



2016 - 2017

AST

Parent Handbook

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Mission

The American School is a student-centered, college-preparatory institution that fosters globally – responsible citizen and leaders by offering a rigorous, international education which promotes core values in a safe, innovative and collaborative

Vision

To be the leading, innovative educational institution that prepares responsible global citizens, leaders and life-long learners.

AST Student Attributes



*Adopted from the IBO's Learner Profile



Introduction

The American School is a private, non-denominational, non-profit, experimental-type college-preparatory school sponsored by The Interamerican Educational Society of Tegucigalpa (S.E.I.T.). The School is fully accredited by the Honduran Ministry of Education, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools – Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI), and the International Baccalaureate Organization (I.B.O.). The School is a member of the College Board, the Association of American Schools in Central America (A.A.S.C.A.), the Association of American Schools of South America (A.A.S.S.A) and the Association of Bilingual Schools of Honduras (A.B.S.H.). Instruction is primarily in English, except in such courses as Spanish language and Honduran social studies.

S.E.I.T. is an organization formed by parents who have children at the American School. The governing body is the Parents' General Assembly, which elects a Board of Directors from the parents. The Board of Directors sets policies and the philosophical framework within which the school operates. Each member is elected for two years in his/her position. The Board of Directors names a superintendent to serve as head of school.

S.A.C.S. C.A.S.I. is an association located in Decatur, Georgia, U.S.A., which accredits public and private schools in eleven southern states and several Latin American countries. The American School follows the S.A.C.S. C.A.S.I. American-International School Standards required for an overseas American education.

Notice

This Handbook does not in itself include all pertinent rules and regulations. The superintendent and principals of the school will use discretion in the handling of every individual case.

The American School is affiliated with the following associations:

- The Southern Assn. of Colleges and Schools - Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (S.A.C.S. C.A.S.I.)
- The Honduran Ministry of Education
- The International Baccalaureate Organization (I.B.O.)
- The Association of American Schools of Central America (A.A.S.C.A.)
- The Association of American Schools of South America (A.A.S.S.A.)
- The Association of Bilingual Schools of Honduras (A.B.S.H.)
- The Inter-Regional Center for Curriculum and Materials Development (I.R.C.)
- The Association for the Advancement of International Education (A.A.I.E.)

I. ACADEMICS



Middle School Faculty & Administration

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Middle School Program of Study

The Middle School course offerings follow the middle-school model, including a character education program, age-appropriate methodology, and schedules, faculty, and facilities exclusively designated for the Middle School. Sixth grade is traditionally considered the culminating year of primary school in Honduras and, therefore, concludes with a sixth-grade graduation ceremony. The seventh- and eighth-grade school years fulfill requirements established by the Honduran Ministry of Education “Ciclo Común” Curriculum. Additionally, the school-wide (N-12) curriculum of the American School is aligned with and fulfills U.S. national standards in all academic areas.

Sixth Grade

Language Arts

Spanish

Mathematics

General Science

Social Studies

Art & Computer (one semester)

Library & Music & P.E. (one semester)

Special Elective Activity

Seventh Grade

English

Spanish

Social Studies

Mathematics

Life Science

Computerized Art & Music (one semester)

Civics & P.E. (one semester)

Special Elective Activity

Eighth Grade

English

Spanish

Mathematics

Earth Science

Social Studies

Art & Computer & Music (one semester)

P.E. & Civics (one semester)

Special Elective Activity

High School Program of Study

The American School offers students the opportunity to earn a total of three diplomas upon completion of their high school careers, the American School of Tegucigalpa High School diploma, the Honduran Bachillerato, and the International Baccalaureate (I.B.) diploma. All students are understood to be working towards earning the High School diploma. Nearly all students annually earn the Honduran Bachillerato as well. Select students may qualify to earn the International Baccalaureate (I.B.) diploma in eleventh and twelfth grades.

Unless otherwise designated, all of the following courses are required to earn the American School High School diploma. In the case of new and/or transient international students, individual programs of study will be developed in order to best meet the individual needs of each student:

Ninth Grade

Ninth-Grade English
Ninth-Grade Spanish
World Civilization I
Mathematics
Physical Science
Civics (one semester)/Computer Science (one semester)
Music or Band (one semester)/Art I (one semester)
P.E. (one semester)/Health (one semester)

Tenth Grade

Tenth-Grade English
Tenth-Grade Spanish
World Civilization II
Mathematics
Biology I
Psychology I (one semester)/Historia de Honduras (one semester)
Statistics (one semester)/P.E. (one semester)
Music or Band (one semester)/Art II (one semester)

Eleventh Grade

Eleventh-Grade English or I.B. English (Higher Level)
Eleventh-Grade Spanish or I.B. Spanish (Higher Level)
History of the Americas or I.B. History of the Americas (Higher Level)
Math (See "High School Math Options" below.)
Chemistry I
Biology II or I.B. Biology (Standard Level)
Psychology II or I.B. Psychology (SL) or I.B. Studio Art (SL) or French AbInitio SL (11th grade)
P.E. (one semester)/Theory of Knowledge (I.B.) (one semester)

Twelfth Grade

Twelfth-Grade English or I.B. English (Higher Level)

Twelfth-Grade Spanish or I.B. English (Higher Level)

History of the Americas or I.B. History of the Americas (Higher Level)

Math (See “High School Math Options” below.)

Physics

Theory of Knowledge (I.B.) (one semester)/ Chemistry II (one semester)

Economics (one semester)/Sociology (one semester)

Elective (one semester)/Elective (one semester) or I.B. Studio Art II or IB French AbInitio II

Semester-long electives:

Yearbook/Journalism

Multicultural Literature

Jazz

College Prep

College Survival

Computer/Robotics

High School Math Options

AST offers three IB Math options: IB Math Studies SL, IB Math SL, or IB Math HL. To be able to qualify for the latter the students will take a summer long course of Pre-Calculus after their junior year. For those students not taking IB level math courses, they will take the standard 11th and 12th grade Math which is a Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus course.

The American School

International Baccalaureate (I.B.) Program



The International Baccalaureate (I.B.) program is a challenging pre-university course of studies that meets the needs of motivated high-school students. Founded in 1963 to offer students the opportunity to earn an internationally recognized and respected college-preparatory degree, the International Baccalaureate program and its prestigious diploma are now seen worldwide as one of the highest indicators of preparation for success in university. Only schools officially authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization (I.B.O.) headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, may offer the I.B. Diploma Program and present candidates for examination. Of the over 1100 participating schools in more than 100 countries, about one-third are located in the United States, Canada or the Caribbean, and one-third in the Africa/Europe/Middle East region.

With its reputation for rigorous assessment and thorough intercultural curriculum, students who have studied in I.B. programs have significantly increased opportunities for admission and success in the most competitive and demanding universities around the world.

The I.B. Program in the A.S.T. High School is a well-established and very successful one. In recent years, some two-thirds of graduating seniors have participated in the program, and 75% to 80% of the I.B. diploma candidates have earned the esteemed diploma.

Requirements for acceptance into IB courses

- 1. English (Language and Literature) - minimum of 88% average for 10th grade English and teacher recommendation based on MAPs scores and observations**
- 2. Spanish (Lingua y Litura) - minimum of 88% average for 10th grade Spanish and teacher recommendation**
- 3. French ab initio - must be passing 10th grade Spanish and English with at least an 85% in both of those classes**
- 4. History - minimum of 88% average in 10th grade World Civilization and a proficient level on the 10th grade historical investigation**
- 5. Psychology - 88% for 10th grade Psychology and a test average of 85% in 10th grade Psychology**
- 6. Biology - minimum of 88% average on the year in 10th grade Biology and a semester exam average of 85%**
- 7. Chemistry - minimum of 88% average on the year in 10th grade Biology, no semester grade lower than 85%, and is also accepted into (and taking) IB Math SL**
- 8. Math SL - minimum of 88% average in 10th grade math and teacher recommendations based on MAP scores and observation**
- 9. Math Studies - minimum of 80% average in 10th grade math and teacher recommendations based on MAP scores and observation**
- 10. Art - 88% in both 9th and 10th grade Art and teacher recommendation, attendance to the end-of-the-year (10th grade) IB Art meeting, and completion of summer IB Art assignments**

Requirements to maintain your IB Candidate Status

Effective the 2014-2015 School year:

In order to maintain IB status, you will be expected to earn an 83% minimum average in any IB class for the entire 11th grade year. Failure to earn an 83% or above will result in your losing IB status in that class for both 11th and 12th grades (except in the case of Biology and Psychology which end in 11th). In 12th grade you will be expected to maintain an 83% average as well but your compliance will be reviewed on a quarterly basis. Failure to maintain this average for two quarters in a row will result in your losing IB status in that course and, depending on the time of year, may mean that you will need to reimburse IB fees to the school.

You will need to adhere to the AST attendance policy. Failure to do so may result in your being removed from the IB class(es) in which the breach has occurred.

Academic integrity is another important requirement for IB eligibility. Students who commit intentional or unintentional acts of plagiarism or cheating may lose IB status in a course. All students are required to sign declarations of originality for assignments submitted for IB assessment. Failure to sign a declaration will result in forfeiture of IB status in that class. On the other hand, a student who signs that their work is original when it is not, faces the prospect of a malpractice investigation conducted by the International Baccalaureate Organization.

Every IB class has certain required internal and/or external assessments and examinations that you must successfully complete and submit on-time. Be careful to keep track of the requirements and guidelines regarding these assessments. Failure to submit an assessment or attend an examination results in a loss of IB status in that class.

In order for you to be an IB certificate candidate, registration fees are paid on your behalf, one for your general candidacy, and another for each IB class you enroll in. Once the IBO deadline for withdrawing or changing your status in the program (November 15th) has passed, if you lose IB status in a class for any reason, you will be required to reimburse any fees paid to IBO by the school on your behalf.

If you have any questions about the policies described here or any other policies that relate to you as an IB student, please contact me. I am happy to help clarify them for you. This is best done early on, to avoid misunderstandings that could lead to your removal from the program.

**For more information on the AST IB Program, please visit the
“IB Program at AST Google Site.”**

Senior Internship Program

General Information

The Senior Internship Program is an opportunity for seniors to participate in various types of work and service projects in the local area, during the final three weeks of their senior year. To participate is considered a privilege; it is not a right. Students must qualify for participation based on eligibility criteria stipulated below. For participating students, classes end three weeks prior to the week that would normally be scheduled for twelfth-grade second semester final exams. This normally will correspond to the scheduled time of I.B. exams, annually being approximately the month of May. Each participating student spends these remaining three weeks of school as an intern in an organization that works in the field that student anticipates studying in university.

The internship period usually takes place the last three weeks of school.

Eligibility:

All seniors in good academic and disciplinary standing, except full I.B. diploma candidates, qualify to participate in the internship program.

Good academic standing is defined as having passing averages in **all courses** for the year by the end of the Third Quarter and holding a minimum grade point average for twelfth grade of 80% by the time of the end of the Third Quarter. This average will be determined by adding the average of the first three quarters. Twelfth-grade students who are academically deficient in one or more courses or who have grade point averages for the twelfth grade below this minimum average are subject to being denied participation in the Senior Internship Program. Such students would then be required to attend school as usual throughout the internship period, prepare to take and sit for all second semester final exams in all of their courses, and, if necessary, prepare for and possibly take any recuperation exam or exams.

Good disciplinary standing is determined by the administration. However, a student who has what is deemed to be a significant disciplinary record, which would normally include any suspensions, and two or more detentions will be subject to being denied participation in the Senior Internship Program.

Punctuality and attendance is an important criteria for participation. If a student has missed a considerable number of school days, or is chronically tardy will be denied participation.

Requirements of Participation

- The internship must be in an area of interest to the senior, an area that he or she anticipates studying in university. It cannot be simply a job. Payment, salary, or any form of compensation is strictly prohibited.
- During their internship, students are expected to be engaged in activities that will be better educate them about their potential fields of university study and the career they will potentially pursue. They should not be engaged in tasks that are not conducive to this end nor should they spend their internships in fields that do not require university-level study. Operating a cash register, for example, would neither qualify as an internship assignment nor as a temporary internship activity.

Senior Internship Program (continued)

- Serving in an internship with a business or operation of any type that is owned or operated by one's own immediate or extended family is strictly prohibited. For example, it would not be permitted for a senior wishing to study business in university to serve an internship in his or her family's local business. A senior wishing to study medicine would not be permitted to serve an internship in his or her parent's medical office.
- Interns are required to be present at their internship sites and in the vicinity of their internship supervisors for a minimum of at least seven hours per day.
- Interns may only be absent from their internships in order to take I.B. exams. All other absences for any reason, to include illness, must be made up. If an intern fails to report an absence to his/her on-site supervisor and faculty adviser before the work day has begun, this privilege will be revoked and he/she will return to class and finish the school year.
- Interns must sign an attendance sheet held by their internship supervisor upon arrival and just prior to leaving each day.
- Each intern will have a faculty member assigned as his or her internship faculty adviser, who will guide the student and receive his or her written log and concluding paper. The faculty adviser will also verify one's participation through frequent communication with one's onsite internship supervisor and periodic onsite visits.
- Interns are required to read a pre-approved book of significance regarding their chosen field of internship. The contents and conclusions of this book will be addressed in the final internship paper.

