

Student/Parent Handbook



Sonoma Valley Unified School District

AN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM
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Pam Garramone
Principal

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Mission Statement:

Creekside High School is a learning environment that emphasizes academics, community, and creativity in a setting of respect, civility, and open dialogue. We provide a positive community in which individual student needs are served, while developments of character and personal vision for the future are encouraged.



At Creekside High School we emphasize:

- mastery based, sheltered learning in an environment geared toward the completion of coursework and other requirements for a high school diploma.
- project based and integrated activities in addition to traditional instructional methods.
- flexible, individualized educational plans with realistic goals, clear expectations and feedback.
- developing students' personal responsibility for one's own actions and academic progress.
- helping students complete their high school diploma, based on their individual situations and goals, in Academics, Attendance, and Attitude.
- a wide range of opportunities for students not completing high school to further their educational opportunities through the High School Proficiency Test, adult schools and Community Colleges.
- encouraging students to a wide explore vocational training, career opportunities job resources, and assisting them in obtaining job readiness skills.

CHS Faculty

Pam Garramone, Principal

Walt Williams, Teacher: Math/Science/Fine Arts/PE
Tracy Dorrance, Teacher, Science/Parenting/Child Lab
Emily Brown, Teacher: Social Sciences
Rosemarie Green, Teacher: English
Dale Heffernan, Teacher: RSP

Peggy Murray, Counselor

Terri Hernandez, School Office Manager



Creekside High School Student~Parent Handbook

Creekside High School welcomes you! We hope that this handbook will make you aware of our rules and expectations. You may have noticed during your years in school that people who “play by the rules” seem to get more accomplished, feel better about themselves, and have more fun at school than those who do not. In order to fulfill our mission, the following behavior and attendance policies will be expected of you.



CHS Policy

Creekside High School students are expected to arrive at class on time, out of respect for the teacher, classmates and the learning environment. State Education Code 48205 permits a reduction in grades or loss of credit or grade for tardiness or absence that is unexcused.

TARDY POLICY

1ST & 2ND TARDY*: Warning

3RD & 7TH TARDY*: 2% Grade reduction taken from the student's participation grade category with a total cap of 10% of the student's overall semester grade.

Example: 3rd tardy = 2% reduction
4th tardy = 4% reduction
5th tardy = 6% reduction
6th tardy = 8% reduction
7th tardy = 10% reduction

8 or more TARDYs*: The student will receive one demerit for each tardy (see demerit system policy)

**If a student is tardy more than 30 minutes three times in a school year he/she may be declared truant.*

**Student may be suspended from school for excessive tardiness and referrals.*

TARDY FORGIVENESS FACTOR:

Each tardy (between 1st-7th) can be forgiven, and grade restored by serving 30 minute detentions. Detention must be served within 7 school days of receiving the tardy.



Absences:

Excused Absence: Parents must call the office the day of the absence in the event a student is ill, attending a funeral or a court appearance. A note must be provided to the office upon the student's return and will be accepted only during the week of the absence. It will be the student's responsibility to make up missed assignments. If a student is ill more than three days, a doctor/clinic note must be provided to clear the absence.

All other absences are unexcused, and assignments cannot be made up.

Credit Attendance Policy:

Students enrolled at Creekside High School earn credits in each class, per grading period, with a passing grade and course participation.

Course participation for earning credit includes:

- Coming to school on time (*first bell is at 7:55 AM, tardy at 8:01 AM*)
- Attending all assigned classes on time
- Being on good behavior at all times

Student may be suspended from school for excessive tardiness and referrals. Student may also be suspended for cutting, or not making up detentions in a timely manner.



DEMERIT SYSTEM FOR FAILURE TO FOLLOW SCHOOL POLICIES:

Creekside High School has adopted a positive conduct approach, which places responsibility on the student for his/her behavior. Students receive demerits for failing to follow school policies. A student will earn one (1) demerit for each incident of bad behavior. **Demerits are a discipline counting system for documenting total discipline problems for each year.**

Demerits are cleared for the student's record at the conclusion of each school year. All discipline records become part of the student's cumulative file, but will not appear on an official transcript of grades and credits.

