. Any scholar witnessing harassment, bullying, or verbal abuse is required to report it to an administrator or a faculty member.</p>	<b>Parent Involvement to Expulsion</b>
<b>Inappropriate Display of Affection</b>	<b>Displaying physical affection towards another scholar, other than an appropriate greeting hug or hand hold.</b>	<b>Informal Talk to Expulsion</b>
<b>Insubordination</b>	<b>Willful refusal to comply with school rules or requests of school personnel. This includes lying to school personnel, ditching, and/or loitering.</b>	<b>In School Suspension to Expulsion</b>
<b>Leaving Campus Without Permission</b>	<p><b>Leaving the school grounds without permission and without following school policies. Ditching (absence that has not been excused by parent/legal guardian and approved by the appropriate school official).</b></p> <p>Any scholar who leaves campus without obtaining proper permission will be considered truant. Once the school is made aware that a scholar has left campus boundaries without permission, the school will attempt to notify the parents. Once a scholar leaves campus, the school assumes no responsibility or liability.</p>	<b>Suspension to Expulsion</b>
<b>Off Limit Areas and Trespassing</b>	<p><b>Unauthorized presence on school property, entering an unauthorized area of the campus, and loitering in indoor hallways. Scholars are not allowed in faculty areas (e.g., workrooms, supply rooms), behind school buildings, or in a classroom without a staff member present.</b></p> <p>Refusal to leave school property upon request of school authorities is considered trespassing and insubordination.</p>	<b>Minor Penalty to Suspension</b>
<b>Plagiarism/Cheating</b>	<p><b>Representing another's work as your own.</b></p> <p>Scholars are expected to work independently on tests, homework, and all other assignments unless otherwise specified by the teacher. Plagiarism, cheating, sharing of answers, informing about the content or copying will not be tolerated. Scholars who are aware of the above activities have the responsibility to report the violation to a faculty member or the administration.</p>	<b>Loss of Credit on Assignment to Expulsion</b>
<b>Theft</b>	<b>Taking the property of others without permission or participating as an accomplice.</b>	<b>Suspension to Expulsion</b>
<b>Vandalism</b>	<p><b>Defacing or damaging school property (including graffiti) or the personal property of others.</b></p> <p>Scholars are expected to treat the school buildings and property responsibly. The entire school community shares the responsibility to keep the campus clean and safe. Vandalism should be reported immediately. Restitution for damages and corrective maintenance will be required.</p>	<b>Minor Penalty to Expulsion</b>
<b>Unacceptable Items (Non-Educational Items)</b>	<p><b>Possession or use of items/devices likely to disrupt the school environment or educational process including unacceptable items or images (e.g. pornography).</b></p> <p>The following are examples of items not permitted on campus without prior approval from the administration: (Please note this is not an inclusive list of items. Pointe reserves the right to add items to this list without notice and to enforce the rules as to any similar items) spikes, animals, wallet chains, toys, wheel shoes, and laser pointers.</p> <p>The school reserves the right to seize any personal property on school grounds (including items in scholar cars parked on campus) that is illegal, unacceptable, or considered offensive.</p>	<b>Minor Penalty to Suspension</b>
<b>Weapons/Hazardous Items</b>	<p><b>Possession or use of any instruments of offensive or defensive combat or any instrument used or normally construed as a weapon - possession or use of fireworks, combustible substances or explosives.</b></p> <p>Scholars are not permitted to promote, possess, or use dangerous weapons, chemicals or materials on or near school property or at school activities. The possession, handling, transmission or use of a firearm, explosive weapon, chains, knife, chemicals or any other dangerous or illegal instrument or material, or any instrument or material represented as such is strictly forbidden. Violations in this area also include the use of any instrument in a dangerous, intimidating, or combative manner.</p>	<b>Suspension to Expulsion</b>

## **Parental Notification**

Parents are not usually notified prior to a scholar being questioned by a school official or as part of an investigation or prior to a scholar being presented with alleged violations. Additionally, Pointe Schools is not required to initiate or complete due process prior to notifying law enforcement agencies. The following methods may be used to notify Parents of Scholar Handbook violations: phone call, form sent home with scholar, email or mailed letter. Scholars receiving Out of School Suspension must be picked up from the school office immediately.