Interns are required to maintain an extensive log of their daily activities, which will become the basis of a final paper that will be presented to internship faculty adviser at the conclusion of the program. The specific requirements of this paper will be disseminated in pre-internship orientation sessions. Nevertheless, the basic content of this paper will explain the student's original university and career goals, describe the internship experience, provide a summary of the content and his or her reactions to the book or books read, and conclude with how the internship experience has affected his or her university and career goals

Nonparticipation

- Twelfth-grade students who are full I.B. Diploma candidates are not required to participate in the Senior Internship Program, attend classes after the last Friday of April, nor take any Second Semester final exams. Because of their commitment to take and attend review sessions prior to at least four two-day I.B. external assessments, participation in the Senior Internship Program on the part of full I.B. Diploma candidates is not feasible.
- Twelfth-grade students who are not full I.B. Diploma candidates may elect not to participate in the Senior Internship Program. However, such students will be required to report to school daily throughout the period of the internship, throughout normal school hours and take Second Semester final exams in all courses .
- Interns who for any reason are determined to have to be removed by the school administration from the Senior Internship Program will be required to report to school daily throughout the period of the internship, throughout normal school hours and take Second Semester final exams in all courses.

Semester Exams

In the High School, comprehensive final exams are required in all subjects at the end of each semester. Final grades in year-long courses are determined by averaging the four final quarter grades, each counting 25% of the final grade for the year. The first semester final exam in each subject will count 20% of the second quarter final grade, and the second semester final exam will count 20% of the fourth quarter final grade in each subject. In rare cases, an alternative form of assessment may be used in place of a semester final. An example of this would be a project submitted in art in lieu of the final exam. This alternative form of assessment would nevertheless count 20% of the final grade for its respective quarter. As semester exams are comprehensive, it is required that they cover the entire semester curriculum in each course.

Semester exams are scheduled to last 90 minutes each, with students taking no more than two per day. On the days of final exams, students are only required to be at school during their exams. Students are required to remain in the classroom where each exam takes place throughout the ninety-minute period, even if they finish early. Therefore, students should arrive at each final exam prepared to read or study if they finish early.

PLEASE NOTE: As the semester exams weeks are scheduled for the last week of each semester, parents and students are expected to plan any trips after the last day of school of each semester. As of August 2013, only OFFICIAL MEDICAL CERTIFICATES will be admitted as excused to re-schedule any semester exam. Hence, any non-medical absence during semester exams week will result in the forfeit of the exam(s).

Academic Distinctions and Awards

Honor Roll and High Honor Roll

High Honor Roll and Honor Roll are posted at the end of each academic quarter. Awards ceremonies take place at the end of the first, second, and third quarters, primarily to recognize those students who have earned these two academic distinctions. Students qualify for these two honor rolls by earning the following quarterly averages and by exhibiting character and behavior in keeping with the standards of the American School:

High Honor Roll: quarterly average of at least 96.5%

Honor Roll: quarterly average of between 92.5% - 96.4%

Valedictorian and Salutatorian (Board Policy 7.61)

Valedictorian

The Valedictorian is the senior with the highest academic average during grades 9-12. At least three of these years must have been completed at the American School. To calculate the academic average, the final numerical grade in each course must be multiplied by the number of credit each course is worth. The results is to be called academic points. The sum of all the academic points must then be divided by the total number of credits. This will produce the academic average.

Salutatorian

The salutatorian is the senior with the second highest academic average during grades 9-12. At least three of these years must have been completed at the American School. The academic average will be derived using the formula described above.



Field Trips

Fieldtrips serve to support the written curriculum and the mission of the school. While it is hoped that the students find them a fun alternative to the classroom, their principal purpose is never simply to entertain. Field trips are planned by teachers as an extension of the classroom experience. When attending field trips, students are provided with a variety of instructional activities and participate in evaluation and review after the trip.

Students are required to attend field trips; they are not optional. Missing a field trip without an accepted excuse will be considered an unexcused absence, and, therefore, work missed during the field trip can not be made up. Examples of the few circumstances that might result in a student being excused from a field trip include illness or serious security risks.

Students who fail to turn in their signed permission forms on time will not be allowed to attend and will receive an unexcused absence. Aside from the duty of the school to teach students responsibility, another reason for this practice is that the activities coordinator must have time to conclude all logistical arrangements. Therefore, all permission slips should be returned no more than 10 days prior to the scheduled field trip date.

Normally, at least one chaperone per ten students will be assigned in any school-sponsored trip off campus. While in assigned locations, such as the hotel, the mall, another school, chaperones may allow students to leave their direct eye-sight supervision as long as they are assigned in pairs.

Mid-Quarter Grades & Report Cards

The school year is divided into four grading periods or quarters. Mid-Quarter grades will be posted on Power School four times per year at the mid-point of each quarter and whenever the teacher feels it necessary to inform the student of academic deficiencies or improvements. Students WILL not be issued these reports directly, they should be checking their grades periodically especially on the dates of the chart below. Report cards will be issued as hard copies. Students with outstanding debts, overdue library books or other incomplete or unfinished school matters will not receive their report cards or take final exams until they secure clearance.

As of August 2013, and following the Ministry of Education policy #0700-SE-2013 of May 17 of 2013, the passing grade for any subject is a 70%. Any student unable to achieve such a grade will be considered as failing the course.

Progress Reports and Report Cards will be available on the following dates, with grades adhering to the following scale:

Quarter	Mid-Quarter Grades	Quarter Ends	Report Cards
1	Sept. 09	Oct. 9	Week of Oct. 19
2	Nov. 13	Dec. 18	Week of Jan. 18
3	Feb. 5	Mar. 11	Week of Mar. 14
4	April 21	May 27	Week of June 6

Grade	Percent
A	93-100
B	92-85
C	84-78
D	77-70
F	0-69

Citizenship Description

The following description pertains to the criteria used to assess citizenship and behavior in the Middle School and High School report cards:

Unsatisfactory (U)	Satisfactory (S)	Excellent (E)
<p>Repeated incidence of any of the following behaviors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disruptive in class. Failure to come prepared for class (includes materials and homework). Failure to follow class and school rules. Impolite to teachers and/or peers. Failure to take responsibility for own actions. Side conversations. Asking questions unrelated to class material. Offering excessive excuses for inappropriate behavior. Inappropriate use of second language (English or Spanish). Cheating or copying on tests and homework. Tardiness and/or absenteeism. Inattentive or self-absorbed behavior. 	<p>Occasional incidence of unsatisfactory behaviors and consistent display of ALL the following behaviors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Politeness to other students and teachers. Punctuality Prepared for class Seeks out and does make-up work. 	<p>Consistent display of the following behavior:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active and positive contribution to class activities. Encourages peers to their best performance and behavior. Shows extra effort in class work. Displays self-discipline in academic and personal responsibilities.

Leveling Assessments

As required by Honduran law, a student who fails a subject necessary for obtaining the Honduran Baccalaureate for the I Quarter and /or III Quarter will be given feedback and a chance to make up some points to achieve a passing grade of 70%. The maximum point that a student can earn to achieve that 70% are 20. Each course may have a different way of assessing the missing information, hence leveling assessments vary across the curriculum. Leveling assessments will take place during the first three weeks after report cards have been distributed.

Recuperation Exams

As required by Honduran law, a student who fails a subject necessary for obtaining the Honduran Baccalaureate for the semester or the year, has the right to take a recuperation exam to demonstrate a minimum degree of mastery of the objectives of the entire course, even though the student may have passed certain quarters. Recuperation exams are normally administered in late January (for First Semester course) early June (for Second Semester courses) and early August for the ones that failed the year. **As of August 2013, and following the Ministry of Education policy #0700-SE-2013 of May 17 of 2013, the passing grade for any subject is a 70%. Any student unable to achieve such a grade will be considered as failing the course.** Hence, seventy percent (70%) is considered a passing grade on recuperation exams as well. For all recuperation exams, a recuperation study guide will be provided, indicating all areas to be covered on the exam.

Students taking recuperation exams will not be informed of their results on these exams until all scheduled recuperation exams in all subjects have been completed and the results have been reviewed by the Division Principal..

Academic Deficiency Policy (Grades 4—12)

Conforming to Board policy 8.504, the policy of the American School concerning students who are academically deficient states that students who fail one or more courses for the year or the semester, in the case of semester-long courses, are placed on academic probation for the following school year. After spending a school year on academic probation, students who again fail one or more courses are subject to being denied re-enrollment to the school for the following school year, regardless of the results of their recuperation exams. Whether on academic probation or not, students who earn grade point averages of below 75% for the school year are likewise subject to being denied re-enrollment for the following school year. Decisions concerning the denial of re-enrollment of a student are made in the best interest of the student and the school by the administration in consultation with the faculty and counseling staff.

Only one failed course made be repeated the following school year. Therefore, students who have two or more failing grades for the school year that have not been remediated either by repeating the course or through recuperation exams are subject to being denied promotion to the succeeding grade. Such students must either repeat the grade with approval from the administration or be denied re-enrollment for the following school year. Students who need to repeat a school year may do so only with the approval of the administration, and those who need to repeat more than one school year are subject to being denied re-enrollment for the following school year.

High School Alternate Academic Program

An important academic component for select students is the annual A.S.T. Alternate Academic Program. Although courses may vary annually, the four courses below are generally offered each year. Students who qualify for these courses should make their plans for June and July accordingly.

As alternate school courses are very intensive, attendance at every class period is extremely important. Spending just six weeks in a what is normally a year-long course, each class period equals what would normally be taught in a week during the regular school year. Understanding this and in accordance with the requirements for attendance of S.A.C.S., the school's accrediting agency in the United States, students may not be absent from a summer school course **more than two days in the case of a year-long course and more than one day in the case of a semester-long course**. This policy is indifferent to whether the student's absence(s) is excused or unexcused. Therefore, even for medical reasons, family emergencies, or any other reason that would normally excuse an absence, a student who exceeds the allowed number of absences is subject to being dis-enrolled from the course without financial reimbursement and not receive credit.

Likewise due to the intensive nature of alternate courses, it is vitally important that students arrive to class on time. Five arrivals late to class are considered to be equivalent to missing one day of class and may result in a student's dis-enrollment from the course.

Conceptual Physics & Conceptual Chemistry

Conceptual Chemistry is designed for students entering eleventh grade, and Conceptual Physics is for students entering twelfth grade. They both are designed for and limited to students who have long records of pronounced difficulty in math and/or science. By taking these courses during the summer school program, these students are able to study these challenging and required courses in small group settings and with a curricula that include a greater emphasis on theory and less on math. Students who successfully complete these courses then carry one less class than their other classmates during the following school years, which makes eleventh and/or twelfth grades more academically manageable.

Statistics

This course is designed for students entering tenth grade next school year and who have long records of pronounced difficulty in math. By taking Statistics during the summer school program, these students are able to study this challenging and required course in a small group setting with more personalized attention. Students who successfully complete the course then carry one less class than their other classmates during one semester of tenth grade, which makes their sophomore much more academically manageable.

Calculus

This is prerequisite course for those students who are particularly talented in math and who aspire to take I.B. Higher Level Math in twelfth grade. Normally these students also intend to later study engineering or some other math-related field in university. This course is only open to students who will enter twelfth grade next school year. Due to the extremely demanding nature of this course and its succeeding two courses of I.B. Math (HL), it is recommended that only students who meet the following criteria enroll in Pre-calculus:

- Have successfully completed all math courses up to grade 10 and IB Math SL in grade 11
- Have a combined average in all previous high-school-level math courses, of at least 90.
- Have a score of at least 40 on the math portion of the P.S.A.T.
- Be recommended for admission to Calculus by the teacher of one's last math course.

American School Standards for the Mechanics of Writing

Introductory Note: The standards and expectations for formal writing below are largely taken from the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, and what follows builds upon and complements previous standards for all written works in both English and Spanish at The American School.

Some Basics

Fonts

- 1) Font size for the main body of all text should be 12 point.
- 2) Though students often like to play with different fonts, for formal writing, especially writing to be sent to the International Baccalaureate Organization (I.B.O.), the fonts must be appropriate to the task. Roman times and courier are two fonts appropriate for formal writing.

Length of Work

Student writing is measured in words, not in pages. Four-thousand words is about ten pages typed and double spaced in 12 font; 1500 words is about two and half such pages.

Line Spacing

Formal writing, especially writing that needs to be graded by teachers or IB examiners, should be double spaced. This makes it easier to read and provides white-space for teacher/examiners to make comments within the text.

