



Palisades Charter High School Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

Draft as of January, 2017

Preamble:

All students of the Palisades Charter High School community are entitled to equal opportunity, respect, and all rights set forth in this document regardless of their race, sex, gender, sexuality, family background, socioeconomic status, physical appearance, place of residence, disability, citizenship status, or religion. It is the job of the entire school community, including all teachers, students, faculty, staff, and other school members, to protect and enforce these rights.

Equality Articles:

1. The universal right to a school environment that is conducive to the achievement of everyone's fullest potential.

Responsibility: Everyone has the responsibility to protect and contribute to the realization of this right.

2. All students have the right to receive equal information and encouragement about academic and career opportunities, regardless of academic level or ability.

Responsibility: Students have the responsibility to seek and take advantage of academic opportunities.

3. All students have the right to equal participation in the life of the school community, including its resources, activities, and information).

Responsibility: Students and faculty, and staff have the responsibility to plan activities inclusively so that all students may participate.

4. All students have an equal right to tutoring and other forms of academic assistance and advice.

Responsibility: Students have the responsibility to seek and take advantage of tutoring and other forms of academic assistance in a *timely* manner.

5. All students have the right to know about and have access to a process through which they can report all forms of discrimination. Such reports should be responded to in a fair and prompt manner.

Responsibility: Students are responsible for reporting any and all forms of discrimination that they or others experience.

6. The right to embrace and celebrate one's own culture and heritage on campus.

Responsibility: Students must respect other cultures and heritages on campus.

Discipline Articles:

7. Students who are accused of violating school rules and or the rights of others have the right to have their alleged infraction explained to them.
Responsibility: Students must comply with all school rules, as well as warranted questionings and investigations. Faculty and staff have the obligation to explain alleged infractions to accused students.
8. All students at Palisades Charter High School have the right to be and to feel safe and secure while on campus.
Responsibility: Students must resolve conflicts in nonviolent, collaborative ways and take responsibility for the safety and security of others.
9. All students have the right to fair and impartial treatment in the determination of guilt and assignment of punishment. Students being disciplined should be treated in a respectful manner and not subject to humiliation or degrading punishment.
Responsibility: Students, faculty, and staff must not treat other members of the Palisades Charter High School community in a degrading manner or subject them to any other form of humiliation.
10. Everyone accused of wrongdoing are to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.
Responsibility: Students, faculty, and staff should respect the right of everyone to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.
11. Students have the right to be present in any search of their possessions, including lockers.
Responsibility: Students, faculty, and staff should respect the right of everyone to be present in any search of their possessions.
12. Students who are substance dependent (e.g., on drugs, alcohol.) have the right to ask for help with such dependence without fear of repercussion.
Responsibility: Students who are substance dependent must accept and/or reach out for help, if possible.

Education Articles:

13. Students have the right to a school schedule that meets the needs of *all* students.
Responsibility: Faculty, and staff should consider the needs of all members of the community when determining school schedules.
14. Students have the right to learn and speak out about social and global problems related to justice, poverty, peace, etc. while on campus and, if the subject and teacher permit it, during class.
Responsibility: Students have the responsibility to encourage speakers and presentation about issues of importance for the student body.

15. Students have the right to understand how and why they received the grades they received in any class assignment, test, report card, etc.

Responsibility: Students must, on their own time, ask teachers to discuss their grades and are responsible for completing assignments to the best of their ability.

16. Students have the right to have diverse perspectives represented in courses, textbooks, assemblies, libraries, and classroom instruction.

Responsibility: Students must be willing to respect diverse perspectives.

Freedom of Expression Articles:

17. Students have the right to express their opinions, ideas, and criticism in written and oral form without fear of censure or discrimination.

Responsibility: Students, faculty, and staff have the responsibility to respect the ideas of others, protect their freedom of expression, and avoid offensive and discriminatory language.

18. Students have the right to form and join associations and clubs.

Responsibility: Students have the responsibility to form clubs and associations that conform to school rules and the Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.

In the fall of 2015, Pali student leaders gathered to review the results of a school-wide survey "Taking the Human Rights Temperature of the Your School." Over 2,600 students responded to 25 questions about Pali academics, discipline, security and school environment. Using the survey results, the student leaders drafted the PCHS Student Bill and Rights and Responsibilities (SBRR) guided by the rights articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This SBRR document is a work-in-progress and reflects a commitment to the equal opportunity, respect and rights and responsibilities of all students at Palisades Charter High School.*

*For more information about the SBRR: www.palihigh.org
To submit questions or suggestions: pmagee@palihigh.org*

*The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted and proclaimed by the United Nations on December 10, 1948. The UDHR has been signed by every member of the UN and declares the rights of all people and encompasses a broad spectrum of economic, social, cultural, political and civil rights.

PCHS Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities Student Founders

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