

Island City Academy
2023 – 2024



Parent/Student
Handbook

Letter from the Administrator

Dear Student and Parent,

We know that you have many choices for your student's elementary and middle school education, and we are excited that you chose Island City Academy. One part of that choice is reading and acknowledging the expectations for both students and parents. Please take a moment to review the handbook and share with your student so they are aware of the expectations for an Island City Academy student.

This handbook is intended to provide basic, quick reference information for the parents and students of Island City Academy. Please take a few minutes and go over it with your child. More detail and specifics can be obtained by contacting your child's teacher or the school office.

We are going to have a great year and I cannot wait to get started. It is our intent to provide the best possible educational program, which our talent and resources will allow.

Sincerely,

Wm. Aaron Warren

Island City Academy

6421 S. Clinton Trail · Eaton Rapids, MI 48827 (517) 663 – 0111 · islandcityacademy.org

Mission Statement

The mission of Island City Academy is to improve pupil achievement through a shared vision between talented teachers, parents, and students whose primary goal is academic excellence coupled with moral standards and expectations.

We believe we can achieve this goal by providing the best curriculum in seven "core" subjects of: mathematics, science, history, geography, language arts, physical education, fine arts, along with moral education accomplished through standards of conduct and curriculum.

Island City Academy Educational Philosophy

Island City Academy works as a partnership that includes students, parents, faculty, administration and staff. These partners are united in their commitment to the common objectives outlined in our mission and standards.

Island City Academy operates on an "open door" policy. Parents and other interested stakeholders are welcome to visit the Academy campus. If you would like to visit the school, please notify the office in advance.

As role models and instructors, Island City Academy teachers are valued by their students and parents for their caring attitudes, intelligence, creative teaching ability, loyalty and responsibility.

Parents expect and appreciate direct and regular communications from faculty regarding their children. Likewise, Island City Academy's parents are responsive to teacher suggestions for helping students. This is shown in part by parents making sure homework and other assignments are completed.

The administrator, along with the board of directors, verifies and endorses the Mission Statement and oversees its implementation in the school. In their capacities as policy makers and community leaders, these administrators advance the Academy's role as an institution committed to children.

At Island City Academy we are committed to the philosophy of educating the individual child by helping each student acquire knowledge. By providing standards of ethical and moral values by which one may live, we are preparing students to accept the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic society. Every child is capable of achieving his or her potential to the fullest extent when afforded respect, fairness, kindness, along with loving discipline and accelerated instruction.

Administration

Administrator: Wm. Aaron Warren

Dean of Students: Meri Stumpos

Office Manager: Heidi Brininstool

Bookkeeper: Sue Sherman

Office Phone: (517) 663 – 0111

Office Hours: 7:30 – 4:00

School Hours: 8:10 – 3:15

Island City Academy School Board

Dave Sysum, Cathy Sayer, Megann Barnett, Linda Sherrill, Tom Pretzel

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ISLAND CITY ACADEMY

2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR

AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER																																																																																																																																																																															
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Schedule of Events:

- AUGUST**
 23rd: ICA Board Meeting @ noon
 28th: Teacher PD Day
 29th: Teacher PD Day
 30th: Open House: 5-7
- SEPTEMBER**
 5th: First Day of School
 13th: Picture Day
 20th: Late Arrival @ 9:45
 27th: ICA Board Meeting @ 4
- OCTOBER**
 2nd-13th: MAP Testing
 5th: Early Dismissal @ 12:30, Conferences 1:15 to 6:00
 Mid-Terms Go Home 6-8
 6th: Early Dismissal 12:30, Conferences 1:15 to 3:00
 18th: Late Arrival @ 9:45
 25th: ICA Board Meeting @ 4
- NOVEMBER**
 3rd: End of 1st Marking Period
 10th: Veteran's Day Concert
 Report Cards Go Home