Underlining (Including online sources)

- 1) Titles of plays, books, poems published as books, magazines, newspapers, films, television programs, ballets, long musical compositions, compact discs, cassettes, records, operas, paintings, sculptures, and pamphlets, must all be underlined.
- 2) When citing or referring to works from online, the writer should underline the scholarly project or database name. Professional or personal site names should also be underlined.
- 3) Exceptions to the above rules are: The Bible, Old Testament, Genesis, Gospels, Talmud, Koran, and the Upanishads. These works should be treated like any other book, however, in the works-cited list and bibliography.
- 4) Additional exceptions are: Laws, Acts, and Similar Political Documents. Some examples are: Magna Carta, Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, and Treaty of Trianon.

Quoting and Use of Quotation Marks (Including Online Sources)

1. Quotation marks should be used to indicate the beginning and end of a character's speech in prose fiction.
2. Quotation marks should be used in formal writing to indicate when words, phrases or passages are taken from another person or source.
3. Quotation marks are to be used to indicate the titles of short works of poetry, titles of magazines or journal articles, short plays (one act), short stories, articles found online, and titles of songs.

American School Standards for the Mechanics of Writing

4. Quotations of passages of three or more lines should not be put in quotation marks, but a line should be skipped before and after the quotation and it should be indented to separate it from the rest of the text. Parenthetical notation should also be used to indicate the page on which the quotation can be found. The following example comes from the opening two sentences of an essay.

Joyce's startling opening to A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

Once upon a time and a very good time it was there was a moocow that was coming down along the road and this moocow that was coming down along the road met a nicens little boy named baby tuckoo (3)

often jars the readers senses as it places the reader in the mind set of a child. Faulkner found this technique so startling that he imitated when he decided to portray the thought processes of a mentally disabled person in his book The Sound and the Fury.

Contractions and Formal Writing

A contraction is when two words are joined by an apostrophe. Examples are: haven't, you're, and I'll. Contractions should not be used in formal writing. The only exception to this is when quoting another source that uses contractions.

Sources Cited in the Body of the Paper

Parenthetical Notation

The form of source citation currently accepted at the American School is the parenthetical citation in the body of the paper. This form has taken the place of endnotes (used for larger works that contain many chapters so as to prevent any interruption of the flow of the text) and footnotes (which are used for explanatory notes that are not part of the main body of a paper). The parenthetical citation provides a simplified yet effective method of crediting sources properly. Below are examples of parenthetical citation and the different ways it changes to accommodate the more complex issues of citation.

Citation for Papers with One Source

According to Madge Poulson, "the most important factor involved in determining the correct amount of water to give a Venus Flytrap is the amount of flies eaten by the plant in one-week" (958).

Citation for Papers with more than One Source

When citing more than one work in a paper it is necessary to include the authors name in the citation to make clear which work you are referring to:

There is a sharp contrast between the Kurtz's statement, "The horror! The horror!" (Conrad 153) and Hamlet's statement, "The readiness is all!" (Shakespeare 67).

American School Standards for the Mechanics of Writing

Citations for Internet Sources

Use the same practice as above, however, what is more important is to be sure the Works Cited and or Bibliography pages include the complete internet address of the site from which the source was obtained. To be sure this done properly, a basic guide is given explaining the steps that need to be taken for this under the heading Sources Cited at the end of the paper that appears hereafter. A more thorough and authoritative source can be found in the school library, and that is the 1999 Publication of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. Because of the various types of sources that can be found on the internet, we do not provide a generic example here. Neither do we wish to provide more than we have in that section because of the rapidly changing practices for what is accepted as a conventional approach to these citations.

The Difference Between Bibliography and Sources Cited Pages

A sources cited page serves as a limited Bibliography. It is a list of only those sources which are directly quoted or cited in paper, and very often it is also used as key to how each work will be cited. The Bibliography, by contrast includes works that have informed the thinking of the paper, but that may not be quoted from or directly cited in the paper itself.

More on Mechanics and Style in Formal Writing

Foreign Words

- 1) Foreign words in quotations must be reproduced with all accents and other marks as they would appear in the original language. If the writer does not have a keyboard or typewriter that includes these accents and symbols, the writer should add these markings by hand.
- 2) Foreign words included outside of quotations must also be reproduced faithfully to the original language, and should be italicized to indicate that they are from another language.
- 3) If the paper or essay in which foreign words appear is handwritten, it is acceptable to substitute underlining for italics.

Numbers

- 1) In non-scientific or mathematical papers, use of numerals should be avoided. It is okay to use numerals for fractions, decimals, and large numbers. But other numbers should be written in letters. Numerals should not appear at the beginning of sentences.
- 2) Other instances that numerals are acceptable in non-scientific or mathematical papers are in reference to weight, height, time, percentages, money, dates, and page numbers.
- 3) For large numbers it is acceptable to use a combination of numerals and words:
6.5 million.
- 4) Related numbers must be expressed in the same style:

8 of the 120 board members between 1 million and 2.5 billion approximately 50 motorcycles and 25 cars

II ACTIVITIES

The American School offers a wide variety of co- and extra-curricular activities, as well as a strong and varied athletic program. These various activities offer students venues for meeting friends, involving themselves more in the life of the school and its community, and in general enriching their school experience.

Although students are encouraged to take advantage of these various opportunities, they are also urged to make careful choices and serious commitments regarding activities and athletics. Many require time commitments, and some at times may even require students to miss class to attend special events. Careful consideration should be made as to what effects this will have on one's overall attendance and academic performance, as participation does not excuse students from fulfilling their academic obligations. Additionally, once having joined an activity, students are expected to honor their commitment to the organization and its members and regularly attend and contribute to meetings, practices, events, etc.

The following are descriptions of most of the various co- and extracurricular activities offered in the Middle School and/or the High School

BENCALETH

BENCALETH is a social service club composed of students in grades 10-12 who join in solidarity with the boys and girls of the BENCALETH children's home. The young residents of this home suffer from muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, or mental retardation. The members of the BENCALETH Club provide basic supplies of food, medicine, cleaning materials, personal hygiene items, etc. Members strive to live up to their club's motto, "It matters not how long one's life lasts rather the manner in which one lives it."

The Bible Study Club

The purpose of this interdenominational Christian club is to study the word of God and worship Him in fellowship with other students. They also pray for one another. The club is also involved in community activities, such as visiting sick children at the Hospital Escuela. Four visits are made during the school year, during which the club members donate food, refreshments, and toys. Most importantly, though, members of the Bible Study Club pray together for their health and lives.

Casitas Kennedy Club

This is a club that provides assistance to abandoned children, including babies, street children, and adolescents. The club members visit them after school hours on a quarterly basis. They share happy moments together, breaking piñatas and handing out toys and other goodies. Members of the Casitas Kennedy Club take this opportunity to play and sing with these unprivileged children, while teaching them manners and setting a positive example for them. As poverty is an unfortunate reality of Honduras, Casitas Kennedy Club serves as a way for our student to get in touch with and assist the less fortunate of this country.

Some of the many activities offered in the Middle and High Schools:

Band
Basketball
Bencaleth
Casitas Kennedy
Cheerleading
Extiende Tu Mano
Drama/Cinema Club
Habitat for Humanity Club
Hope Club
International Club
Junior State of America
Magazine (Kaleidoscope)
Model United Nations (M.U.N.)
National Honor Society
National Junior Honor Society
Operation Smile
Presidential Classroom
Recycling "Go-Green" Club
Soccer
Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica
Student Council
Volleyball
Yearbook (Eagles)

Eagles

Eagles is the A.S.T. annual or yearbook. Its staff serves as a club dedicated to recording the year's most important events and activities, together with a special account of the graduating seniors. A class-by-class record is provided, including all school areas and faculty. The yearbook allows students to practice photography, layout design, and sales, as well as reinforces computer skills, with every page being submitted to the publisher online.

The Extiende Tu Mano Club

This voluntary social service organization serves to help the elderly of Honduras in nursing homes. The club's principal purpose is to serve these people by lighting up their days and trying to fulfill their basic needs. The benefits the members of the club receive include seeing the smiles and feeling the joy in the hearts and souls of these needy senior citizens. Extiende Tu Mano normally meets once a week during lunch.

Habitat for Humanity Club

Habitat for Humanity is an international Christian organization based in the United States that works to help provide basic decent housing to impoverished families around the world. The Habitat for Humanity Club is a student social service organization dedicated to helping in this noble effort. Student members and teacher volunteers spend some number of Saturdays per school year working on building sites helping families construct their homes. Because of age restriction with Habitat for Humanity International, this club is open only to eleventh- and twelfth-grade students.

The Hope Club

As the name implies, the Hope Club serves to shine a ray of hope to children in need. In partnership with the Hope Center in Valle de Angeles, the club gives hope to children deprived of the most basic needs, providing food, diapers, and the reassurance that somebody cares for them. The Hope Club feels that by helping children in distressed situations, we give a helping hand to the future of Honduras. Members of the Hope Club visit the Hope Center every two months, spending time with the children and carrying out activities that will make them realize how much we care.

Junior State of America

Sponsored Founded in 1934, J.S.A. is a non-partisan student-run organization that serves to expose students to a wide variety of civic areas. In particpar, J.S. A. focuses on debate and experiencing firsthand the legislative process. members in the American School chapter will normally have the opportunity to travel annually to one of the several J.S.A. conferences offered in the U.S. each year.

Kaleidoscope

Kaleidoscope is the A.S.T. student magazine. Its staff meets as a M.S./H.S. club that creates a tri-monthly magazine dealing with information on school events, issues, and students' opinions. It provides a great opportunity for students to practice informal journalism, maintain the American School and the community informed, and develop leadership skills, in positions such as editor, co-editor, secretary, and treasurer. With the help of sponsors' ads, 1250 copies are printed and distributed throughout the school community, to include members of the Alumni Association.

Model United Nations (M.U.N.)

Model UN educates students and teachers on the basic functions of the United Nations. Students participate in role-playing committees, writing proposals to resolving world issues, and advocating for the changes they believe need to be made for their own nation. Not only do students learn about the United Nations, they gain skills in debate, persuasive writing and teamwork. Members normally have the opportunity to travel annually to one of the several M.U.N. conferences offered in the U.S. or elsewhere and/or the annual M.U.N. conference sponsored in Central America by the Assn. of American Schools in Central America.

Operation Smile

Operation Smile International is a non-profit U.S.-based organization that serves to repair cleft lips, cleft palates, and other facial deformities in impoverished countries around the world. Supported primarily by donations and the work and sacrifice of volunteers from many countries, Operation Smile has made an immeasurable difference in the lives of many thousands of children and adults since its founding in 1982. The American School Operation Smile Club works in close support of the annual Operation Smile mission to Honduras. The American School's Operation Smile Club received the 2006 Community Service Award from the Association of American Schools in Central America (A.A.S.C.A.).

National Honor Society & National Junior Honor Society (N.H.S. & N.J.H.S.)

Sponsored by the U.S.-based National Association of Secondary School Principals (N.A.S.S.P.), the N.H.S. and the N.J.H.S. recognize select students with outstanding records of scholarship, character, service and leadership. Since their founding nearly a century ago, membership has been seen around the world among the most prestigious honors a secondary student can attain. Qualified students in grades seven through nine may apply for membership in the N.J.H.S., while students in grades ten through twelve may seek selection in the N.H.S.

Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (S.H.H.)

Sponsored by The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica is a Hispanic honor society that exists to honor students who have excelled in the study of Spanish. Additionally, the S.H.H. serves to promote the study of and appreciation for the Spanish language and Hispanic literature and culture in general. Open to select students in grades ten through twelve, membership is seen as an impressive high-school achievement.

The AST chapter of the Honor Societies (NHS, NJHS and SHH) will apply disciplinary sanctions for ANY disciplinary offense following each association's standards and the practices and policies of the American School of Tegucigalpa. These sanctions will range from verbal and written reprimands, suspension from the honor society for a specified period, and permanent expulsion from said honor societies.

Student Council (STUCO)

Serving as the collective voice of the student body, the Student Council offers students the opportunity to earn leadership and governmental experience while serving their fellow students. Offices are held within each grade level, as well as for governing body of the overall Student Council. Elections are held at the end of each school year. Eligibility requirements are available from the Student Council faculty adviser. See STUCO Constitution for more information.

Student Travel Policy for Activities

Students will be allowed to participate in activities involving additional expenses like travel, hotels, club fees etc., as long as all tuition payments are paid with a maximum delay of 30 days to the activity travel date.

The student whose tuition is not paid with a maximum delay of 30 days, will be allowed to train and participate as a member of the activity excluding the travel.

At the beginning of the school year a document will be signed by the parent and student regarding knowledge of the travel policy for all clubs, sports teams, etc. that involve travel during the school year.

Approved June 12, 2013 Board of Directors

Athletic Eligibility

Athletic eligibility is determined by specific required minimum grades in all courses and by a minimum required grade point average. Any student who has a grade point average lower than a 75% or any failing grade will not be eligible to participate in tournaments. In general, students with any number of grades below 75% are subject to being denied eligibility until they show sufficient improvement in their grades in a marking period.