Actions deemed inappropriate to a school setting, disruptive to instruction or school events or against school rules will result in a demerit.

CONSEQUENCES FOR EXCESSIVE DEMERITS PER SCHOOL YEAR:

1-3 demerits: Are considered a warning. However, each demerit will warrant a half hour of **After-School Detention*** (*may include campus or classroom beautification clean-up projects.*)

*Students who do not attend detention will receive an automatic 1 day at home **Suspension.**

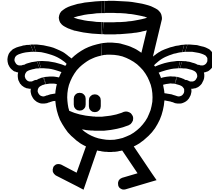
4-5 demerits: A one hour **After-School Detention*** and a written **Warning Contract** will be issued, notifying the student and parents that at 6 demerits the student will receive a 3 day at home suspension for defiance of the school administration policy. The warning contract must be signed by parent/guardian and returned to Principal.

6 demerits: Three (3) day at home **Suspension** for defiance of the school administration policy. All class work must be made up by the student within two days of the return from the return date to school (*after school make-up classes are available.*)

7-20 demerits: Students receiving 7 or more demerits in one school year are considered habitual behavior problems, making them unsafe to themselves and others in the educational setting. **The student will receive 1 day of Suspension at home for each subsequent incident or demerit leading to the 20 days of suspension threshold for recommendation for expulsion from Sonoma Valley Unified School District.** (California Ed. Code)

REMOVING DEMERITS:

Forgiveness Factor: Student may earn the removal of one (1) demerit by attending one hour of **Make-Up Credit Class**. And/or, if a student has twenty (20) consecutive school days of good behavior (*receiving no demerits*) then one demerit may be removed for each **twenty consecutive school days of good behavior**. It is the student's responsibility to notify the appropriate administrator upon completion of the twenty school days of good behavior.



Behavior Expectations:

OFFENSES WHICH REQUIRE SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

The following behaviors will automatically result in a **5 day Suspension and the police notified**. *These school rules are part of the Education Code and/or Penal Code. Students violating these rules are breaking the law and may be charged with a misdemeanor or felony crime.* The student will be suspended until an expulsion hearing is held if the student is deemed a danger to himself or others.

- ◇ Possess, sell or furnish a firearm (Felony)
- ◇ Brandish a knife at another person (Misdemeanor)
- ◇ Unlawfully sell a controlled substance (Felony)
- ◇ Attempting or committing sexual assault or battery (Felony)
- ◇ Possession of an explosive (Felony)
- ◇ Terroristic threat to school

OFFENSES WHICH REQUIRE SUSPENSION AND/OR RECOMMENDATION FOR EXPULSION

The student may be **Suspended** from school 3-5 days, and a **police report** may be filed depending on the severity of the incident. A **Behavior Contract** will be developed.

- ◇ Electronics stun devices, chemical stun agents, BB guns, paint ball guns. Possession of an imitation firearm (i.e. a reasonable person concludes that the replica is a real firearm).
- ◇ Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause serious injury to another person.
- ◇ Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished an explosive device, knife, or other dangerous object.
- ◇ Assault on a school staff member.
- ◇ Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
- ◇ Arson or attempted arson.
- ◇ Vandalism over \$100.00, the malicious defacing, damaging or destroying of school, student or employee property, "tagging"/graffiti.
- ◇ Terroristic threat to school

OFFENSES WHICH REQUIRE SUSPENSION AND MAY RESULT IN A RECOMMENDATION FOR EXPULSION

- ◇ Vandalism (caused or attempted to cause damage to school or private property), tagging/graffiti.
- ◇ Willfully defied school staff member or school authority, willfully disrupted classroom instruction or school activities.
- ◇ Fighting, inciting a fight, running to the scene of a fight, crowding around a fight.
- ◇ Theft or attempted theft, received stolen property.
- ◇ Indecent Exposure (exposure of the buttocks, female breast, male/female genitalia).
- ◇ Committed an obscene act, habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- ◇ Conspiracy to violate school rules, participating in violation of school rules by observing such violation, or going of one's way to witness such violation.
- ◇ Throwing food or objects that could hurt another person.
- ◇ Gang-related activities: Inciting fights, threatening other students, and/or intimidation.
- ◇ Excessively being tardy, having excessive unexcused absences, cutting school or detentions.
- ◇ Breaking a Behavior Contract.