- NOVEMBER CONTINUED**
 15th: Picture Retakes
 Late Arrival @ 9:45
 ICA Board Meeting @ 4
 21st: Early Dismissal @ 1:30
 22nd-24th: No School: Thanksgiving
- DECEMBER**
 8th: Mid-Terms Go Home 6-8
 20th: Late Arrival @ 9:45
 22nd: Early Release @ 12:30
 25th-5th: No School: Christmas Break
- JANUARY**
 8th: School Resumes
 19th: End of 2nd Marking Period
 22nd-2nd: MAP Testing
 24th: Late Arrival @ 9:45
 ICA Board Meeting @ 4
- FEBRUARY**
 15th: Winter Concert @ 6
 16th: Early Dismissal @ 12:30:
 President's Day Weekend,
 19th: No School: President's Day
 22nd: Early Release @ 12:30
 Conferences: 1:15-6:00
 23rd: Early Release @ 12:30
 Conferences: 1:15-3:00
 28th: ICA Board Meeting @ 4

- MARCH**
 14th-16th: The Young Americans
 20th: Late Arrival @ 9:45
 ICA Board Meeting @ 4
 22nd: End of 3rd Marking Period
 25th-29th: No School: Spring Break
- APRIL**
 5th: Report Cards Go Home
 17th: Late Arrival @ 9:45
 24th: ICA Board Meeting @ 4
- MAY**
 3rd: Mid-Terms Go Home 6-8
 13th-24th: MAP Testing
 15th: Late Arrival @ 9:45
 22nd: ICA Board Meeting @ 4
 24th: Early Dismissal @ 12:30
 27th: No School: Memorial Day
 30th: Spring Concert @ 6:00
- JUNE**
 7th: 8th Grade Ceremony @ 10
 7th: Last day of school 1/2 Day Dismissal @ 11:30
 19th: ICA Board Meeting @ noon

INTRODUCTION

The Island City Academy is dedicated to creating and maintaining a positive learning environment for all students. Teachers, administrators, parents and students must assume a responsible role in promoting behavior that enhances academic and social success. Courteous, respectful and responsible behavior fosters a positive climate for the learning community.

The Code of Student Conduct sets forth student rights and responsibilities while at school and school-related activities. The consequences for violating school rules are also included in this document. When determining the appropriate action to be taken as a consequence of student misconduct, school officials may use intervention strategies and/or disciplinary actions, depending upon the severity or repetition of misconduct; age and grade level of the student; circumstances surrounding the misconduct; impact of the student's misconduct on others in the school community, and any other relevant factors.

The Code of Student Conduct will be administered fairly, without partiality or discrimination.

WHEN AND WHERE THE CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT APPLIES:

The Code of Student Conduct applies:

- before, during, and after school
- "at school" defined as: in a classroom, elsewhere on school premises, on a school bus or in another school-related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored field trip, activity or event, whether or not it is held on school premises
- when a student's conduct at any other time or place has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order and discipline, or on protecting the safety and welfare of students or school district staff
- when a student is using school telecommunications networks, accounts, or other district services

Attendance Policy

Michigan Law requires that all children between the ages of six and sixteen attend school on a regular and consistent basis throughout the school year. Regular attendance is extremely important. Not only is it the law, but also it is obvious that children can benefit from school by being in attendance.

Tardy – 8:10 – 8:40
Morning Absence – 8:40 am – 11:00 am
Afternoon Absence – 11:30 am – 3:15 pm
Afternoon Tardy – 3:00 – 3:15

Parents may excuse an absence with a phone call to the office (663-0111) the morning of the absence. Student with excused absences must make-up work missed. Parents may request make-up work be sent to the office; any request made after 9 am may not be available until the next day.

Each child's attendance will be watched very closely throughout the school year. Parents will receive a notice if a student's absences become excessive and are not the result of illness as verified by a medical doctor. A conference between the parent and the administrator will be requested to discuss plans to meet the student's attendance needs. Should the problem continue, we would seek help from the Truancy Officer. Current state law mandates schools reporting of a certain number of absences.

Accepted Reasons for Excused Absences

- A. Illness (written physician's excuse or a parent call)
- B. Family emergencies
- C. Funeral

Island City Academy
Board Approved
Dress Code

The Island City Academy dress code has been established to provide a consistently attractive and neat appearance for all students and to avoid peer pressure in matters of dress. The overwhelming result of the dress code should be a “neat and tidy” appearance.