## **Disciplinary Process**

Most disciplinary matters are handled on an informal basis by the teacher in the classroom. Scholars are expected to accept responsibility and bring behavior into compliance. In cases where the teacher assigns a minor penalty or detention, the scholar has the opportunity of appeal to the teacher and then to the principal. Disciplinary actions taken by the principal are final and may not be appealed.

In cases when suspension or expulsion is being considered, the principal will present the scholar with the alleged violation and provide the scholar an opportunity to respond to the charges. The principal will conduct an investigation of the alleged violation and then determine the appropriate disciplinary action. The principal may impose suspensions of up to ten consecutive days.

If the principal determines that a suspension longer than 10 consecutive days (long-term suspension) or an expulsion is the appropriate disciplinary consequence, the principal will make a recommendation to the District Disciplinary Committee (Pointe Schools' designated hearing officers). The Disciplinary Committee will hold a hearing and make a determination regarding long-term suspension or expulsion. The scholar and the scholars' parents or guardians will be notified in writing of the hearing and the charges against the scholar.

## **Long-Term Suspension and Expulsion**

Within 10 days of the Disciplinary Committee's decision, a parent or guardian, or emancipated scholar who is the subject of long-term suspension or expulsion may appeal the decision to the Superintendent in writing. The Superintendent will review the facts and may uphold the Disciplinary Committee's determination, overturn the decision based on Due Process or Policy violations, or impose a different disciplinary action. The Superintendent's decision is final and may not be appealed.

If a pupil withdraws from school after receiving notice of possible action concerning long-term suspension or expulsion, the Disciplinary Committee may choose to continue with the action after the withdrawal, or upon re-enrollment, and record the results of such action in the pupil's permanent file.

Long-term suspensions are recorded in the pupil's permanent file and are honored by other public schools. Withdrawing a pupil after the District Disciplinary Committee's decision and/or after the appeal process does not alter the consequences of the long-term suspension with regard to a pupil's permanent record and access to other public schools. For violations that are not safety related, the District's Disciplinary Committee does not usually choose to continue with the action after the withdrawal when the withdrawal occurs prior to the day of the hearing.

## **Preventative Behavior Intervention Program**

Scholars who have been suspended by another school or district prior to enrollment in a Pointe school and scholars who have been suspended during their enrollment in Pointe Schools may be required to participate in a Preventative Behavior Intervention Program.

## **Confinement**

As permitted by A.R.S. 15-843 (B) (9) confinement and/or nonviolent crisis intervention techniques may be used for a scholar who is exhibiting unsafe behavior. During confinement a scholar will be moved to an enclosed space to limit the effect of unsafe behavior on the scholar or others. Parents/guardians will be notified the same day if confinement and/or nonviolent crisis intervention techniques are used with their scholar.

# UNIFORM DRESS CODE

## Guiding Principles

Pointe's elementary schools have adopted a practical uniform policy. Uniform pants, shorts, jumpers, and skirts may be either navy blue or khaki. However, uniform shirts/tops may be any solid color. Scholars are expected to appear neat and well groomed. A scholar's appearance may not distract from the learning environment. Scholars who, by virtue of their attire or appearance, draw undue attention to themselves can expect corrective action. The final decision as to the appropriateness of dress shall be determined by the administration.

On regular school days, Monday through Thursday, Pointe K-6/8 scholars are required to wear solid-color uniforms, (without writing) in the style selections described below.