Do's & Don'ts:

Electronic devices

No ipods or other electronic music or video game players are allowed on campus. Cell phones are allowed, but may only be used before or after school, or during break. Phones must be off and put away during class. All phones seen during classroom time will be confiscated.

School Computers, Equipment & Materials

All computers are for class work related to the curriculum only, and will be supervised by the teacher at all times. School equipment and materials must be properly use and are expected to be well maintained and put away by the students at the end of each class.

Profanity

Is not tolerated in class or anywhere on campus.

On-Campus Expectations

Keep your campus neat and clean. Students are expected to clean-up after themselves, put their trash in garbage cans, clean-up paint or other materials after use in art, or other projects. Students must stay in their assigned classroom for the whole period. No wandering between other rooms or disturbing other classes is allowed.

Food and drinks

Food and drinks may be eaten at break in the office or classroom and only with a teacher's permission. Microwave use in the office is only permitted before or after school and during break.

Classroom telephones

Classroom telephones are not for student use. If there is a transportation problem, or an emergency, at the teacher's discretion, students may use the office phone after class and with the office manager's permission.

Skateboarding

Skateboarding on campus is not permitted. Students should bring their boards to the office to be stored until the end of the day.



Dress Code:

Examples of prohibited clothing and accessories include but are not limited to:

1. Solid **Red** or **Blue** Clothing, this includes solid shirts worn underneath other clothing, sweatshirts, hats or shoes. Blue Jeans are acceptable.
2. All clothing brands and designs with any unauthorized group symbols or signs on it, including but not limited to: "13," "14," XIII, XIV, all area codes (707) etc.
3. All bandanas or bandana patterns on clothing.
4. "Hanging" belts.
5. Red and/or blue shoelaces, belts, headbands, or ribbons.
6. Rubber bands worn around pants legs and/or wrists.
7. Gloves worn during warm weather.
8. Hair nets or visible skull caps.
9. Gang-related tattoos.

Characteristics of Successful Creekside Students

The most successful students in our program exhibit the following qualities and characteristics:

- ✓ A strong desire to earn a high school diploma, even when it seems a distant possibility and an overwhelming task.
- ✓ A personal commitment to “do things differently”, as necessary, in order to succeed, including a willingness to examine those habits, beliefs, associations, impulses, and desires that may be holding them back.
- ✓ The ability to work independently as well as participate actively and cooperatively in group activities.
- ✓ A strong personal connection to one or more of the adults in the school, and the advocacy for the student by that adult.
- ✓ The ability to “tune out” the drama, noise, and other distractions which may be occurring inside or outside the classroom, which may be competing for immediate interest and attention.
- ✓ The ability to set realistic goals, and maintain the commitment, energy, and attention to reach them.

Class Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Period 1 (<i>home room</i>)	7:55-8:20
Period 2	8:22-9:07
Period 3	9:09-9:54
Period 4	9:56-10:41
Break	10:41-11:01
Period 5	11:03-11:47
Period 6	11:49-12:36
Period 7	12:38-1:15
<i>Lunch available</i>	<i>1:16</i>

Wednesday

Period 1 (<i>home room</i>)	7:55-8:20
Period 2	8:22-8:55
Period 3	8:57-9:29
Period 4	9:31-10:04
Period 5	10:06-10:44
Break	10:44-11:04
Period 6	11:06-11:40
<i>Lunch available</i>	<i>11:41</i>

Graduation Requirements:



Successful completion of the following:

- Credits

English	40 Credits
Math	10 Credits
Algebra 1	10 Credits
Physical Science	10 Credits
Biological Science	10 Credits
World History	10 Credits
U.S. History	10 Credits
Fine Arts/Foreign Lang	10 Credits
Civics	5 Credits
Economics	5 Credits
P.E.	20 Credits
Career Education	20 Credits
Keyboarding/Geography	5 Credits
Living Skills	5 Credits
Electives	50 Credits
Total	<u>220 Credits</u>

- Satisfactory completion of a Senior Project
- Passing the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)