Items	Description	Color
Bottoms Dresses/jumpers	Pants, shorts, skorts, skirts, dresses, jumpers, and capris <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pants must be chino or dress in style, straight leg (no skinny fit, <u>leggings, ponte pants, pants with elastic around the ankle, cargo pants, no joggers or jeggings</u>) <u>Pants cannot have holes or rips in them.</u> ● Capris, shorts may be worn until October 15th and after April 15th ● Dresses/skirts must have red, white, or blue shorts under them or leggings when not wearing tights ● Dresses/jumpers, and skirts must be <u>2” above the knee or less when standing.</u> (<i>Shorts Fingertip length</i>) 	Navy Blue Khaki Red – dresses only
Belts (Optional)	Plain with buckle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Solid color ● Cloth ● Leather or leather like ● Buckle in the front 	Black Brown Navy Blue Khaki
Shirts	Solid color without manufacturer’s logo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Polo Shirt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Long or short sleeve ○ At least 2 buttons ● Oxford button down solid in color no logos – Must be tucked in ● Visible undergarments will be white or the same color as dress code shirt 	Red White Navy Blue
Sweaters/Sweatshirts	Solid Color <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Must have a collared shirt underneath ● No hoods *ICA hoodies may be worn on Fridays	Red White Navy Blue
Socks/Leggings/Tights	Solid Color Tights/Leggings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Must cover feet or be worn with socks ● <u>Must be worn at all times</u> 	Red, White, Navy Blue, Black, & Grey

Shoes	<p>Slip-on shoes must fit firmly on the feet. All other shoes/boots must be tied and laced with bows on the outside or Velcro if no laces. Pants must cover the top of all high tops and boots. High boots may only be worn with pants and the pants must cover the top of the boots. ½” heel or less on girl’s dress shoes (for safety reasons)</p> <p><u>No character shoes, light up shoes, Heelys, or open toed shoes.</u></p> <p><u>No High Boots worn with skirts, dresses, or shorts.</u></p>	Neutral Colors No Neon No Bright Colors
Hair Style	<p>Hairstyles must be conservative including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no designs shaved in head • no mohawks • no faux hawks • natural hair color 	
Hair Accessories	<p>Hats and winter headgear are to be worn outside as weather requires.</p> <p><u>Acceptable headwear:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headbands • Barrettes • Ponytail holders <p><u>Not Acceptable headwear:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>No ears, unicorn horns or crowns</u> • <u>Size of bow and headband attachments must be 3” or smaller in height and width.</u> • <u>JoJo or similar type bows.</u> 	
Jewelry	<p>Bracelets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One per arm • 1” thick or less Rings • One ring per hand • One necklace allowed • No chokers <p>Earrings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One post earring per ear (Pre-K – 5th) • 6th – 8th may wear 1” in length or diameter and maximum of 2 earrings per ear 	Reasonable appearance
Make-up/Body Art	<p>Any tattoos real or fake must be covered at all times</p> <p>6th – 8th grade girls may wear light natural color make-up</p> <p>Nail polish may be worn in light colors no Black</p>	Light Colors No Black

Notify the office if an exception to the dress code needs to be made for religious or cultural reasons.

Students that come to school out of dress code will be directed to the office. The student will be provided an opportunity to find dress code attire from the rack in the hallway. If no clothes can be located, then the student will be asked to call a parent/guardian to bring the correct dress code attire.

CODE OF CONDUCT

A major component of the educational program at Island City Academy is to prepare students to become responsible workers and citizens by learning how to conduct themselves properly and in accordance with established standards.

Expected Behaviors

Each student shall be expected to:

- abide by national, State, and local laws as well as the rules of the school;
- respect the civil rights of others;
- act courteously to adults and fellow students;
- be prompt to school and attentive in class;
- work cooperatively with others when involved in accomplishing a common goal, regardless of the other's ability, gender, race, religion, height, weight, disability, or ethnic background;
- complete assigned tasks on time and as directed;
- help maintain a school environment that is safe, friendly, and productive;
- act at all times in a manner that reflects pride in self, family, and in the school.

Definitions:

"*At School*" is defined as in a classroom, elsewhere on school premises, school related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is held on school premises. It also includes conduct using a telecommunications access device or telecommunications service provider that occurs off school premises if either owned by or under the control of the District.

"*Staff*" includes all school employees and Board members.