At the beginning of each athletic season, the latest official mid-quarter or report card grades, whichever are more recent, are reviewed to determine the athletic eligibility of the students registered to play. Once initial athletic eligibility has been established, it is reconfirmed throughout each season every time progress reports or report cards are issued. Therefore, a student who is initially ineligible to participate because of academic deficiency may later sufficiently raise his/her grades in order to join the team later in the season. Likewise, a student who is initially eligible to play may later be denied eligibility if his/her grades are determined to be insufficient in a later marking period. The Athletic committee will make decisions regarding eligibility in the best interest of the student. This committee is composed of the Athletic Director, the High School Principal, the Middle School Principal, in consultation with the teachers and counselors.

Obligations of all athletes: *Taken from the Athletic Department Handbook*

-Attend punctually at scheduled practices and games.

-Comply strictly with the curfew set when participating in events outside of school and hotels.

-Take proper care of the facilities, equipment and property of the school, including uniforms, that are beneficial for all.

-They must attend their practices with proper attire. Athletes who know in advance they will be absent from practices should notify their coach.

-All sports uniform to be used in official competitions, must be duly approved by the Athletic Director. The sports uniforms will be provided by the school or sponsored by companies duly approved by the school administration and Athletic Management. If an athlete leaves the team before the end of the season, he/she has the obligation to deliver the uniform in good condition, otherwise, he/she must cancel it in its entirety. Champions are allowed to keep their AASCA game uniform.

Sports Awards

At the end of each season, the AASCA varsity coaches meet as a committee to evaluate player performance based on practice attendance, leadership qualities, teamwork, individual game statistics, and cooperative attitude of sportsmanship. Those deemed the top five players from each sport will be ranked in order and receive in order a corresponding numerical grade. The highest ranked athlete for each team receives five points, and the fifth receives one point. At the end of the school year, both the male and female student receiving the highest overall number of combined points, after tallying the results from the three major sports, will be named Athlete of the Year. Senior student athletes selected in the top five of their sport will receive Hall of Fame recognition.

Fund-Raising and School Representation

All activities involving fundraising by student groups must be authorized by the school administration. All monies collected from any activity or by any student organization must be deposited in accounts managed by the School's activities coordinator.

No individual student or student group may represent the American School without prior school authorization. The school's name may not be used to advertise groups or activities, without the school's expressed consent.



Constitution of the Student Council of the American School of Tegucigalpa

PREAMBLE

This constitution is published to give American School students a change to participate in Self-Government and to better the intellectual, social and physical life of the School and its Student Body.

ARTICLE I - Name

The name of this organization shall be the American School Student Council (STUCO).

ARTICLE II - Purpose

To represent the Student body in the following situations..

To look out for the students and their rights.

To work together with the Administration in order to solve the current problems that the school might be facing.

Improve the communications between the students and the School Administration and Board of Directors.

To sponsor projects and raise money in order to provide services that will benefit the students.

To strengthen student spirit, pride and appreciation for our School.

ARTICLE III - Working Plan

STUCO will function as a voice by the students, of the students, and for the students.

Through STUCO students should be able to speak out and say openly the problems, they believe, exist in our school. Student Council forms will be distributed to every class senator of every grade. Through this forms, the students will be able to write about a problem that they are facing or about something they would like to change. Forms will be corrected by the class senator and he/she will give them to the class president. STUCO will meet every week, review these forms and decide whether the student's request is valid or not. The first and third week of every month, the Executive Board of STUCO will meet with the high school principal in order to discuss certain matters concerning the students. If the STUCO President feels that something is really important, he/she can request a special meeting with both the high school principal and the American School superintendent.

ARTICLE IV - Members

The Council has an Executive Board of elected officers as follows:

- a) President from 12th grade
- b) Vice-President from 11th grade, under the condition that he/she will run for STUCO office during his/her senior year.
- c) Chairman of Activities from 10th, 11th, or 12th grade.
- d) Chairman of Sports from 10th, 11th, or 12th grade.
- e) Secretary from 10th, 11th, 12th grade.
 - f) Treasurer from 10th, 11th or 12th grade.
 - g) A Legal Officer (Fiscal) from 10th, 11th, or 12th grade.
 - h) STUCO shall also have one class President from each grade, excepting 12th grade. Seniors shall have two Class Presidents. The 7th Class President will be elected at the beginning of each school year in a special election. There will also be one Honorary Member from each grade, except 7th grade.

Constitution of the Student Council of the American School of Tegucigalpa

(Continued from previous page)

ARTICLE V - Meetings

The entire STUCO will meet once a week. The day and time will be voted on by the members, considering what is more convenient for most of them.

Attendance to all meetings is mandatory. The Executive Board will, at the beginning of the school year, make a policy regarding attendance and enforce it completely. A student council member can be voted out of the council by a 2/3 majority vote as stated in ARTICLE X. Special meetings may be called by the President or by the Vice-President in case of the President's absence.

ARTICLE VI - Advisor

STUCO shall select an adult advisor from the faculty, with at least 2 years of working experience in the school, on which the council will rely for advice whenever needed.

ARTICLE VII - Duties

- a) The President shall preside at the meetings, call special meetings, enforce rulings, appoint committees, vote in the case of a tie, propose a plan for the entire school year, supervise activities, and carry out the Student Council's plan in full.
- b) The Vice-President shall maintain communication with the President and aid the President at all times. The Vice-president should be ready to help with announcements and with the monthly bulletin board.
- c) The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings and attendance, handle all correspondence, write the weekly bulletin and monthly bulletin board items.
- d) The Treasurer shall handle all monetary matters. The Student Council account shall have both the President's and the Treasurer's name, both have to be present to complete a withdrawal.
- e) The Chairman of Activities is responsible for developing and implementing a plan for social activities for the entire school year. The plan must be approved by the whole council and the school's administration. He/she must also always organize these activities under close supervision of the President.
- f) The Chairman of Sports shall present a plan for all the sport events during the school year again subject to approval by the council. He she must also organize these activities under close supervision of the President.
- g) The Legal Officer (Fiscal) is to make sure that all members are doing their work correctly as appointed by the President and this Constitution.
- h) The Class Presidents will give the STUCO President an activity plan at the beginning of the school year. The plan must be approved by the council and the administration in order to be carried out. The class president represents his/her grade at STUCO activities.
- i) All STUCO members, including Honorary Members, have the duty of helping the President plan, organize and carry out all activities successfully, as well as uphold the principles contained in this Constitution.

ARTICLE VIII - Honorary Members

The Executive Board and the Class Presidents will elect one Honorary Member from each grade at the beginning of their year n office. To be elected, the proposed Honorary Member must receive the majority vote of the council. The duty of the Honorary Member is to aid the members in all council activities.

All Honorary Members shall meet the requirements stated in ARTICLE XI, with the exception that they will have a voice but no vote.

Constitution of the Student Council of the American School of Tegucigalpa

(Continued from previous page)

ARTICLE IX – Senators

At the beginning of the school year, each section of every grade in high school must elect a senator. This person shall have the following responsibilities.

- a) Attend every meeting called by the Class President.
- b) Aid the Class President in all the activities that the grade performs.
- c) Serve as a means of communication between the students and the Class President.

If he/she fails to fulfill the above responsibilities, the Class President has the right to call for a re-election.

ARTICLE X – Elections

The Executive Board and the 8th-12th grade Presidents shall be elected in May. They will serve during the following school year. The Executive Board will be elected by the entire student body. They shall meet the following requirements.

Candidates must have a minimum overall average of 80% in the past and present year. Students running for office (either for the executive Board or for Class President) cannot have any serious infractions in the past or present year.

Serious Infractions

All of the following are considered serious infractions: disrespect, insubordination, repeated use of inappropriate language, minor vandalism, smoking at school, cheating on tests, verbally threatening any teacher, student or school employee, plagiarism, fighting, etc. Serious offenses are not limited to the above. All kind of suspension is included, except for late-suspensions.

Very Serious Offenses

Bringing or possessing any guns, tear gas, or any other object of weapon that may endanger the life or wellbeing of any member of the school.

Being under the influence of alcohol, or under the effects of any non-prescription drug in school or in any school sponsored activity.

Physically assaulting any teacher or employee.

Committing other actions that should be considered very serious by the school administration as they occur..

The Candidates must follow these procedures:

Students must follow these procedures:

If a student is running for the Executive Board, he/she must collect 50 signatures from the student body on a special sign up sheet that will be distributed by the high school activities director, and present the signatures to him/her on a set date by the council. If a student is running for class president he/she must collect 25 signatures from students of his/her grade and turn them in as mentioned above.

The campaign must begin at a date set by the council that must be no sooner than 4 days after the signature deadline, but no later than 6 school days after the same deadline.

The campaign time will be five school days. On the fifth day of the campaigns, those running for the Executive Board will give their speech in our school's gym. All campaign materials must be taken down by 3:00 p.m. of the fourth day of the elections.

The voting procedure will take place on the day of the speeches as follows:

The ballots will be provided by the current Student Council.

The ballots will contain the names of all the candidates running for office.

After all students have voted, the ballots will be put together and counted by the Student

Constitution of the Student Council of the American School of Tegucigalpa

(Continued from previous page)

Council and supervised by the Principal. If any of the current STUCO members is running for any position in the Student Council then he/she may not participate in ballot-counting. The person with the greatest number of votes for each office will become the winner. The winners will be announced that same day.

If there is a single candidate for an office he/she must receive at least 30% of the votes. If this does not happen:

1. A second round of elections will be started.
 2. The original single candidate should be encouraged to participate in them.
 3. The second election will be held seven days after the first election.
 4. All candidates must present themselves no later than 2 days after the first election.
 5. If no candidates present themselves before that time established in #4 (above), the first single candidate instantly becomes a winner.
 6. Any remaining issues concerning elections will be regulated by the present Student Council.
7. If the sole candidate is running for STUCO President and decides not to run in the second election, and no other candidates offer themselves, the recently elected Vice-President immediately becomes president of the Student Council for that year.
8. If there is a tie between two candidates, there will be a second election as the council decides it.

ARTICLE XI - Requirements

All STUCO members must:

1. Maintain an 80% or above average.
2. Not have more than one serious infraction or serious offense (see ARTICLE X) during his/her year in office.
3. Effectively fulfill his-her duties through out the school year.
4. Follow the policy of attendance created by the Student Council.

If the Student fails to meet with the above mentioned requirements:

- a) He/she be given a probation period of one quarter and will be informed of this in writing by both the President and the Principal.
- b) If by the end of the probation period he/she does not improve, a meeting will be called with the entire Student Council and the Principal. A vote will be taken in order to decide if that person should remain in STUCO. A Student Council member can be voted out by a 2/3 vote of the rest of the council.
- c) If a class president is voted out of the council, his/her grade will vote to elect a new class president under the discretion of the grade and the close supervision of the Student Council.
- d) Any grade can make a motion to vote out their class president by representing their complaints to the STUCO President. He/she will decide, among with the other members of the Executive Board if the class president has violated any requirements and will act as stated above.
- e) If a member of the Executive Board is voted out of the council, STUCO will decide what to do, under the supervision of the Principal.
- f) If an Honorary Member is voted out, he/she will have no replacement.

ARTICLE XII - Invitational Tournament

The invitational tournaments created by the 1988-1989 Student Council will become a tradition in the American School. Every council shall hold at least one tournament in any sport at any time throughout the school year. STUCO will have the task of inviting as many schools as they can. The Athletic Department shall aid STUCO in these events.

ARTICLE XIII - Approval

STUCO actions are subject to approval by the school's administration. Activities planned by STUCO have priority over any other activities planned by another group within the school.

Constitution of the Student Council of the American School of Tegucigalpa

(Continued from previous page)

ARTICLE XIV – Amendments

This Constitution may not change, just amended. Amendments to this Constitution may only be made with a 2/3 majority vote from the Student Council and approval by the Principal.

AMANDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

I AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IV

h) STUCO shall also have one class President from each grade, excepting 12th grade. Seniors shall have 2 Class Presidents. The 6th grade Class President will be elected at the beginning of each school year in a special election.

Honorary members or appointed officers will be elected from grades 9th thru 12th at the beginning of the school year by the current STUCO elected officers.

II AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VIII

The Executive Board will elect nine Honorary Member or appointed officers at the beginning of their year in office. To be elected, the proposed officer must receive the majority vote of the council or the committee created for this purpose. The duty of the appointed officer is to aid the members in all council activities. All Honorary Members or appointed officers shall meet the requirements stated in ARTICLE XI, with the exception that they will have a voice but no vote.

III AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IX

At the beginning of the school year, every grade 6th thru 12th must elect three senators.

IV AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X

The Executive Board and the 7th-12th grade Presidents shall be elected in May.

V. AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IV (STUCO 2010-2011/2011-2012)

The Council has an Executive Board of elected officers as follows:

a) President from 12th grade with the option of an 11th grader IF AND ONLY IF there is no running up seniors which will be determined on the last day the signatures are turned in. This person shall have 2 more days to find the signatures.

b) Vice-President from 11th grade, under the condition that he/she will run for STUCO office during his/her senior year.

c) Chairman of Activities from 10th, 11th, or 12th grade.

d) Chairman of Sports from 10th, 11th, or 12th grade.

e) Secretary from 10th, 11th, 12th grade.

f) Treasurer from 10th, 11th or 12th grade.

g) A Legal Officer (Fiscal) from 10th, 11th, or 12th grade.

h) STUCO shall also have one class President from each grade, excepting 12th grade. Seniors shall have 2 class presidents if their class has 50-70 students and could have 3 presidents as an option when the class has more than 70 students. Class Presidents.

i) The 6th Class President will be elected at the beginning of each school year in a special election. Honorary members or appointed officers will be elected from grades 6th thru 12th at the beginning of the school year by the current STUCO elected officers. 12th grade shall have 3 honorary members, and all other grades 1. With the idea of incorporating the 5th grade class, they shall join the elections day to hear the speeches but will not vote for any of the positions mention above (a-g) and their class president.

VI. AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VII: (STUCO 2010-2011/2011-2012)

The Vice-President shall maintain communication with the President and aid the President at all times. The Vice-president should be ready to help with announcements and with the monthly bulletin board. It shall also be the ombudsmen of the Student Senate and pass the legal reforms to the Student Council and the Administration. (See article III, A; of the Student Senate Constitution)

VII. AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IX: (STUCO 2010-2011/2011-2012)

At the beginning of the school year, each section of every grade in high & middle school must elect 5 senators.

This person shall have the following responsibilities.

- a) Attend every meeting called by the Class President.
- b) Aid the Class President in all the activities that the grade performs.
- c) Serve as a means of communication between the students and the Class President.
- d) Two (2) of the senator will part of the Student Senate. The other 3 are kept, non-officially. This means they don't get a charge of Senator until one the five officials fail to comply with the following:
- e) The senator is required to attend every meeting of the Student Senate. If he/she fails to attend, his charge of senator will be drop. Therefore, one of the non-official senators will take his/her place in the senate and in the grade meetings.
- f) Elected senators are binding a contract at the beginning of the year with the student senate. (See Article III, B. of the Student Senate constitution) If failing of this contract is takes place, he/she will not be able to run for an elected office of any type the year afterward.

If he/she fails to fulfill the above responsibilities, the Class President and the Student Senate have the right to call for a re-election or drop their title as a Senator.

VIII. AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X: (STUCO 2010-2011/2011-2012)

If there is a single candidate for an office he/she must receive at least 50% of the votes.

IX. AMMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X: (STUCO 2012-2013)

The Executive Board and the 7th-12th grade Presidents shall be elected in May. They will serve during the following school year. The Executive Board will be elected by the entire student body. They shall meet the following requirements. Candidates must have a minimum overall average of 80% in the past and present year. Students running for office for Class President cannot have any serious infractions in the present year. (Executive Offices are explained in the next section) If they have a serious infraction they must continue with the following procedure:

- A) Write a 1,000 word essay addressing the reason of their suspension. This must include a detailed description of their learning and reflection and must be submitted to the High school Principal two weeks before election process.
- B) A committee including: The High School Principal, Middle school principal, Development office Director, and Student council Advisors will address the application and review for acceptance to participate in the process. They will analyze those applicant that have less than 2 days of in school suspension.
- C) If the application is accepted, the participant will be able to participate as any other member and will have to comply with the other rules of the election process.

The Student Council Executive Board:

- A. Must not have any suspension in the past or present years.
- B. Must have a 80% average for the past or present year

Serious Infractions

All of the following are considered serious infractions: disrespect, insubordination, repeated use of inappropriate language, minor vandalism, smoking at school, cheating on tests, verbally threatening any teacher, student or school employee, plagiarism, fighting, etc. Serious offenses are not limited to the above. All kind of suspension is included, when it comes to Saturday detention, 3 or more detentions will count as a serious infraction.

III. STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Attendance

Students are encouraged to be punctual and attend every school day of the year. Attendance will be recorded in PowerSchool and it is the duty of the parent and student to keep track of this report. A student may lose credit or the right to examinations if the absences, excused or unexcused, are excessive. Determination of this will be done according to the school's accreditation agencies policies and practices. AS OF AUGUST 2013, ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE ATTENDANCE POLICY EXPLAINED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE (P.32). **PLEASE TAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS INTO CONSIDERATION IF ANY ACADEMIC TIME IS TO BE MISSED:**

1. Because classroom attendance is of utmost importance, it is assumed that unless absolutely necessary medical appointments will not be scheduled during school hours. Students may be permitted to leave the school grounds during the school day only with prior permission in writing from parents and the approval of the Principal. Students are expected to check out with the Middle School or High School secretary before departing. **Following an absence from school, it is the responsibility of students to get the material missed from the teacher, the class' web page or his/her classmates.**
2. Students returning after an absence **MUST bring a written excused** during the first two days after the absence. For absences extending over four days, the excuse must be accompanied by an official document such as a medical excuse. Failure to bring a written excuse during the established time will result in an unexcused absence. Work may be made up only in the case of excused absences. Students receive zeros for work missed due to unexcused absences. This includes suspended students. This policy is not subject to teachers' discretion and is absolutely required in all cases of suspension and unexcused absence.
3. **Students and parents must notify the appropriate school office if an extended absence** from school is anticipated. Each case will be properly reviewed before any excuse can be given. In the case of any excused absences, whether anticipated or not, it is the responsibility of students to seek out their teachers to arrange to make up missed work. Parents/students must check PowerSchool to confirm status of excuse.
4. Students returning after absences will be given sufficient time to complete missed assignments and tests. Make-up time is usually equivalent to the number of days absent. Outside-of-School Extra-Curricular Activities (Tennis, Swimming, Equestrian, etc.) will all be excused only if an official document is presented from a specific organization. **Student will not get credit if he/she misses any make-up assessment without previously seeking teacher approval to change the time-frame of the make-up work.**
5. **Excessive tardiness to school and to class is not permitted.** Since unexcused tardiness is considered an unexcused absence, work missed in class due to unexcused tardiness cannot be made up. As the school follows a Closed-Campus policy any students arriving after 7:45 a.m. will NOT BE ADMITTED unless he/she brings an official excuse, (i.e. doctor's note, medical laboratory notes, official Immigration office document, etc.).
6. Students arriving late to school **must contact** those teachers whose classes the student missed to receive assignments. Such students will **normally be required to take that same day any tests or quizzes given earlier on the same day and turn in any significant assignments due that day.** Likewise, students who anticipate leaving school early are required to notify those teachers whose classes the student will miss. Such students will **normally be required that same day to turn in any significant assignments due that day and take any tests or quizzes given that same day in classes that they will miss.** Students present in class when an assignment, quiz or test is announced but absent on the day that the assignment is due or test/quiz given must turn in the assignment or take the test/quiz on the day of their return to school. **Failure to do this will result in loss of credit.**

7. Should a student need to leave the school grounds for emergency reasons, parents will be contacted prior to the student's departure from school. Students will not be allowed to make up any missed work because they have left school early to watch soccer games, fashion shows and other entertainment venues. Parents will need to present official documents such as doctor's notes, etc. in order for work to be made up if there is reason to believe that was the case of the absence or dismissal.
8. A note is required from the parent or guardian, if a student is to be excused from P.E.. But if a student is to be excused from P. E. for a week or longer an **official medical certificate is needed** for student to get credit.
9. Students must have a pass to see the nurse. This pass must come from the teacher of the class they are assigned to. If the student wishes to see the nurse during passing time, they must acquire a pass from the teacher of their next class before they go to the nurse. Students typically should not be in the nurse's station for more than a few minutes. If there is an issue of concern that the student and/or nurse feels will impair the student's ability to be in class, the nurse will call the parent and a decision will be made as to what action will take place. Students who are too ill to attend a class will typically be required to be picked up from school.

Below are actions and guidelines AST High School will adhere to when students are tardy to classes.

- a.) 5 unexcused tardies in a specific class = 1 unexcused absence for that class
- b.) Bell work will be tied to tardiness and this will be a component of their class work grade.
- c.) Every class will have the class work component be 20% of the final quarter grade.
- d.) 15 tardies in a quarter (a total of all classes) = 1 Saturday detention and a parent meeting
- e.) 30 tardies in a quarter (a total of all classes) = student is to serve an in-school suspension until a parent (or parents) meets with the school Principal to discuss the severity of the issue; the student will be placed on Social Probation - which means if he/she reaches twenty-five tardies (a total of all classes) in the following school quarter - the following action (s) will occur:
 - for seniors, the student's final transcript may note the number of tardies*
 - acceptance into the senior internship program can be denied
 - for 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students, re-admittance to AST for the following academic school year will be reviewed and possibly denied
 -
 - tardies will also be looked at and considered for all HS students:
 - a. before any school award is given
 - b. when students apply to Honor Societies
 - c. for students to remain in Honor Societies
 - d. when University recommendation letters are written

Maximum Class/School Absence Limits for High School

As of school year 2013-2014, students missing more than 12 classes a semester will have credits withheld/denied (for those courses) for the purpose of earning the American High School Diploma.

After 5 absences from a class in a semester – the subject teacher(s) (for which the 5 absences occurred) would be required to notify the school principal – at this time, the principal will meet with the student and his/her counselor to discuss the matter, and to clearly state the school's expectations and procedures for attendance; the counselor will also contact the parent(s) by phone, or in person, to discuss the matter, and to clearly state the school's expectations and procedures for attendance.

After 7 absences from a class in a semester – the subject teacher(s) (for which the 7 absences occurred) would be required to notify the school principal – a final notification letter that clearly states the AST school attendance policy and subsequent procedures will be given to a parent by the school principal, and the parent will be required to sign the letter in the presence of the principal, and at this time a mandatory parent meeting would occur with the school principal, the student, and his/her school counselor.

After 12 absences from a class in a semester – the subject teacher(s) (for which the 12 absences occurred) would be required to notify the school principal – course credit may be withheld/denied for the purpose of earning the American High School Diploma; this will be decided on a case-by-case situation.

Students and their parents will be allowed to meet with an Attendance appeals Committee if they exceed the 12 absences in a semester; this committee will make a final decision as to whether the student will have the credit(s) withheld/denied for the American High School Diploma.

IMPORTANT

All absences from a class, or school, are included – there are no exceptions for school/country related activities.

- ⇒ Absences are either excused or unexcused.
- ⇒ Extended illness (which is considered to be an excused absence) will be treated as the situation merits – to be determined by the school principal and School Superintendent.
- ⇒ **AST considers 5 tardies to a class as 1 unexcused absence for that. The subject teacher is required to notify the school principal after a student has been tardy from a particular class 5 times** - a notification letter that clearly states the AST school attendance policy and subsequent procedures will be given to a parent by the school principal, and the parent will be required to sign the letter in the presence of the principal.

Unexcused absences will be addressed with immediate and additional consequences; these consequences will include the possibility of zero credit for class work, Saturday detention(s), and/or in-school suspension – as stated in AST disciplinary policy.

*AST is a college preparatory school, and with this comes high expectations (for every student) of academic growth. Students will need to prioritize the extra-curricular activities they participate in.

* This policy is for the benefit of every student, and will also allow our teachers to better meet the needs of the class and the school.

Student Uniforms

American School students are expected to come to school appropriately dressed and groomed. **Students arriving to school inappropriately dressed will not be permitted to attend class until appropriate clothing is obtained. Absences from class for failing to adhere to the dress code or expectations of appearance are considered unexcused absences.** Uniforms may be purchased at the school store. Students new to the American School will be given two weeks from the date of enrollment to be in proper uniform.

Boys Uniform:

Blue pinstriped slacks with a white polo shirt with embroidered school emblem. White, black, or navy blue ankle-length socks may be worn with slacks.

Girls Uniform:

Blue pinstriped knee-length jumper with a tucked-in white polo shirts with embroidered school emblem. White ankle-length socks are to be worn with the jumper.

Blue pinstriped slacks with a white polo shirt with embroidered school emblem. White, black, or navy blue ankle-length socks may be worn with slacks.

The **P.E. uniform** consists of navy-blue school shorts, white school t-shirt, and tennis shoes that conform to the description below. **No canvas-style shoes are to be worn for P.E.**

Footwear

Students may choose to wear leather dress shoes, which must be either black or navy blue, or sneakers, which must be solid navy blue, white, black, grey, or a combination of these colors. **SNEAKERS CANNOT HAVE ANY GRAPHICS, other than the brand and its design..**

For cool weather

Only official school jackets or school sweatshirts (available at the AST Eagles supply store) may be worn. If wearing long-sleeve undershirts, they should be solid navy blue, white, black, or grey.

Gala Uniform

Secondary students will also on occasion be required to wear the school dress uniform, known as the "uniforme de gala," during special assemblies and for graduation ceremonies.

This uniform is available for rent at the AST Eagles supply store. This uniform must be worn with solid black leather shoes. Girls may only wear navy blue ankle-length socks with the Gala Uniform.

Important

The uniform should be worn **only** at school or when representing the school. It is considered inappropriate to wear the uniform in other public places. Inappropriate behavior while wearing the school uniform off campus may result in disciplinary consequences.

The uniform must be in proper **presentable condition at all times**. Examples of improper conditions of the uniform include missing pockets, torn or excessively frayed shirts or pants, writing on uniforms, un-hemmed pants, or pants that touch the floor.

