

Adopted: February 26, 2024

Revised:

AGAMIM CLASSICAL ACADEMY POLICY

Students, No. 526

VIOLENCE PREVENTION (APPLICABLE TO STUDENTS AND STAFF)

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to recognize that violence has increased and to identify measures that the school will take in an attempt to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from violent and disruptive behavior.

The school is committed to promoting healthy human relationships and learning environments that are physically and psychologically safe for all members of the school community. It further believes that students are the first priority and they should be protected from physical or emotional harm during school activities and on school grounds, buses, or field trips while under school supervision.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The policy of the school is to strictly enforce its Weapons Policy (Policy 513).
- B. The policy of the school is to act promptly in investigating all acts and formal or informal complaints of violence and take appropriate disciplinary action against any student or staff member who is found to have violated this policy or any related policy.
- C. The administration will periodically review discipline policies and procedures, prepare revisions if necessary, and submit them to the school board for review and adoption.
- D. The school will implement approved violence prevention strategies to promote safe and secure learning environments, to diminish violence in our schools, and to aid in the protection of children whose health or welfare may be jeopardized through acts of violence.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY

- A. The school will review and approve policies to prevent and address violence in our schools. The Executive Director or designee will develop procedures to effectively implement the school weapons and violence prevention policies. It shall be incumbent on all students and staff to observe all policies and report violations to the school administration.

- B. The school board and administration will inform staff and students annually of policies and procedures related to violence prevention and weapons.
- C. The school will act promptly to investigate all acts and formal and informal complaints of violence and take appropriate disciplinary action against any student or staff member who is found to have violated this policy or any related policy.
- D. The consequences set forth in the school weapons policy (Policy 513) will be imposed upon any student or nonstudent who possesses, uses or distributes a weapon when in a school location.
- E. The consequences set forth in the school hazing policy (Policy 523) will be imposed upon any student or staff member who commits an act against a student or staff member; or coerces a student or staff member into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person in order for the student or staff member to be initiated into or affiliated with an organization, or for any other purpose.
- F. Students who engage in assault or violent behavior will be removed from the classroom immediately and for a period of time deemed appropriate by the Executive Director or their designee, in consultation with the teacher, pursuant to the student discipline policy (Policy 517).
- G. Students with disabilities may be expelled for behavior unrelated to their disabilities, subject to the procedural safeguards required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act.
- H. Any person in violation of this policy or the weapons policy will be referred to the local law enforcement agency in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 121A.05.
- I. Students who wear objectionable emblems, signs, words, objects, or pictures on clothing communicating a message that is racist, sexist, or otherwise derogatory to a protected minority group or which connotes gang membership or that approves, advances, or provokes any form of religious, racial, or sexual harassment or violence against other individuals as defined in the harassment and violence policy (Policy 402) will be subject to the procedures set forth in the student dress and appearance policy (Policy 515). “Gang” as used in this policy, means any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of one or more criminal acts, which has an identifiable name or identifying sign or symbol, and whose members individually or collectively engage in or whose members engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity. A “pattern of gang activity” means the commission, attempt to commit, conspiring to commit, or solicitation of two or more criminal acts, provided the criminal acts were committed on separate dates or by two or more persons who are members of or belong to the same criminal street gang.
- J. This policy is not intended to abridge the rights of students to express political, religious, philosophical, or similar opinions by wearing apparel on which such messages are stated. Such messages are acceptable as long as they are not lewd, vulgar, obscene, defamatory, profane, denote gang affiliation, advocate harassment or violence against

others, are likely to disrupt the education process, or cause others to react in a violent or illegal manner (Policy 515).

IV. PREVENTION STRATEGIES

The school has adopted and will implement the following prevention strategies to promote safe and secure learning environments, to diminish violence in our schools, and to aid in the protection of children whose health or welfare may be jeopardized through acts of violence.

- A. Enforce the school's crisis management policy (Policy 802) to address potential violent crisis situations in the school.
- B. Provide training in recognition, prevention, and safe responses to violence and development of a positive school climate.
- C. Promote student safety responsibility by encouraging the reporting of suspicious individuals and unusual activities on school grounds.
- D. Use of positive behavior intervention strategies that provide clear school rules that prevent and deter violence.
- E. Use of curriculum that teaches social skills such as maintaining self-control, building communications skills, forming friendships, resisting peer pressure, being appropriately assertive, forming positive relationships with adults, and resolving conflict in nonviolent ways.
- F. Assist students in learning critical viewing and listening skills to help them analyze mass media to recognize stereotypes, distinguish fact from fantasy, and process differences in behavior and values that conflict with their own.
- G. Use of staff photo and name identification system using identification badges for quick identification of unauthorized people on campus.
- H. Require all visitors to check-in at the main office upon their arrival and state their business at the school. A visitor badge may be issued for easy identification that the visitor is authorized to be present in the school building.
- I. Establish conflict resolution training, conflict management, or peer mediation programs for staff and students to teach effective approaches to settling disputes.

V. STUDENT SUPPORT

- A. Students will have access to school-based student service professionals, when available, including counselors, nurses, social workers, and psychologists who are knowledgeable in methods to assist students with violence prevention and intervention.
- B. Students will be apprised of school board policies designed to protect their personal safety.

- C. Students will be provided with information as to school and building rules regarding weapons and violence.
- D. Students will be informed of resources for violence prevention and proper reporting.

VI. PERSONNEL

- A. School personnel shall comply with the school weapons policy (Policy 513) and the school hazing policy (Policy 523).
- B. School personnel shall be knowledgeable of violence prevention policies and report any violation to school administration immediately. School personnel will be informed annually as to school rules regarding weapons and violence prevention.
- C. School personnel or agents of the school shall not engage in harmful or dangerous behavior; nor emotionally abusive acts including malicious shouting, ridicule, and/or threats; nor forms of corporal punishment.

VII. REPORTING TO PREVENT VIOLENCE

- A. To prevent violence, any member of the Agamim community including teachers, students, school administrators, volunteers, contractors, other school employees, and caregivers shall be alert to possible situations, circumstances, conversations, rumormongering, cyberbullying, and/or events that could lead to acts of violence within the school or between members of the school community.
- B. Any person with violence prevention information as defined in Section VII., A. shall inform the Executive Director or their designee immediately.
- C. Any staff member, student, contractor, or volunteer who fails to make reasonable efforts to report violence prevention information in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.

Cross References:

Agamim Policy 402 Harassment and Violence
Agamim Policy 513 Weapons
Agamim Policy 506 Bullying Prevention and Response
Agamim Policy 523 Hazing Prohibition
Agamim Policy 517 Student Discipline
Agamim Policy 515 Student Dress and Appearance
Agamim Policy 802 Crisis Management Policy