"*Bullying*" is defined as any gesture or written, verbal, graphic, or physical act (including electronically transmitted acts – i.e. internet, telephone or cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or wireless handheld device) that, without regard to its subject matter or motivating animus, is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one (1) or more students either directly or indirectly by doing any of the following:

- A. substantially interfering with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs of one (1) or more students;
- B. adversely affecting the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the school district's educational programs or activities by placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress;
- C. having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a student's physical or mental health; and/or
- D. causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying can be physical, verbal, psychological, or a combination of all three. Some examples of bullying are:

- A. Physical – hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing, pulling; taking and/or damaging personal belongings or extorting money, blocking or impeding student movement, unwelcome physical contact.
- B. Verbal – taunting, malicious teasing, insulting, name calling, making threats.
- C. Psychological – spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships, coercion, or engaging in social exclusion/shunning, extortion, or intimidation. This may occur in a number of different ways, including but not limited to notes, emails, social media postings, and graffiti.

Possible Classroom Interventions

- Nonverbal Cues
- Proximity
- Private Conference
- Redirect
- Verbal Warning
- 15 Second Intervention
- Reteach Behavior
- Ask Clarifying Questions
- Student Reflection Form
- Phone/Email Home
- Schedule Parent/Teacher Conference
- Seat Change within Classroom
- Provide Individualized Instruction
- Acknowledge Appropriate Behavior of Surrounding Students

There will be consequences when a student decides to act against the basic school regulations. All of the following consequences are applied equally to every student.

The Administrator does have the right to modify the consequences based on the seriousness of the violation.

Progressive Discipline Procedures

1. Warning – Loss of Dojo point(s)
2. Reset Room or Student Services room for a break
3. 30 minute detention before school
4. In-school suspension
5. Out-of-school suspension

Long Term Suspension or Expulsion

If recommended by the Administrator, the Academy’s board of directors shall conduct a hearing to determine whether to impose a long-term suspension or expulsion.

The student and parent/guardian shall be notified of the allegation; the recommended disciplinary action; the time, date and location of the hearing; and of their right to attend and participate in the hearing.

The board of directors shall conduct a hearing, which may be recorded. The student shall be advised of the alleged violation and be given an explanation of the facts. The explanation may include the written or oral testimony of others.

At the request of the student or the student’s parents, the board of directors may meet in a closed session to “consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of a student.” (MCL 15.268[b]).

The student and parent/guardian may be represented at the hearing by an attorney or other adult.

Written or oral evidence may be presented at the hearing on behalf of the student.

After the hearing, the board of directors shall issue a decision, including a termination of disciplinary action.

Appeal to Board of Education for Reconsideration for Long Term Suspension:

A student aggrieved by the decision of the Academy board of directors may, within five (5) days of receipt of the decision, petition the board of education for the opportunity to request review or reconsideration by the board. The petition shall be in writing and contain the reasons that the board's decision should be reviewed or reconsidered. The board of directors may grant or deny the request for an appeal or request for reconsideration. If granted, the board shall notify the student in writing of the procedures to be used for the appeal or request for reconsideration.

Suspension and Expulsion of Students Receiving or Otherwise Eligible for Special Education:

Students previously identified under state and federal regulations as eligible for special education are entitled to an extra measure of consideration for the disability in student discipline procedures. Also, other due process provisions are triggered for any student if a review of a student's record indicates significant prior knowledge about a potential but unidentified disability. School personnel are advised to consult with their local and intermediate district administrators for special education and to refer to the most recent edition of Special Education Considerations in Student Disciplinary Procedures (Michigan Department of Education).

Electronics Device Policy

Electronic Devices are not permitted at Island City Academy during school hours (laser pens, CD players, electronic games, iPods, or toys). If it is necessary to have a cellular phone while being transported to and/or from Island City Academy, the phone must be turned off and kept off while at school. If the phone is used or is left on during the school day, the phone will be confiscated. 1st offense - parents will have to retrieve phone from the office. 2nd offense – phone will be locked in the office for 5 school days and a parent will have to retrieve. 3rd and each additional offense – phone will be locked in the office for 10 school days and the parent will have to retrieve. Island City Academy has phones available for student use in the event of an emergency. Any electronic device brought to school should be kept locked up. Students should turn their phones into the homeroom Teacher and retrieve it at the end of the school day. The school will not be held responsible for lost or stolen devices.

Hallway Policy

While passing in the hall students are expected to maintain a safe environment. Students are to refrain from running, jumping, loud and boisterous behavior, or physical contact with others.