Expectations of Appearance

Aside from the proper wearing of the uniform, the following are guidelines regarding expectations of personal appearance. Adherence to these expectations is required at any time while representing the American School on or off campus, to include field trips, trips for co-or extra-curricular activities, athletic competitions, and school ceremonies, including the graduation ceremony. Infractions to these expectations will be considered under Uniform/Grooming on the school's Discipline Chart:

Jewelry: Students may wear jewelry, however no jewelry representing anything inappropriate is permitted. Boys may not wear earrings, nose-rings, nor any other rings or studs that pierce the skin. Girls may wear conservative earrings only. Nose rings are not allowed for girls either.

Hair: Boy's hair may not touch the back collar, the ears, or come down past the middle of the forehead. Sideburns may not be longer than one's earlobes. Students may not dye their hair colors that appear unnatural .

Boys are expected to be clean shaven at all times.

Make-up: Middle School Girls are not allowed to wear any makeup at any time. High School girls who choose to wear make-up must make themselves up to look like they are not wearing any. Girls may only wear natural-looking nail polish.

Tattoos: Students may not have tattoos that are visible at any time during the school day nor during any school-related functions. This includes during participation in athletic competitions.

Head wear: Baseball caps or other forms of headwear are not to be worn on campus during school hours.

The administration reserves the authority to make all judgments concerning the appropriateness of all aspects of the appearance of each student, to include his/her wearing of the uniform.

Expectations of Student Conduct

Our conduct and behavior reflects upon the entire American School community. Our respect for rules, regulations, and procedures greatly enhances the educational atmosphere at school and reflects positively on the entire American School community. Respect for one another, cultural sensitivity, and understanding are essential elements in an international community and school.

The conduct of American School students on and off campus shall reflect standards of citizenship desired by members of the community and the people of Honduras. The ultimate goals for students are self-discipline and responsibility for one's actions.

American School rules and regulations are applicable and in effect at all times on the campus, including weekends, during school-sponsored events off campus, and in the immediate vicinity of the school. School officials are authorized to question any student concerning their behavior while the student is under school supervision. All property in school, including lockers or items brought onto the school's campus by students or others, is subject to search by school officials at their discretion.

Expectations of Student Conduct

(Continued from previous page)

Students are encouraged to contribute to the appearance of their school. Discarding of trash anywhere except in the appropriate receptacles is absolutely forbidden.

While in the dining hall, students are expected to conduct themselves civilly and politely. It is the responsibility of each student after eating to clear away anything brought to a table and to throw away one's trash.

Graffiti, vandalism, and any other form of intentional damage to property will normally result in significant disciplinary consequences. Students will be charged for any damage to school property.

Food and beverages are allowed in classrooms, only on special celebrations. No food deliveries are allowed without prior authorization from the administration., and once authorized these deliveries should be made directly to the SCHOOL'S OFFICE. DELIVERY OF COMERCIAL FOOD IS NOT ALLOWED unless authorized by the Principal.

Electronic devices, to include cell-phones, tablets, laptops, I-pods, etc. are permitted to be used on campus only during breaks, lunch, and before and after school. During classes, such items must be put and kept away **unless specifically allowed** by the teacher. Any electronic device used or even exposed outside of these hours without the teacher's explicit permission are subject to being confiscated and held by the administration **until the end of the school day. 1st Instance = Warning; 2nd Instance = Saturday Detention; 3rd Instance = 1-Day Internal Suspension; 4th Instance = 2-Day Internal Suspension; 5th Instance = 3-Day Internal Suspension; 6th Instance = 4-Day Internal Suspension and consideration for Teacher Council review. There will be no carry-over policy regarding cell phones and other electronic devices; hence, students will begin each new semester with a clean slate as far as these infractions and their consequences are concerned. Principals may invoke administrative prerogative in decisions regarding cases concerning students with extreme ADD, ADHD, and other conditions.**

In all interactions with other students and adults, students are expected to be courteous and civil. In all dealings with adult staff members, to include dining hall staff, secretaries, security guards, maintenance workers, cleaning staff, etc., students are expected to display courtesy and respect and follow reasonable instructions. To fail to do so may result in serious disciplinary consequences.

Assembly Behavior

1. Students will proceed to assemblies quietly and in an orderly fashion.
2. Students are not to get up to leave during a performance, unless they are encountering some emergency.
3. Whistling and other types of noises are not appropriate in the assembly setting.
4. Upon entering and exiting, students are to observe polite and considerate behavior.
5. Students are expected to direct their attention to the events on stage and show proper respect for performers.
6. Students will not leave the assembly until dismissed by the adult in charge.
7. **Any materials (videos, posters, flyers, etc.) must be authorized by the division principal at least 24 hours in advance of the assembly or school event.)**

Plagiarism

The following definition has been accepted by the American School in regards to plagiarism. All departments requiring term papers will actively instruct students citing examples to insure originality of work. The following definition of plagiarism is taken from the **MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Thesis, and Dissertations** (Student edition, Joseph Gibaldi and Walter S. Achtert, Modern Language Association, 1977):

Derived from the Latin word *plagium* ("kidnapper" and also "plagiarist" in the modern sense), plagiarism is defined by Alexander Lindley as "the false assumption of authorship: the wrongful act of taking the product of another person's mind, and presenting it as one's own" (*Plagiarism and Originality*, New York: Harper, 1952, p.2). Plagiarism may take the form of repeating another's sentences as your own, adapting a particularly apt phrase as your own, paraphrasing someone else's argument as your own, or even presenting someone else's line of thinking in the development of a thesis as though it were your own. Plagiarism applies to ideas in written, verbal, or electronic form. In short, to plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written or thought something that you have in fact borrowed from another. Although a writer may use another person's words and thoughts, they must be acknowledged as such.

According to the American School Disciplinary Code, plagiarism is considered a **serious infraction under article 296-c and will be sanctioned as such.**

HOW TO AVOID PLAGIARISM A Student's Guide

What is plagiarism?

"Plagiarism is pretending that an idea is yours when in fact you found it in a source. You can therefore be guilty of plagiarism even if you thoroughly rewrite the sources words. One of the goals of education is to help you work with and credit ideas of others. *When you use another's idea, whether from a book, a lecture, a Web page, a friend's paper, or any other source, and whether you quote the words or restate the idea in your own words, you must give that person credit with a citation... you may have cited your source, but if you do an improper or inadequate job of it, you can still be guilty of plagiarism... No source may elect not to be cited*" (Harris 133)

When should you cite?

The first thing you should question of the material being used is "Did you think of it?" or "Is it yours?" Your opinions, observations, ideas, commentaries, arguments or analysis do not need to be cited. (154) "Whatever does not originate with you does need to be cited" (154). The only exception to this rule is that Common Knowledge does not need to be cited. Common Knowledge includes whatever can be located in an ordinary encyclopedia or is expected to be known by an educated person such as: Easily Observable information, commonly reported facts, and common sayings. (154) **CAUTION!** Even with common knowledge "The specific expression of common knowledge must be identified" (154). If you use someone else words you must **CITE THEM**. Follow this simple: "**IF IN DOUBT, CITE IT**" (156)

HOW TO AVOID PLAGIARISM

A Student's Guide

(Continued from previous page)

What are your responsibilities?

Protect your writing – “Do not lend your papers to another for “reference” (137). If your paper ends up being copied you may be implicated as an accessory to plagiarism.

You bear the ultimate responsibility for your projects – Proofread your final paper or presentation material carefully to ensure the content matches your intention. (136) Avoid collusion – collaboration with fellow students or tutors should be clearly identified as acceptable by the instructor or the written instructions for the project. If there is no clear permission to collaborate you are expected to work individually.

When using sources, “mark the boundaries” – the ideas or words you are borrowing must have a beginning and an ending marked in some way. (159)

What are some improper use of sources?

Not using quotation marks because it is “just a couple of words”

When paraphrasing copying some “word for word” from the original without putting quotation marks.

When summarizing still retaining exact phrases without properly quoting them. (166)

Source: Harris, Robert, The Plagiarism Handbook. Pycrsak Publishing; Los Angeles, California 2001 “Copyright 2001 by Pycszak Publishing. All rights reserved. Reproduced with permission.”

Bus Regulations

Transportation to and from school is available to all American School students who pay for the service. It is expected that students maintain appropriate behavior at all times. Students may be prohibited from riding the school bus should they be involved in the following infractions:

1. Eating food or drinking beverages on the bus.
2. Putting arms, hands or head out of the bus window.
3. Loud talking, getting out of one's seat, rough play or fighting.
4. Throwing objects out of the bus window.
5. Getting on or off of the bus at a point other than the designated drop-off point unless with a bus pass.
6. Disrespect towards the bus monitors or drivers.
7. Any behavior that jeopardizes the safety of the bus passengers.
8. Vandalism.
9. Any behavior that is distracting to the driver.
10. Continual misbehavior or violation of other American School rules as applied to bus behavior.
11. In order to ride a bus different from one's regular bus, a written note from home must be presented to the Middle or High School Office to obtain the required bus pass.



Anti-bullying/Anti-harassment Policy

In the following pages, bullying, harassment, and intolerance of diversity are clearly defined. Any acts of bullying, harassment, and intimidation of any sort are strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated at the American School. All students and other members of our school community have the right to be treated with dignity, kindness, and acceptance at all times. Any student found to have violated this fundamental standard of conduct will be subject to disciplinary sanctions, to include but not limited to a warning, parent conference, suspension, and referral at the end of the school year to the Teachers' Council for possible permanent transfer to another school.

Acceptance of Diversity

In keeping with our mission and philosophy, the American School strives to be a haven of safety and acceptance for all members of our school community. As an institution of learning, our school endeavors to be a stalwart model of progressive values that welcomes diversity. Being devoted to the noble cause of educating young people, the American School is an institution intent on seeing the unique and individual potential and talents of all our students fulfilled without prejudging or making distinctions between individuals. It is of vital importance that all members of our school community feel not only safe and welcome but fully accepted as well, and, therefore, all of us, to include students, faculty, staff, administrators, parents, etc., are expected at all times to model values of acceptance and courtesy.

Acceptance of diversity goes beyond simple tolerance. Simple tolerance requires only that we not mistreat others because of their individual characteristics. **Acceptance, though, occurs when we not only put up with the individual differences of others but willingly admit people different from ourselves into our group or community without insisting on treating them in any way differently.** Acceptance occurs when we look beyond our individual differences and welcome each other. While the traditional motto of simple tolerance is "live, and let live," the traditional motto of acceptance is "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Failing to be accepting of diversity can be committed both with malicious and non-malicious intents. While at times it is committed understanding the harm being caused, at other times it is done without meaning to offend or mistreat others. Examples of malicious un-acceptance of diversity include marginalizing or ostracizing someone because of such characteristics as their physical appearance, socio-economic level, religion, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, etc. Non-malicious un-acceptance of diversity occurs when, without intending to offend, we treat others differently based on their differences from us that, in reality, are superficial and insignificant. Anything less than full acceptance of everyone in our community is simply wrong and should not occur at the American School at any time by any members of our school community.

Harassment

Harassment

“Harassment comes in many forms: physical attacks, verbal rebukes, teasing taunting, sexual provocations, putdowns, and spreading rumors.” Other examples of harassment include bullying and stalking. In any form, harassment by any member of school community is considered a very serious offense that could result in serious consequences, to include permanent separation from our school community.

The intent of the perpetrator is to embarrass, intimidate, isolate, and reject a peer. It is an attempt by the perpetrator to exert power and gain an advantage because of physical strength or social status. It sends the message that “you do not belong here. You are not wanted.” Teasing is always defined as an experience that strengthens a social bond, not one that is meant to be painful and to isolate, diminish and tear down the other person. Harassment is when someone is bothering people or bullying them in order to hurt them. They want the person to be upset or cry or make themselves feel more macho.”

Harassment occurs when “**someone picks on you over and over and over again.** They may pick on you because of the way you look because of the way you look or how you dress or who you are. They feel like they have power or control over you.” Victims of harassment are commonly victimized because of their ethnicity, national origin, true or perceived sexual orientation, religion, or physical characteristics, to include disabilities.

Harassment includes “teasing, taunting, name-calling, threatening, gossiping, tripping, shoving, hitting, kicking or scratching grabbing groping, or inappropriate touching, taking and hiding belongings, excluding or rejecting.”

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is an especially heinous example of harassment. It is “unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature that makes someone feel uncomfortable or welcome by focusing attention on his/her gender .” Sexual harassment is at the very least socially unacceptable and in many countries outright illegal.

Don’t confuse sexual harassment with flirting. Flirting is usually mutual, complimentary, and makes one feel confident and wanted. Sexual harassment, however, is unwanted, one-sided, demeaning, makes the victim feel intimidated, helpless, and depressed.

Examples of sexual harassment include unwanted and deliberate touching or cornering, unwanted letters or pictures of a sexual nature, to include publicly-seen graffiti, making kissing sounds, howling, smacking lips, staring, sexual gestures, sexually-suggestive facial expressions or body movements, making unwanted sexually-suggestive sounds, and speaking either to or about someone in any way that is sexually suggestive.

