



SUMMARY OF UPDATED POLICIES IN THE 2017–18 PARENT HANDBOOK

Following is a summary of updated policies contained in the 2017–18 Parent Handbook. The complete version of the Parent Handbook can be found online at the Veracross Parent Portal and also linked on the school’s website.

1. **Section 9.7(b), “Formal Discipline in Grades 3–12”** has been modified to require that in cases when a teacher feels that formal discipline (an infraction) may be necessary, the teacher should wait until at least the end of the school day to make and announce the teacher’s decision to a student about formal discipline. Guidance is provided to teachers for constructive and immediate intervention techniques short of formal discipline to correct behavior in the meantime, giving the teacher time to counsel with parents and administrators in advance about the circumstances, and receive feedback about the appropriateness of formal discipline prior to its issuance.
2. **Sections 14.1 and 14.2, “Homework Philosophy” and “Homework Expectations”** have been significantly updated, including with the addition of a new section entitled **“Criteria for Meaningful Homework”** to emphasize Board and administrative guidance regarding the importance of helping students and families to strike a positive and successful balance between schoolwork and other important family priorities.
3. **Section 21.8, “Food, Drink, Treats, and Gum”** has been updated to clarify circumstances under which food and drink are permitted, as well as to encourage certain specific types of food and drink, including healthy alternatives to sweets. Among other clarifications, “We strongly encourage water instead of sodas and juices” and “given the frequency of classroom and program celebrations in school settings, including birthdays on an almost daily basis, we encourage teachers and parents to be judicious about the frequency of sweets and sugary drinks in the classroom, and to please consider healthier alternatives whenever possible and appropriate.”
4. **Section 26.12, “Math: Remedial Placement”** has been updated to clarify that in consultation with the math teacher and parent, a student whose average of math test scores for the year is 80% or higher may be advanced to the next math level even if the student’s average overall math grade (including homework) is less than 80%.
5. **Section 12, “School Uniform Policy,”** has been updated to reflect the Uniform Committee’s decisions as follows:

General Uniform Modifications (Grades K-12)

- Skirts, shifts, jumpers, and skorts on girls and young women should be modest in length and fit. The minimum length should allow for the skirt to naturally fall *below the kneecap*.

American Heritage School
Summary of Updated Policies
2017–18 School Year

Boys' and Girls' Mon–Thursday Uniform Grades K–8 Uniform Modifications

- We have added an option for the Dennis red “performance” polo, which is made of a weave and fabric that is designed for more physical activity than the traditional polo.

Boys' and Girls' Mon–Thursday Uniform Grades 9–12 Uniform Modifications

- We have added an option for the Dennis red, navy, and green “performance” polo, which is made of a weave and fabric that is designed for more physical activity than the traditional polo.