Personal Affection

Displays of affection will not be accepted at Island City Academy. Students will be expected to maintain a reasonable distance from each other. Students will not hold each other, hold hands, sit on laps, kiss, or excessively hug while at school or school functions.

Lunch Time Behavior

Politeness and civility are expected at lunch time. Lunch time is also reserved for polite conversation and social interaction. Students walk into the lunchroom, select a seat in an area designated for their grade, eat, pick-up after themselves, and wait for announcements and dismissal by the lunchroom supervisors.

Playground/Recess Behavior

The following is a composite of the playground behavior regulations. The purpose of these rules is to protect our children from accidents or mishaps that may occur during recess.

Students will:

- Stay in full view of the playground supervisors

- Respect their fellow schoolmates
- Respect playground equipment and property
- Respect schoolmates' property
- Play safely at all times and act in ways that do not endanger fellow schoolmates
- Walk to their classroom/lunchroom in a quiet manner at the end of recess

Student will not:

- Throw or kick dirt, mud, snow, ice, stones, wood chips, or other objects
- Roughhouse – this includes tackling, pushing, shoving, slapping, pinching, wrestling, tripping, or grabbing clothes or bodies
- Spit or bite
- Swear or use vulgar, inappropriate language or gestures
- Re-enter the building until recess is over, unless by permission of the playground supervisor
- Take food, drinks, or candy on the playground

Substitute Teacher

When a substitute is in a classroom, exemplary student behavior is expected. Students exhibiting rude, disrespectful or generally poor behaviors are infringing upon the right of other students' to learn.

Field Trips

Field trips are defined as anytime a staff member, for purposes of extending children's educational experience take students from school property. Parents will receive notification of these excursions through class newsletters, Class Dojo, PowerSchool, and or specific information notices.

Parents that transport students are asked to provide a copy of their driver's license and proof of insurance to be kept at the school.

Medication for Students

Medications will only be administered by school personnel in the main office. Students are not allowed to take, distribute, give, inhale, or otherwise consume any medication or drug, whether prescription or non-prescription, without adhering to the following procedure:

If it is a prescription medication –

1. A properly completed and signed medication form must be filed in the school office.
2. It must be in the original container with the original prescription label, which includes the child's name, the name of the drug, the dosage instructions, the doctor's name and the prescription and expiration dates.
3. It must be taken in the presence of an authorized school personnel who will record the event.

Non-prescription medications -

Must be in their original containers and have a properly completed and signed medications form on file in the office. Students in possession of medications must come or be sent to the office immediately upon arrival at school.

Illness

In order to reduce the spread of contagious diseases at Island City Academy, please keep your child at home if he or she is contagious. Students with obviously contagious conditions, such as “pinkeye”, will be sent home. These students will not be allowed back at school until 24 hours have passed.

If a student becomes ill during school, he or she should notify the teacher. The administrative staff will notify parents when necessary for the child to be sent home. Arrangements should be made to pick-up the child within 30 minutes of notification.

Latch Key

Island City Academy offers a before-school and after-school program for families who need a place for their children to go. Any students arriving prior to 8:00 am or not picked-up by 3:30 will be placed in latch key. The latch key program runs from hours of 6:45am – 8:00 am before school, and 3:30 - 5:45pm after school.

The latch key fees are as follows:

Pricing – AM (includes optional breakfast)

6:45 – 8:00 AM – \$.10 Per minute

Pricing - PM

3:30 – 5:45 - \$.05 Per minute

Late fee - \$1 Per minute

Elastic Clause

Island City Academy and administration reserve the right to establish fair and reasonable rules and regulations for issues requiring actions that are not covered in this handbook. Matters omitted from this handbook should not be interpreted as limiting the scope of the school’s authority in dealing with any type of infraction that might jeopardize the safety and welfare of Island City Academy students or staff.

MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION - Model Anti-Bullying Policy

“Bullying” is conduct that meets some or all of the following criteria:

- is reasonably perceived as being dehumanizing, intimidating, hostile, humiliating, threatening, or otherwise likely to evoke fear of physical harm or emotional distress;
- is directed at one or more pupils;
- is conveyed through physical, verbal, technological or emotional means; • substantially interferes with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs of one or more pupils;
- adversely affects the ability of a pupil to participate in or benefit from the school district’s or public school’s educational programs or activities by placing the pupil in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing emotional distress; and,
- is based on a pupil’s actual or perceived distinguishing characteristic (see above), or is based on an association with another person who has or is perceived to have any of these characteristics.

“Harassment” is conduct that meets some or all of the following criteria:

- is reasonably perceived as being dehumanizing, intimidating, hostile, humiliating, threatening, or otherwise likely to evoke fear of physical harm or emotional distress;
- is directed at one or more pupils;
- is conveyed through physical, verbal, technological or emotional means;

- substantially interferes with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs of one or more pupils;
- adversely affects the ability of a pupil to participate in or benefit from the school district's or public school's educational programs or activities because the conduct, as reasonably perceived by the pupil, is so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive as to have this effect; and,
- is based on a pupil's actual or perceived distinguishing characteristic (see above), or is based on an association with another person who has or is perceived to have any of these characteristics.

Emergency Procedures

Emergency plans are made to protect and provide a secure and safe environment for your children. We have coordinated with Hamlin Township Fire Department to come up with an efficient plan to keep the children safe in an emergency.

For Students

Procedures for fire, tornado, and other emergencies are posted within each classroom. Student will be instructed by their teacher as to the proper exiting procedures for the emergency. In each case of emergency, a buzzer will sound or an announcement will be made over the PA. The student will rehearse drill for all types of emergency throughout the school year.

For Parents

The outlined plan should be followed for all emergencies including weather related emergency situations.

- If and when possible, a Honeywell alert will be sent out to inform parents of the emergency situation and directions will be given.
- If directed to come to the vicinity you will report to one of two locations. Please listen carefully to the Honeywell alert to determine where to report.
- When you arrive, a person of authority will direct you to the next step based on the situation.
- Please remember, children will be released when ICA is given permission by the appropriate authority.

Transportation

Island City Academy parents will be responsible for transportation to and from the school. Eatran bus service is available before and after school to parents in Eaton County who are unable to provide their own transportation.

The parent must make arrangements for Eatran. Please notify us if your child will be riding the Eatran bus. The School Age Care Program (Latch-key) is available before and after school for students arriving before 8:10a.m. or staying after 3:30p.m.

Report Cards

Report cards are issued at the end of each 9-week class period. Parents are asked to go over these carefully with their child. Stress and praise the accomplishments and try to encourage additional effort where the need is shown.

Honor Awards

At the end of every marking period Island City Academy will recognize students in the 3rd – 8th grades who excelled in the classroom. Honor Roll is awarded for students who either earn all A's, or all A's and B's in a given marking period.

Grading

K – 2nd

- 1 – Above Grade Level
- 2 – At Grade Level
- 3 – Below Grade Level

3rd – 8th

A+	97 – 100%	C	74 – 76%
A	94 – 96%	C-	70 – 73%
A-	90 – 93%	D+	67 – 69%
B+	87 – 89%	D	64 – 66%
B	84 – 86%	D-	60 – 63%
B-	80 – 83%	E	59% - Below
C+	77 – 79%		

Athletic Eligibility

Island City Academy believes academics take priority over athletics. With this in mind, we are adhering to a strict guideline of eligibility. The students must have all grades at a C- or higher in order to participate.

For students who are not eligible they are expected to attend practice and work on their schoolwork. Eligibility will be determined on a weekly basis and students will not be eligible until the following week.

For students who participate in sports at the local middle schools they will be subject to their eligibility requirements. Island City Academy will provide the current grades for each student participating in the local schools athletic programs.

Pesticide Application

As part of the Academy's pest management system, pesticides are occasionally applied. You have the right to be informed prior to any pesticide application made to the school grounds and/or building. In certain emergencies pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but you will be provided notice following any such application. If you need prior notification, please contact the office staff to obtain the necessary paperwork for notification.

Handling of Concerns

Because of the public nature of e-mail, we do not recommend this mode of communication for addressing concerns. Electronic communication sent to the School Board, administration, or teachers may be recognized as having been received, but will not be guaranteed consideration without verbal follow-up initiated by sender.

Parents/Guardians are more effective in handling concerns when they have a strategy rather than letting emotions get the best of them. With this in mind, here are ten simple steps we recommend for parents/guardians to follow when a problem arises at school:

1. ***Define and examine your concerns.***
Do your homework. It is critical to collect all the facts and articulate the problem clearly.
2. ***Develop possible solutions.***
This sets a positive tone indicating you want to work in partnership with the school to resolve the problem.
3. ***Prepare a written document.***
The document should contain a list of your issues, potential solutions and questions. The tone should reflect your desire to work positively with the school.
4. ***Meet with the teacher.***
Make an appointment with the teacher. Consider having your spouse accompany you for the support. Inform the teacher who to expect at the meeting.
5. ***Approach the meeting with a positive attitude.***
Leave your emotions outside the meeting room. Negative behavior will discredit your message; your behavior must stay above reproach. Using your document as the basis for the meeting's agenda, keep an open mind and ask questions.
6. ***Define the next step.***
At the end of the meeting ask, "What is the next step?", "Who will be responsible for that step?", "When (a date) will the next step occur?". This increases the likelihood of a positive outcome. Leave a copy of your written document with the teacher.
7. ***Document events.***
Keep a record of all meetings and phone calls including dates and people involved, along with any written communications. Politely informing the school that you are documenting the events lets the school know you are serious.
8. ***Follow the chain of command.***
If you and the teacher are unable to resolve the problem, go to the next link in the chain of command (teacher, Administrator, and then only if all other avenues have been exhausted, to the School Board). Use steps 1 -7 with each person on the chain. If brought to the School Board, approach the President at least one week prior to the next board meeting.
9. ***Consider all your educational options.***
If no acceptable solution is reached after exhausting all of the above steps, look at the educational choices parents/guardians have in your area. Parents/guardians have more choices than ever before, including charter, traditional public, private, and home schooling.
10. ***Never forget, you are responsible for the education of your children.***
You are the only constant influence in your children's education. There is no guarantee any educational system will ensure your children's educational success. Ultimately, it's your responsibility. Don't abdicate that responsibility to your children's school - - delegate and oversee it. Your children's future depends on it.

(Adapted from *Parent Power*, a publication of the Center for Education reform, Washington, D.C., www.edreform.com)

*****Please sign and return the attached copy of the excellence contract and keep one in your handbook for future reference.**

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE CONTRACT

Everyone must be committed to the high expectations and standards of the academy. Parents, students, and teachers must work together to successfully challenge each child to achieve. Each parent, student, and teacher is asked to pledge his/her commitment by signing below:

Parent/Guardian Commitment: *I fully commit to my child's education in the following ways:*

- I understand that my child is enrolled in this school so he/she has opportunities to achieve.
- I realize that the expectations and standards at this school are high, and I agree to support them.
- I understand and agree to be bound by all provisions outlined in the Parent and Student Handbook and acknowledge having read the Parent and Student Handbook by signing below.
- I will monitor my child's attendance, homework completion and read school correspondence/planners.
- I will participate in parent-teacher conferences and volunteer for school activities when possible.
- I understand that my child must behave respectfully and responsibly to protect the safety, interest, and rights of others in the school. I will model appropriate behavior while at the academy.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student's Commitment: *I fully commit to this school in the following ways:*

- I am enrolling in this school because I want to achieve. I will put forth my best effort every single day.
- I agree with the expectations, standards, and requirements of the academy because I have high expectations for myself.
- I understand and agree to follow the Student Code of Conduct and Dress Code in the Parent and Student Handbook.
- I will attend school all day, every day, unless I have an excused absence.
- I will complete my homework, submit it on time, and contact my teacher about any questions.
- I will behave respectfully and responsibly to protect the safety, interests, and rights of others at the academy. I will accept responsibility for my own actions.

Student Signature

Student Printed Name

Date

Teacher/Principal Commitment: *I fully commit to this school in the following ways:*

- I will provide each student opportunities to achieve.
- I realize that the expectations and standards at this school are high, and I agree to support them.
- I understand and agree to enforce all provisions outlined in the Parent and Student Handbook.
- I will communicate with parents on a regular basis via personal contact, planners, or progress reports and will make myself available to students and parents for any concerns they may have.
- I will display integrity and respect to students, parents, and staff members through my words and actions.
- I will protect the safety, interests, and rights of all individuals while at the academy.

Teacher Signature

Teacher Printed Name

Date

Principal Signature

Principal Printed Name

Date