Like harassment in general, sexual harassment is considered a very serious offense that could result in the highest form of disciplinary consequences.

Source: Taylor, Sally, On My Own/ The Ultimate How-To Guide For Young Adults.

Bullying

Bullying is any type of verbal, emotional or physical abuse against a person associated with A.S.T., which is a conscious, repeated, willful, and deliberate hostile activity, intended to harm and/or induce fear through the threat of further aggression. Its underlying purpose is to humiliate or hurt another person. A bullied person is one who repeatedly is exposed to negative actions by one or more persons. Bullying may include, but it is not limited to:

Verbal Bullying

1. Name calling, teasing.
2. Making fun of or being disrespectful of another person's physical characteristics, nationality, creed or beliefs, color, size, physical challenge or disability, family problems, ability to learn, or athletic ability.
3. Using inappropriate language (i.e., swearing).
4. Spreading lies or rumors about a person.
5. Laughing at another's misfortune.
6. Inciting others to fight or bully someone in any way.
7. Putting someone down.

Threatening

1. Threatening to physically hurt a person if she/he does not comply with the bully's requests.
2. Using antagonistic language toward someone, e.g., "I don't like the way you're looking at me."

Social Exclusion

1. Not allowing a person to play with or to participate in group activities.
2. Forming a circle of friends or group on the playground or in the hallways so that another person can not join in.
3. Speaking with a group so that one person is excluded either because of language or slang used by only a group.
4. Ignoring a person.
5. Refusing to be someone's friend or participating in a group's efforts to isolate or exclude someone.
6. Refusing to allow someone his or her place in a line or on the bus.

Physical Bullying

1. Pushing or shoving someone, hitting someone, poking or jabbing someone with hands, fingers or objects such as pencils, sticks, etc.
2. Grabbing someone's clothes (e.g., taking off someone's hat and throwing it down or to someone else, grabbing a person's clothes with the intent to tear).
3. Fighting.
4. Making threatening gestures

Vandalism, Extortion/Theft

1. Damaging someone's property or locker.
2. Breaking someone's pencils, pens, or art supplies.
3. Writing on someone's notebook or binder without their consent or permission.
4. Taking someone's lunch money against their will.
5. Taking someone else's lunch.
6. Taking/hiding somebody else's property.
7. Graffiti

Sexual Bullying

1. Unwanted deliberate touching or cornering
2. Unwanted letters or pictures of a sexual nature.
3. Making kissing sounds howling or smacking lips.
4. Staring in an inappropriate manner.
5. Making sexual gestures or sexually suggestive facial expressions or body movements
6. Making unwanted sexually-suggestive sounds.

IV. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

Articles and Sanctions

Adapted from Leyes Educativas de Honduras Tomo 1 (2003)

ART. 284. The discipline system will be composed of the following types: educational, preventive, and corrective. These types should be combined correctly to organize the discipline of the school.

ART. 285. The discipline system will be based on the democratic direction of the teacher, on his power of persuasion, on esteem, on respect and on the frank and loyal cooperation between teachers and students, both in the teaching process and in extracurricular activities. This system has as its objective to enable students to be self-governed and self-disciplined in work and study.

ART. 286. The preventive system will be used according to the degree of maturity of the students, and the school will propose to foresee infractions and avoid their occurrence.

ART. 287. The disciplinary system will be guided by the following principles:

- a) Discipline shall be based on the devotion to principles and human ideals, such as liberty, justice, and equality for all.
- b) Discipline must recognize and respect the dignity and the rights inherent to the student's personality, avoiding actions that may humiliate him.
- c) Conduct should be the results of self-direction and self-discipline.
- d) Discipline should be based upon an understanding of the ends being sought.

ART. 288. In the management of the teachers' work and in the development of the extracurricular activities, the following fundamental norms should be observed:

- a) Implementation and maintenance of a plan of activities.
- b) The mental occupation of all the students.
- c) Rotation of the students in the different study and work responsibilities.

ART. 290. In those cases where the corrective system cannot be avoided, the sanctions prescribed in the following articles may be applied.

ART. 291. Those responsible for discipline are the Principal and the members of the teaching staff, as well as student committees organized democratically within each grade.

ART. 292. The disciplinary measures that are adopted should be of a nature that they correct students, avoid infractions, and protect the school from destructive influences.

ART. 293. Sanctions are divided into **Minor, Serious, and Very Serious.**

ART. 294. Minor and serious sanctions shall be imposed by the teachers and Director. Very serious sanctions will be imposed by the Director, except in the case of expulsion for the remainder of the school year, or complete expulsion. This shall be imposed by the Teacher Council, and decided by majority vote. In the case of a tie, the President of the Council will have a double vote.

Disciplinary Measures

(Continued from previous page)

ART. 295. Minor sanctions shall be imposed for:

- a) Actions that detract from order and cleanliness. This includes the inappropriate use of the uniform, varying the manner approved by the institution (see page 32 and 33).
- b) Failure to comply with any work assigned by teacher.
- c) Annoying other students or the teacher.
- d) Excessive tardiness
- e) Missing a class while at school without any excuse.
- f) Any other unspecified infraction, categorized as minor by those responsible for imposing the sanctions

Minor Sanctions are:

- a) A private reprimand by the teacher.
- b) Assignment of a separate place in the classroom.
- c) A private reprimand by the Principal.
- d) The first four infractions in article 295 may be sanctioned by a detention. A detention is defined as a mandatory attendance to a specific time or a work study session outside of regular school hours.
- e) In item d of article 295, there are further consequences for being late to class: which the Principal will determine by each case (See Late Policy).

ART. 296 Serious sanctions shall be imposed for:

- a) Repeated failure to follow school policies.
- b) Disrespect to one's superiors or the service staff.
- c) Lying in any fashion or form. This includes copying during an exam; requesting, receiving, or giving help during an exam; or any kind of plagiarism
- d) Leaving the school without permission or authorized circumstances.
- e) Quarrels and fights; bullying and harassment.
- f) Disrupting order during class or study hours.
- g) Damage to school or private property.
- h) Bringing objects into the school that are foreign to the educational tasks.
- i) Forgery.
- j) Practicing any vices and not demonstrating good conduct on or off the school campus. If off campus, student must be wearing the school uniform, and conduct must be verified by a school authority.
- k) Any other unspecified infraction categorized as serious in the School's internal Code.

Serious sanctions are:

- a) A reprimand by the Principal in the presence of the parents or parents' representatives.
- b) An extended school suspension. The student will be graded as having deliberately missed all his classes.
- c) Loss of a scholarship for any student who enjoys this benefit.

Disciplinary Measures

(Continued from previous page)

Serious sanctions are:

d) *The accumulation of three serious and/or very serious infractions in the same school year will give the school the option to cancel the student's registration, or refer him/her to the Teacher Council for expulsion. At the end of a school year, the principals will conduct a review of the disciplinary records to determine if students who have received disciplinary sanctions have demonstrated necessary improvements. They will consult with the teachers at the students' grade level. Students failing to demonstrate necessary improvement will be recommended to the Teacher Council for denial of registration for the following school year.*

ART. 297. Very serious sanctions shall be imposed for:

- a) Deliberate disobedience of the Principal, any other administrative personnel, counselor or teacher accompanied by a visible demonstration of insubordination.
- b) Bringing, using, possessing or distributing any of the following into school: drugs, liquor, tobacco, weapons of any type, or other objects whose use is contrary to the goals of education, as well as books, magazines, pamphlets, etc., that are harmful to moral development or the democratic policies of the government. *
- c) Arriving at school under the effects of alcohol or any other drug.
- d) Deliberate damage to the school building, furniture, or educational material, or private property within the school grounds.
- e) Theft of a quiz or test for the purpose of cheating on the test.
- f) Actual theft or a manifestable attempt at theft. The following can be so classified: Opening filing cabinets, desks, chests of drawers, trunks, closets, etc., without due authorization.
- g) Furtively leaving the school, or not returning on an outing day. This also applies during school sponsored events even if they take place outside of the institution.
- h) Inciting others to rebel against established order, or against the school authorities.
- i) Actions that seriously damage the prestige of the school, or the honor of those who commit them.
- j) Continued Bullying or harassment of another student or students. This includes being involved in inappropriate or aggressive behavior towards younger students.
- k) Knowing of information that could jeopardize the health and/or safety of The American School Staff and student body, and failing to report this information to the appropriate authority.

Very serious sanctions are:

- a) A reprimand by the Principal in the presence of the parents or parents' representatives.
- b) An extended school suspension of eight days. The student will be graded as having deliberately missed all his/her classes.
- c) Loss of a scholarship for any student who enjoys this benefit.
- d) *The accumulation of three serious and/or very serious infractions in the same school year will give the school the option to cancel the student's registration or refer him/her to the Teacher Council. By law, cases reviewed by the Teachers' Council can only result in either denying the student enrollment for the coming school year (traslado) or allowing the student to remain enrolled but under strict disciplinary probation (condicionado).*
- d) Involuntary transfer for the rest of the school year.
- e) Complete expulsion from the school without readmission.

***If a student is found in possession of any illegal substance or any controlled substance without a prescription (as mentioned in section B of article 297) the school will report the incident to the proper authorities while at the same time proceed with the disciplinary sanction stipulated by the same article.**

Disciplinary Measures

(Continued from previous page)

ART. 298. Breakage and other damage caused to the walls, doors, windows and school possessions **shall be paid by the student or students who caused it. This does not preclude the appropriate punishment.**

ART. 299. The student who, in or out of the establishment, commits actions with criminal liability of any degree, shall be excluded from the establishment from the moment the Director is made aware of the criminal action. He shall not be admitted in to any establishment as a student until having been legally declared innocent. Any excluded student who is then condemned by a corresponding trial, will be completely expelled from the school. Notification will be given to the parent, tutor, responsible person, Ministry of Education, the Secondary Education Division within the Ministry, and the Directors of all the schools in the country.

ART. 300. All infractions should be recorded in the appropriate files and in the conduct book, specifying cause and results obtained. In the case of expulsion, a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Teacher Council shall be sent to the Ministry of Education, the Secondary Education Division within the Ministry, the Directors of all the schools in the country, the parents, tutor, or the person responsible for the student. The cause for expulsion must always be listed.

ART. 301. The Principal shall avoid abuses in the applications of punishments. The Principal will call the meeting of the Teacher Council and present the evidence to them, in cases where this body must intervene to apply the sanctions established in this code.

ART. 302. The following are strictly forbidden:

- a) Punishments that are harmful to the physical and mental health of the student.
- b) Physical punishments.
- c) General punishments.

The school's discipline code will apply equally to those students who are enrolled in the Special Services Program. Principals may invoke administrative prerogative in decisions regarding cases concerning students with extreme ADD, ADHD, and other conditions.

Social Probation

Students consistently in violation of school rules and regulations or involved in major rules infractions may be placed on social probation. This means that the student may be prohibited from participating in extracurricular activities. Probationary status will be determined on a yearly basis.

Students and parents will be informed in writing and through conferences of the terms and reasons for social probation. Students failing to show the necessary improvements may be transferred or denied registration for the next school year from the American School.

Middle School Discipline Chart

Saturday Detentions will be given to students who accumulate nine infractions in any of the following categories; Tardies to School or Class, Food/Drink in class, Unpreparedness, and Uniform/grooming violations. Saturday Detention is considered a *serious sanction*. Any detentions and which are earned very near the closing of school and which cannot be served because school has closed will be served upon the student's return in August.

Saturday Detention

If a student receives a Saturday Detention for a particular violation or by accumulating nine signatures in a particular category in the MS Discipline Log, he/she must come to the HS/MS Media center **on the Saturday specified in the note**. For a student to be admitted in Detention he/she MUST:

- Present signed detention notice
- Be in complete uniform
- Be punctual: Detention begins at 8:00 a.m. Any student who arrives after 8:15 a.m. will not be admitted in; **this will be considered as an unexcused absence and will be sanctioned as such.** (See Suspension Procedure) A student arriving between 8:01 and 8:15 will make up the time during break or after 1:00 p.m.
- Be quietly working the whole time and must follow the directions of the supervisor.

If a student **fails to follow the behavioral expectations** of Saturday Detention he will be remitted to the Assistant Principal for an immediate **Suspension**.

No Saturday Detention will be re-scheduled except for medical reasons where an official "Colegio Médico" Certificate is presented first thing the next Monday Morning.

Suspension

For serious offenses, students may be automatically suspended. The length of the suspension will be determined by policy and practices. In the cases where the student is presented to a Discipline committee, the length of the suspension will be determined by said committee.

Suspended students can earn 70% credit for any work assessed during the duration of a suspension except for bell work and the on-task grades of which zero credit will be recorded.

Suspended students will normally be required to serve their suspensions at school, where they are expected to arrive on time, in proper uniform, and spend their period of suspension studying quietly under supervision.

