

Everest Point Homeschool Academy (EPHA)

Family Handbook

ERBOCES

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Welcome to Everest Point Homeschool Academy!

At Everest Point, we are dedicated to fostering a safe, respectful, and enriching learning environment where students can grow academically, socially, and emotionally. This handbook outlines our expectations, policies, and procedures to ensure that all students, parents, and staff work together to maintain a positive and productive educational experience.

Mission Statement: At Everest Point Homeschool Academy, our guiding purposes and priorities are centered around fostering academic excellence, character development, and community engagement, ensuring that every student has the tools and support to thrive.

1. **Academic Excellence:** We prioritize delivering a well-rounded, hands-on curriculum that fosters critical thinking, creativity, and practical skills.
2. **Character Development:** We are committed to instilling strong values of responsibility, respect, and gratitude in every student.
3. **Community Engagement:** EPHA values the partnership between parents, teachers, and students to create a strong, supportive learning environment.

Dress Code

Students are expected to dress in a way that reflects respect for themselves, their peers, and their learning environment. The following dress code applies to all students:

- Shirts must cover the midriff, chest, and back. Tank tops must have straps that are at least four fingers wide.
- No undergarments should be visible at any time.
- Shorts, skirts, and dresses must be of an appropriate length, with hems and slits no higher than fingertip-length when arms are at the sides.
- Clothing, accessories, or tattoos displaying or alluding to distasteful images, offensive language, or references to alcohol, tobacco, vaping, controlled substances, sex, or weapons are strictly prohibited.

- Pants must not be low-cut, excessively tight, or expose undergarments.
- No holes, rips, or excessively frayed areas in jeans or any other clothing.
- No sunglasses may be worn indoors.
- Pajamas, slippers, blankets, and costumes are not allowed unless it is a designated Spirit Day.
- Hats may be worn on campus but must be removed for the Pledge of Allegiance. In classrooms, hat-wearing is at the instructor's discretion.
- Hoods may not be worn indoors at any time.

Students who do not follow the dress code may be asked to change into appropriate clothing or call a parent to bring a suitable alternative. Repeated offenses may lead to disciplinary action.

Technology Policy

To create a focused and distraction-free learning environment, Everest Point Homeschool Academy has the following technology guidelines:

- Cell phones, earbuds, and personal electronic devices are not allowed during the school day unless they are being used solely for classroom purposes with explicit permission from a teacher or staff member.
- Devices must remain off and stored away unless directed otherwise by staff.
- Smartwatches with communication capabilities are also not permitted unless approved for classroom use.
- Any unauthorized use of technology will result in consequences, including confiscation of the device and a discussion with parents.
- Students must utilize EPHA's technology appropriately. This includes school computers, internet access, and any other digital resources. Any misuse, including accessing inappropriate content, cyberbullying, or unauthorized downloads, may result in disciplinary action.

We encourage students to be present and engaged in their learning without the distraction of personal electronics. Responsible and ethical use of technology is expected at all times.

Behavioral Expectations

At Everest Point, we hold our students to high standards of behavior to ensure a safe and respectful learning environment. Students are expected to:

- Show respect for teachers, staff, peers, and school property.
- Display integrity and take responsibility for their actions.
- Demonstrate kindness and cooperation in all interactions.
- Follow classroom and school-wide rules and procedures.

Our goal is to guide students toward self-discipline and responsible decision-making through positive reinforcement, open communication, and clear expectations.

Discipline Policy

Discipline is handled in a fair and constructive manner at Everest Point. Expulsion is considered a last resort and requires approval from the BOCES board. The following disciplinary steps will be taken as needed:

1. **Verbal Warning:** A discussion with the student regarding the issue.
2. **Written Warning:** Documentation of the behavior and a meeting with the student. Parents are informed of the situation. The student may also face consequences such as:
 - Loss of privileges
 - Community service
 - A formal apology
3. **Parent Conference:** A meeting with the student, parent/guardian, and staff to develop an action plan. Consequences may include:
 - Detention

- Suspension
 - Community service
4. **BOCES Board Review:** If the behavior continues, a review with the board will take place before any final disciplinary action. Expulsion will be considered after two suspensions.
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Proactive Discipline Approach

At Everest Point Homeschool Academy, we believe that strong relationships between students, teachers, and families help prevent disciplinary issues. Our proactive approach includes:

- **Setting clear behavioral expectations from day one** so students understand what is expected of them.
- **Providing social-emotional learning** to teach students conflict resolution, emotional regulation, and problem-solving skills.
- **Implementing positive reinforcement strategies** to encourage good behavior through praise, recognition, and incentives.

By taking a proactive approach, we aim to create a respectful and cooperative school culture where all students can succeed.

Communication of Disciplinary Expectations

To ensure that students and parents are fully aware of our disciplinary policies, we communicate expectations through multiple channels:

- **Orientation Sessions** at the beginning of each academic year to review rules and procedures.
- **Classroom Expectations** set with each teacher to reinforce school-wide policies.
- **Regular Newsletters and Updates** sent to families to keep them informed.
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences** where student behavior and progress are discussed.

- **The School Website and Digital Platforms** for easy access to school policies.
- **This Family Handbook**, which serves as a reference for all expectations and guidelines.

We encourage open communication between families and staff to support student success.

Attendance Policy

Students must attend a minimum of 90 contact hours each semester to maintain good standing in the course.

Additionally, students are expected to arrive on time for all scheduled classes.

Photography/Media Release:

By enrolling at EPHA, students/parents/guardians grant permission for the school to capture photographs, video, or other media recordings of them during class activities. These materials may be used for educational, promotional, or marketing purposes, including but not limited to websites, social media, brochures, yearbooks, and other publications.

If a student wishes to opt out of media usage, they must submit a written request to the administration before the start of the semester.

Grading Scale

At Everest Point Homeschool Academy, core classes are graded according to the following scale:

- **A:** 93-100%
- **A-:** 90-92%
- **B+:** 87-89%
- **B:** 83-86%

- **B-:** 80-82%
- **C+:** 77-79%
- **C:** 73-76%
- **C-:** 70-72%
- **D+:** 67-69%
- **D:** 63-66%
- **D-:** 60-62%
- **F:** 0-59%

GPA Scale

- **A:** 4.0 (Excellent)
- **A-:** 3.7
- **B+:** 3.3
- **B:** 3.0 (Good)
- **B-:** 2.7
- **C+:** 2.3
- **C:** 2.0 (Average)
- **C-:** 1.7
- **D+:** 1.3
- **D:** 1.0 (Below Average)
- **D-:** 0.7
- **F:** 0.0 (Failing)

Grading policies are designed to ensure fairness and accuracy in assessing student progress. Teachers will provide regular updates on student performance, and parents are encouraged to communicate with instructors regarding academic concerns.

Visitor Policy

Everest Point Homeschool Academy is committed to maintaining a safe and secure learning environment for all students and staff. To ensure campus safety, the following visitor policy is in place:

- All visitors, including parents, guardians, and guests, must check in at the front office upon arrival.
- Visitors will be required to show a valid photo ID, which may be run through a background check before being granted access to campus.
- Visitors will receive a visitor badge that must be worn at all times while on school grounds.
- Any visitor who refuses to provide identification or fails the background check will not be permitted on campus.
- Classroom visits must be pre-approved by the administration and coordinated with the teacher to minimize disruptions to the learning environment.
- Visitors must follow all school rules and conduct themselves appropriately while on campus. Any violations of school policies may result in removal from school grounds.

Sign-Out Policy

- Any student leaving campus during school hours must be signed out at the front office by a parent, guardian, or an approved emergency contact.
- The person signing the student out must present a valid photo ID for verification.
- Students will not be released to anyone who is not listed on their emergency contact form without prior parental consent.
- If a student returns to campus the same day, they must check back in at the front office before going to class.

The safety and well-being of our students is our top priority. We appreciate your cooperation in following these procedures.

Do I need to file Notice of Intent to Homeschool or use an umbrella school?

Yes, parents are responsible for adhering to Colorado Homeschool laws by choosing one of the following paths of reporting hours and grades:

- File a Notice of Intent to Homeschool with any school district of your choice
- Use an independent(umbrella) school of your choice
- Maintain a teaching license

EPHA recommends filing a NOI with Woodland Park School District as they are incredibly homeschool friendly; except in the case of high school sports participation, where CHSAA rules must be followed.

Final Note

By enrolling at Everest Point Homeschool Academy, students and parents agree to follow the policies outlined in this handbook. Our goal is to provide a safe, respectful, and engaging educational experience for all students. **Thank you for being a valued part of our learning community!**

Acknowledgment:

Parents and students will be required to sign an acknowledgment form stating they have read and understand the policies in this handbook.