1. Clothing - All uniform clothing is expected to appear clean and appropriately fitting (not undersized or oversized) and undergarments (except for undershirts worn under uniform shirts/tops) may not be visible at any time. Clothing may not be ripped or torn.
  - Shirts/tops: Short or long-sleeved polo, oxford, or 'peter pan' collar in any solid color.
  - Pants: chino, cargo, or capri style (navy blue, black, gray, or khaki)
  - Shorts & Skorts: chino or cargo style (navy blue, black, gray, or khaki)
  - Jumpers: A-line, v-neck, or bib with pleated skirt (navy blue, black, gray, khaki, or plaid) and must be worn with a uniform shirt underneath.
  - Skirts: pleated or A-line (navy blue, black, gray, khaki, or plaid)
  - Dresses: Short or long-sleeved "polo style" in any solid color

Undergarments may not be visible at any time. For ease of play, scholars wearing jumpers or skirts are encouraged to wear tights, leggings, or shorts under their uniform.

2. Footwear - Closed-toe and closed-heel footwear must be worn at all times (no slippers or roller shoes).
3. Caps/Hats – Shall not be worn inside any building.
4. Extreme and/or distracting styles are not permitted.
  - Hair – No extreme hairstyles.
  - Jewelry – Must not be extreme/distracting or present a safety hazard. Body piercing jewelry (other than the ear) will be considered extreme/distracting and may need to be removed or covered.
5. Drawing or writing on skin/clothes including tattoos (temporary or permanent) and inappropriate writing (including messages of any kind)/pictures on skin, clothing, jewelry or on one's person is not acceptable. This includes, but is not limited to, profane/defamatory writing, symbols of sex, violence (including weapons), anarchy, alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, or symbols that endorse or imply the use of substances or items not legally available to minors.
6. Wearing or possession of clothing, sweatshirts, caps, and/or jewelry that have profane, sexual, violent or gang connotations is strictly forbidden.
7. Wearing or possession of clothing, sweatshirts, cap/hat, backpack, notebook, etc., that advertises/displays the name, logo, etc., of non-Pointe Schools elementary, middle school, junior high, or high schools is not permitted.
8. Clothing (including hats) may have small logos, but must be free of phrases or messages.

On regular school Fridays, scholars have the option to wear a Pointe spirit shirt and appropriate bottoms (non-jegging and free of rips and tears).

## Enforcement

School Dress Code Policies are in effect while a scholar is on campus. The dress code may be modified by administration for certain activities including, but not limited to, dress down days.

# EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

## **Clubs and Organizations**

Clubs and organizations and their activities must be approved by school administration.

## **School Spirit**

Pointe promotes school spirit that demonstrates loyalty to the best traditions and ideals of the school and an unwillingness to do anything that might prove injurious to the school's name and reputation. Scholars are encouraged to participate in as many campus and extracurricular activities as they have interest in and time for. Scholars are expected to follow Pointe Schools Behavior Policies while participating in campus events or extracurricular activities.

## **Extracurricular Eligibility**

Scholars must be present at school on a given day in order to participate in an extracurricular event. Exceptions to this rule include doctor or dental appointments and absences that have administrative approval. Scholars on Academic Probation cannot try out for or practice with an extracurricular team or group or participate in an athletic contest or arts performance. Suspended scholars may not participate in any extracurricular game/performance/activity while on suspension.

## **Scholar Behavior at School Public Events**

Although scholars attending a Pointe Schools' public event (such as games or plays) may be accompanied by a parent/guardian, scholars are still required to follow Pointe Schools' behavior policies and are expected to conduct themselves according to the standards of good sportsmanship toward opponents, officials, and other spectators.

## **Scholar Behavior at Non-Public Extracurricular Activities and Trips**

Pointe Schools extracurricular activities are to be attended only by currently enrolled scholars at the specified grade level and all participants are subject to Pointe Schools' policies and procedures including, but not limited to, those identified in the Scholar Handbook. Pointe Schools scholars who have not been approved to attend an activity/trip, but "hang out" with scholars who have paid for the activity/trip, will face disciplinary action, as will scholars who assist others in "crashing" the activity. While participating in Pointe's extracurricular games/competitions/performances/trips, scholars must stay within designated area(s). While on suspension, scholars may not attend extracurricular events. Scholars on Academic Probation may not be allowed to participate in extracurricular events.

## **Overnight School Activities and Trips**

Pointe Schools communicates general information about overnight school trips on the school's website, and at parent meetings. Although overnight school trips may include scholars being in public areas, Pointe Schools expects that parents who are not serving as official school chaperones will respect the school aspect of the trip and not participate. Scholars whose parents try to and/or participate in an overnight school trip may be removed from the trip and/or may be prohibited from participating in future trips.

## **Classes Missed Due to a School Event**

Scholars who miss class(es) due to school-related responsibilities (academic events, athletic competitions, arts performances, mentoring activities, etc. are marked "SA" (School Related Absence).

## **Conduct and Sportsmanship**

Scholars and parents/guardians are expected to conduct themselves according to the standards of good sportsmanship toward opponents, officials and spectators. Any scholar in violation of school standards of conduct or performance will risk disciplinary action. Any parent in violation of school standards of conduct or performance will be asked to leave the event and possibly be barred from future activities.

## **Fundraising**

Extracurricular clubs/teams/groups may only fundraise for approved trips, camps, and equipment.

## **Teams/Groups/Clubs**

Participation on extracurricular academic, athletic, arts and activity teams/groups is a privilege that carries certain responsibilities. When scholars compete, perform or are in public areas, they represent Pointe Schools. Scholars are expected to display behavior that exhibits the character and leadership qualities that speaks highly of themselves and Pointe Schools.

## **Extracurricular Participation Fees**

Scholars participating in some extracurricular academic, athletic, arts and activity teams/groups/clubs are required to pay a participation fee. Fees are available in the schools' website.



# SCHOLAR AND PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES TO EXTRACURRICULAR TEAM/GROUP

All members of the Pointe community (scholars, coaches, faculty, parents, guardians, and guests) are expected to conduct themselves according to the standards of good sportsmanship toward team/group members, opponents, officials and spectators. Any scholar in violation of school standards of conduct or performance will risk disciplinary action. Anyone in violation of school standards of conduct or performance will be asked to leave the event, and possibly be barred from future activities. It is a privilege to participate in extracurricular activities at Pointe. Therefore, a scholar may be suspended from and/ or removed from an academic, athletic, art or activities roster for making or supporting statements that are mocking, defamatory, or abusive on social media about Pointe (its programs, scholars, employees, etc.).

## Academics

1. I recognize that the main reason for attending Pointe is to complete my high school education.
2. I will perform to my highest level of academic potential.
3. I will be on time, attend, and actively participate in class and all class activities.
4. I will utilize all academic services, including tutoring.
5. I will ask questions of my teachers and classmates to enhance my educational understanding.
6. I will keep my coaches/group leaders informed of any academic problems in a timely manner.
7. I understand that a failing quarter grade makes me ineligible for the following quarter.

## Decorum

1. I will be responsible for my actions and will not disrespect myself, my team/group, or my school.
2. I understand that the use and/or involvement of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco will result in immediate dismissal from the team/group.
3. I will respect administrators, faculty/staff, coaches/directors, officials/judges, opponents, and team members.
4. I will always conduct myself in a way that will honor and not embarrass myself, my family, or my school.
5. I understand I have an obligation to the community and I will participate in community outreach events whenever possible

## Team/Group

1. I will always maintain maximum effort in order to perform at my highest level of ability.
2. I am aware that as a team/group member, I must integrate myself into the team/group concept. Therefore, I understand that in addition to coaches/group leaders, I am accountable to the team/group and will respect them at all times. I will not do anything to call attention to myself.
3. I will respect school uniforms/costumes, equipment, and facilities.
4. I understand that cliques, jealousy, lying, or avoiding responsibility will not be tolerated.
5. I agree to attend every team/group function on time, wearing the required uniform/costume/attire and bringing the assigned equipment.
6. I understand that missing any practice/game/performance/competition may result in disciplinary action by the coach/director. I understand I may be suspended and/or removed from the team/group if the problem continues.
7. I will participate in weight training if it is assigned my by coach/group leader.
8. I will be prepared for practice as required by my coach/group leader.
9. I will follow all directives from my coach/group leader. I will accept consequences if I fail to do so.

## Parents

1. I understand that decisions regarding team selection and playing time/performance roles are made by the coach/director, not the administration, and I will direct questions to the coach/group leader in a respectful/professional manner.
2. I will demonstrate respect for the coach/group leader by scheduling time to discuss concerns via e-mail or phone. I will not attempt to have discussions with the coach/group leader on game/performance/competition days or before, during, or after practices.
3. I will utilize the established methods of communication through the coach/leader and will not use my role as an involved parent to collect e-mails and phone numbers.
4. I will not communicate on behalf of the school, coach/group leader, or team/group.
5. I will conduct myself according to the standards of good sportsmanship toward team/group members, opponents, officials, spectators, and administration/staff. I understand that I may be removed/banned from games/performances if I violate the aforementioned responsibilities (including, but not limited to, confrontational, harassing and threatening behavior towards administrators, faculty, staff, athletes/performers, coaches/group leaders, officials, judges, and spectators).

# ADDITIONAL POLICIES/NOTICES

## **Annual Notification to Parents Regarding Confidentiality of Scholar Education Records**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of scholar education records. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the scholar when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level (eligible scholars). Parents or eligible scholars have the right to inspect and review the scholar's education records within 45 days of a request made to the school administrator. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless it is impossible for parents or eligible scholars to review the records without copies. Schools may charge a fee for copies. Parents or eligible scholars have the right to request in writing that a school correct records that they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible scholar then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible scholar has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information. Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible scholar in order to release any information from a scholar's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions:

1. School officials with legitimate educational interest;
2. A school official is a person employed or contracted by the school to serve as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, or support staff member (including health staff, law enforcement personnel, attorney, auditor, or other similar roles); a person serving on the school board; or a parent or scholar serving on an official committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks;
3. A legitimate educational interest means the review of records is necessary to fulfill a professional responsibility for the school;
4. Other schools to which a scholar is seeking to enroll;
5. Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
6. Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a scholar;
7. Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
8. Accrediting organizations;
9. To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
10. Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
11. State and local authorities within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a scholar's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, picture, honors and awards, sports participation (including height and weight of athletes) and dates of attendance, unless notified by the parents or eligible scholar in writing within 10 days from the date that parents or eligible scholar receive a copy of the scholar handbook, that the school is not to disclose the directory information without the parents' or eligible scholars' prior written consent.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law that protects the rights of scholars with disabilities. In addition to standard school records, for children with disabilities, education records could include evaluation and testing materials, medical and health information, Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and related notices and consents, progress reports, materials related to disciplinary actions, and mediation agreements. Such information is gathered from a number of sources, including the scholar's parents and staff of the school of attendance. Also, with parental permission, information may be gathered from additional pertinent sources, such as doctors and other health care providers. This information is collected to assure the child is identified, evaluated, and provided a Free Appropriate Public Education in accordance with state and federal special education laws. Each agency participating under Part B of IDEA must assure that during all stages of gathering, storing, retaining, and disclosing education records to third parties, it complies with the federal confidentiality laws. In addition, the destruction of any education records of a child with a disability must be in accordance with IDEA regulatory requirements.

For additional information or to file a complaint, you may call the federal government at (202)260-3887 (voice) or 1-800-877-8339 (TDD) or the Arizona Department of Education (ADE/ESS) at (602)542-4013.

Or you may contact: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-5901 or Arizona Department of Education, Exceptional Scholar Services, 1535 W. Jefferson, BIN 24, Phoenix, AZ 85007. This notice is available in English and Spanish on the ADE website at [www.ade.az.gov/ess/resources](http://www.ade.az.gov/ess/resources) under forms. For assistance in obtaining this notice in other languages, contact the ADE/ESS at the above phone/address.

### **Project Child Find**

Pointe Schools has created **Pointe Project Child Find** to promote public awareness of resources available to all parents who have reason to believe their child is not progressing at an appropriate level of development. **Pointe Project Child Find's** goal is to identify, locate, and evaluate children with disabilities within our population served who are in need of special education and related services. Screening and testing activities are used to determine eligibility and need for special services. Screening activities for disabilities or special needs are conducted for all newly enrolled scholars, including those transferring into the school. Screening takes place within 45 calendar days of enrollment. Screening activities include consideration of academic and cognitive skills, vision, hearing, communication, emotional and psychomotor domains. The project aims to provide services to children who are not currently receiving special education and/or who require reasonable accommodations and modifications in order to progress in the general curriculum. **Pointe Project Child Find** has written procedures in place that are implemented by our Child Study Teams and staff for the identification and referral for all children having a suspected disability. **Pointe Project Child Find** is reviewed annually by our staff to ensure that all Pointe scholars receive an appropriate education. Additionally, the school maintains records and documentation that is annually reported indicating the number of children with disabilities. Reporting is done within each disability category that has been identified, located, and evaluated. Each of Pointe's schools has programs for children with different abilities and needs.

For more information, contact the administration or the special education department at each campus. The phone numbers are:

- Canyon Pointe      602-896-1166
- Pinnacle Pointe    623-537-3535
- North Pointe        623-209-0017

### **Pointe Schools Discrimination Grievance Procedures (504 and Title IX)**

Pointe Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its educational program or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Pointe Schools has adopted an internal grievance procedure providing for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any action prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Complaints should be directed to the school principal, who has been designated the school Section 504 Discrimination Compliance Coordinator by the Governing School Board.

Any person who believes he or she has been the subject of discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap may file a grievance under this procedure. It is against the law for Pointe Schools to retaliate against anyone who files a grievance or cooperates in the investigation of a grievance.

#### **Grievance Procedure:**

1. Complaints must be submitted within ten (10) calendar days of the date the person filing the grievance becomes aware of the alleged discriminatory action. A complaint must be in writing and contain the name, address, and phone number of the person filing it. The complaint must state the problem or action alleged to be discriminatory and the remedy or relief sought.
2. The Discrimination Compliance Coordinator (DCC) shall conduct an investigation of the complaint. The investigation may be informal, but it must be thorough and afford all involved persons the opportunity to submit evidence relevant to the complaint. The DCC will maintain the files and records relating to such grievances.
3. The DCC will issue a written determination as to the validity of the complaint and a description of the resolution, if any, within fifteen (15) calendar days but no later than thirty (30) calendar

days after its filing. A copy of the determination shall be forwarded to the Superintendent and the complainant.

4. The person filing the grievance may appeal the decision of the DCC by writing to the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee within fifteen (15) calendar days of receiving the Discrimination Compliance Coordinator's decision.
5. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall issue a written decision in response to the appeal no later than ten (10) working days after its filing. If the party lodging the complaint is not satisfied with the decision, the Superintendent's office will notify them of further appeal processes.
6. The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint filed shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a Section 504, Title II, or Title XI complaint with the responsible federal department or agency. Utilization of this grievance procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies. These rules shall be construed to protect the substantive rights of interested persons, to meet appropriate due process standards, and to assure that Pointe Schools complies with Section 504, Title II, Title IX and their implementing regulations.

### **Records Requirement**

In compliance with ARS § 15-183 (F) parents are hereby notified that resume information for all teachers is located in the front office and is available to the parent of any currently enrolled scholar.

### **Governing School Board Meetings**

The regularly scheduled meetings for Pointe Schools Governing School Board are June 30<sup>th</sup>, July 14<sup>th</sup>, and the third Wednesday in August, October, January, and March at 6:00 pm in the District Conference Room (or Theatre, if more space is needed). Additional meetings will be called as needed. Meeting notices and agendas are posted on the district website ([pointeschools.org](http://pointeschools.org)). Agendas are also posted 24 hours before the meeting on the [pointeschools.org](http://pointeschools.org) website and at the district office.