Discipline Committee

A separate Discipline Committee exists in both the Middle School and the High School and serves to consider cases of student misconduct that could, according to the student handbook, result in at least suspension. The committee exists so that such cases are considered by a team of professionals instead of being decided by just one individual. The committee is not a court. Its sessions are not a trial but rather a forum for addressing directly the student accused, working together with his or her parents to respond appropriately to misbehavior, and for determining in a team setting a recommendation for action on the part of the school. This recommendation may or may not include a disciplinary sanction.

Each Discipline Committee consists of the following members:

Principal

Assistant Principal (H.S.)

Counselor

One locally-hired bilingual teacher

One internationally-hired bilingual teacher

Special Services teacher (Only in the case of students registered with Special Services)

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Guidance and Counseling

The Counseling Department of the American School is designed to help all students develop their educational and social strengths and to become responsible and productive citizens. This program takes into special consideration the needs of the international and transitory student, specifically addressing the issues of cultural and language differences. These needs are addressed through College/Career Counseling, large and small group counseling, individual counseling, consultation and coordination with other resources.

Jefferson-Valle Media Center

The Jefferson-Valle Media Center is committed to maintaining an atmosphere conducive to reading, study, and research. Students and staff are encouraged to use all resources it has to offer, including books, magazines, videos, computers, audio-visual equipment, and on-line databases. It is the personal responsibility of each student to return library resources on time and in the same condition as they were checked out. Fines will be charged for materials returned late, and students will be charged for materials damaged or lost.

Remote use of our on-line catalog is strongly encouraged. Links to CQ Researcher, EBSCO Host, and the Middle and High School catalog can be found on the library's page of the American School website at www.amschool.org/library.html.

As the Media Center maintains a quiet atmosphere at all times, serious students or anyone needing a quiet place to study, read, or work can depend on this refuge and appreciate its availability. Those who fail to respect the standard of behavior that a library requires will be asked to leave. The Media Center is open both before and after school, and students are welcome to use it during their free time.

Textbook Loan

Teachers distribute textbooks for their courses, which are to be returned at the end of the course. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged textbooks. Replacement costs will be assessed if books are damaged, stolen, or lost. Students losing a textbook during the school year will pay for its replacement before being issued a second text. Should the lost book be found, the replacement cost will be reimbursed to the student. Students who fail either to turn in their textbook in good condition or pay for its replacement are subject to being barred from taking the final exam in that subject.

Parent-Teacher Organization (P.T.O.)

The Parent-Teacher Organization (P.T.O.) actively assists the school in various ways. One of the main purposes of the P.T.O. is to bring together parents and school personnel in support of school programs. The P.T.O. administers the AST Eagles supply store.

Locks and Lockers

Each student will be assigned a locker at the start of the school year for storage of books and personal belongings. Students must provide their own padlock. The school reserves the right to inspect lockers should the need arise. Students are not permitted to write on lockers or place stickers on the outside of lockers. Seniors are permitted to place posters on their lockers as approved by the administration. Any damage to the locker will be charged to the student.

All lockers are required to be padlocked. It is mandatory that all students maintain their individual lockers closed and locked with a padlock. There are periodic checks of the locker areas, and students whose lockers are left without a padlock are subject to disciplinary action. Sharing of lockers by two or more students is not allowed.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT ANY MATERIAL FOUND IN THE LOCKER ASSIGNED TO A STUDENT WILL BE CONSIDERED HIS/HER PROPERTY AND HE/SHE WILL HAVE TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES OF ITS POSSESSION. THE ADMINISTRATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SEARCH THE LOCKERS AT THEIR DISCRETION.

STUDENT ARE NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE PERSONAL ITEMS ANYWHERE BUT INSIDE THEIR (PADLOCKED) LOCKERS. See note below

Book bags / Unattended items

These items will always be confiscated and students may go to the office and get them at any time during the school day. 1st Instance = a Warning; 2nd Instance = a Saturday Detention; 3rd Instance = a Saturday Detention; 4th Instance = 1-Day Suspension; 5th Instance = 2-Day Suspension; 6th Instance = 3-Day Suspension; 7th Instance = 4-Day Suspension and a mandatory parent meeting. There will be no carry-over policy regarding book bags/other unattended items; hence, students will begin each new semester with a clean slate as far as these infractions and their consequences are concerned. Principals may invoke administrative prerogative in decisions regarding cases concerning students with extreme ADD, ADHD, and other conditions. *Because of safety concerns, the administration reserves the right to search book bags and other personal belongings ALWAYS respecting the students right to privacy.*

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOSS OR THEFT OF PERSONAL BELONGINGS ON CAMPUS.

School Nurse

The responsibility of the school nurse is to give first aid for emergencies and to treat minor injuries and illness occurring at school. Any student required to take medication during school hours is to take the medicine to the Nurse's Office, with specific written instructions from the doctor or parent. **All medicines must be kept in the infirmary.**

Communication with Parents

The American School considers communication between the school and parents to be vitally important. The School communicates with parents electronically through the use of school notices, newsletters, PowerSchool, report cards and scheduled conferences between school personnel and parents. The school's webpage is an important source for upcoming events, school calendar, and other important school information. The webpage of the school is **www.amschool.org**.

Emergency / Evacuation Procedures

1. The signal for an emergency evacuation is communicated using the P.A. system or the Bell system. In case of such signal, students are expected to pay close attention to their teachers who will lead the students to their designated evacuation area following the evacuation maps posted in each classroom. All students in the Middle and High Schools will be evacuated to the soccer field next to the gymnasium unless otherwise directed.
2. All classroom doors should remain closed but unlocked in order to facilitate searching the buildings.
3. Students out of class at the time of the emergency signal should report **directly to the soccer field** and report to his/her class adviser or the nearest faculty member.
4. It is imperative that all emergency drills be treated seriously. It is vital that during the evacuation and while on the soccer field, students remain quiet and attentive.
5. All AST personnel and any visitor to the campus must evacuate at the sound of the emergency signal.

Network/Technology Acceptable Use Policy

The American School of Tegucigalpa recognizes the value of computer and other electronic resources to improve student learning and enhance the administration and operation of its schools. To this end, the school encourages the responsible use of computers; computer networks, the Internet; and other electronic resources in support of the mission and goals of the American School.

Because the Internet is an unregulated, worldwide vehicle for communication, information available to staff and students is impossible to control. Therefore, the American School adopts this policy governing the voluntary use of electronic resources and the Internet in order to provide guidance to individuals and groups obtaining access to these resources on American School owned equipment.

American School Rights and Responsibilities

It is the policy of the American School to maintain an environment that promotes ethical and responsible conduct in all online network activities by staff and students. It shall be a violation of this policy for any employee, student, or other individual to engage in any activity that does not conform to the established purpose and general rules and policies of the network. Within this general policy, the American School recognizes its legal and ethical obligation to protect the well-being of students in its charge. To this end, the American School retains the following rights and recognizes the following obligations:

1. To log network use and to monitor fileserver space utilization by users, and assume no responsibility or liability for files deleted due to violation of fileserver space allotments.
2. To remove a user account on the network.
3. To monitor the use of online activities. This may include real-time monitoring of network activity and/or maintaining a log of Internet activity for later review.
4. To provide internal and external controls as appropriate and possible. Such controls shall include the right to determine who will have access to school-owned equipment and, specifically, to exclude those who do not abide by the American School's acceptable use policy or other policies governing the use of school facilities, equipment, and materials. The American School reserves the right to restrict online destinations through software or other means.

To provide guidelines and make reasonable efforts to train staff and students in acceptable use and policies governing online communications. .

User Responsibilities

1. Use of the electronic media provided by the American School is a privilege that offers a wealth of information and resources for research. Where it is available, this resource is offered to staff, students, and other patrons at no cost. In order to maintain the privilege, users agree to learn and comply with all of the provisions of this policy.

Network/Technology Acceptable Use Policy

(Continued from previous page)

Acceptable Use

1. All use of the Internet must be in support of educational and research objectives consistent with the mission and objectives of the American School.
2. Proper codes of conduct in electronic communication must be used. In news groups, giving out personal information is inappropriate. When using e-mail, extreme caution must always be taken in revealing any information of a personal nature.
3. Network accounts are to be used only by the authorized owner of the account for the authorized purpose.
4. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property.
5. Subscriptions to mailing lists and bulletin boards should be for educational purposes.
6. Staff is expected to exhibit exemplary behavior on the network as a representative of the School and community, being polite at all times.
7. From time to time, the American School will make determinations on whether specific uses of the network are consistent with the acceptable use practice.

Unacceptable Use

1. Giving out personal information about another person, including home address and phone number, is strictly prohibited.
2. Any use of the network for commercial or for-profit purposes is prohibited.
3. Excessive use of the network for personal business shall be cause for disciplinary action.
4. Any use of the network for product advertisement or political lobbying is prohibited.
5. Users shall not intentionally seek information on, obtain copies of, or modify files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users, or misrepresent other users on the network.
6. No use of the network shall serve to disrupt the use of the network by others. Hardware and/or software shall not be destroyed, modified, or abused in any way.
7. Malicious use of the network to develop programs that harass other users or infiltrate a computer or computing system and/or damage the software components of a computer or computing system is prohibited.
8. Hate mail, harassment, discriminatory remarks, and other antisocial behaviors are prohibited on the network. Forwarding of chain letters is discouraged.
9. The unauthorized installation of any software, including shareware and freeware, for use on American School computers is prohibited unless permission of the network manager has been previously obtained. Use of the network to access or process pornographic material, inappropriate text files (as determined by the system administrator or building administrator), or files dangerous to the integrity of the local area network is prohibited.
10. The American School network may not be used for downloading entertainment software or other files not related to the mission and objectives of the American School for transfer to a user's home computer, personal computer, or other media. This prohibition pertains to freeware, shareware, copyrighted commercial and non-commercial software, and all other forms of software and files not directly related to the instructional and administrative purposes of the American School.
11. Downloading, copying, otherwise duplicating, and/or distributing copyrighted materials without the specific written permission of the copyright owner is prohibited, except that duplication and/or distribution of materials for educational purposes is permitted when such duplication and/or distribution would fall within Fair Use.
12. Use of the network for any unlawful purpose is prohibited.
13. Use of profanity, obscenity, racist terms, or other language that may be offensive to another user is prohibited.
14. Playing games is prohibited unless specifically authorized by a teacher or supervisor for instructional purposes.

Network/Technology Acceptable Use Policy

(Continued from previous page)

Disclaimer

1 The American School cannot be held accountable for the information that is retrieved via the network.

2 Notice is hereby given that there are no facilities provided by this system for sending or receiving private or confidential electronic communications.

3 The American School will not be responsible for any damages you may suffer, including loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by our own negligence or your errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained is at your own risk.

4 The American School makes no warranties (expressed or implied) with respect to:

A) the content of any advice or information received by a user, or any costs or charges incurred as a result of seeing or accepting any information; and

B) any costs, liability, or damages caused by the way the user chooses to use his or her access to the network.

The American School reserves the right to change its policies and rules at any time.

Channels of Communication

The Board of Directors recognizes the need for proper communications between and among students, parents, teachers, administration and the Board. To assist in achieving this objective, the following general procedures are recommended for all concerned parties:

1. When the problem concerns your son or daughter and their work in school, the best person to see is the classroom teacher. An appointment to see a Middle or High School teacher may be made by calling the Middle or High School Office. Problems of a personal nature or questions regarding a student's program of study, overall potential, and progress may also be discussed with the counselor.
2. Problems which cannot be resolved through a conference with the teacher or counselor and questions of a more general nature concerning the operation of the school may be discussed with the appropriate principal. Appointments may be made by calling the Middle or High School Office.
3. Problems which have not been resolved after conferences with the teacher and principal may be taken to the Superintendent, who will discuss any questions related to the general operation of the school or to school policies and will answer any such questions addressed to him/her by mail. An appointment may be made through her secretary.
4. The Superintendent is the Executive Officer of the Board of Directors and is responsible for the organization, operation and administration of the total school program. Therefore, she is the normal channel of communication between the Board and the public. Questions about school policy should be directed to the Superintendent. Normally, communications directed to the Board will be referred to the Superintendent for reply or action. Individual Board members do not directly involve themselves in administrative matters involving students, teachers and administrators.
5. Requests for changes in school policy and appeals of decisions made by the Superintendent may be addressed to the Board. All communications to the Board should be in writing and should be addressed to the President, Board of Directors. Decisions about school policy will be made only by the Board acting as a whole in a regular or special meeting.

Student Problem-Solving Sequence

In schools, as everywhere in life, we do not always see eye to eye with each other. Students at times find themselves in disagreements with teachers or other members of the staff regarding such things as something that occurred in class or a grade received on a particular assignment. That disagreements such as these occur is normal; what is important is that they are resolved in a respectful and courteous manner, following the expected sequence of steps. It is also important to understand and remember that in resolving disagreements, we must be open-minded, considering other points of view, and willing to compromise. It is also necessary to remember in such cases in a school setting that the teacher is in charge of his or her class and courses. Despite our best efforts and courteously making our case, in schools, as in life, we do not always get what we want:

