



Parent & Student  
Handbook  
2016-2017

The policies, rules and regulations contained within this Parent & Student Handbook (“Handbook”) are not to be considered exclusive and are subject to change and revision during the school year. Parents and students are advised to check the [PlatoAcademy.net](http://PlatoAcademy.net) school website for the most up-to-date version of the Handbook.



Dear Parents,

Superior Schools, Plato Academy Schools' charter school management corporation, is proud to welcome you to a great new school year. We believe our students and our schools are the best, and getting better. We are honored that you have chosen Plato Academy—a tuition-free public school of choice.

Superior Schools is proud to be accredited as a Corporation System by the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools/Council on Accreditation and School Improvement/AdvancEd (SACS/CASI/AdvancED). Superior Schools' accreditation means that the corporation and all of the schools and preschools it manages are SACS accredited.

As the education management corporation for all eight Plato Academy schools, Superior Schools provides critical assistance with finances, technology, curriculum development, operations, human resources, and marketing, among others. Most importantly, Superior Schools shares in the mission of Plato Academy Schools and is committed to high standards that result in learning environments that are safe, supporting, challenging, and enthusiastic for students. We make it our goal to build, sustain, and always improve the relationships between students, teachers, administrators, families, and the community. To achieve the highest academic standards possible, it is imperative that we all work together to set and maintain the highest behavior standards.

Please use this handbook to better understand Plato Academy Schools. If there is information you still need to know after reading this, please contact your child's school. We are excited about this school year and will continue to work toward making Plato Academy Schools the leading edge in education.

Sincerely,

Superior Schools Management Team

# MISSION OF PLATO ACADEMY

## CHARTER SCHOOLS

*The mission of Plato Academy Charter Schools is to assist our students in achieving their full potential by requiring and nurturing high academic and behavioral standards in a safe, supporting, challenging and enthusiastic environment fostered by a commitment and cooperative effort among the school, students, parents, and community.*

### **Website:**

[www.PlatoAcademy.net](http://www.PlatoAcademy.net)

#### **Plato Academy Clearwater**

2045 Palmetto Street  
Clearwater, FL 33765  
Tel: (727) 228-9517  
Fax: (727) 228-9518  
Principal: Dawn Parker  
principalclearwater@platoacademy.net

#### **Plato Academy Palm Harbor**

1601 Curlew Rd.  
Palm Harbor, FL 34683  
Tel: (727) 228-6850  
Fax: (727)-2258-6851  
Principal: Stephen Donnelly  
principalpalmharbor@platoacademy.net

#### **Plato Academy Largo**

7100 142nd Avenue North  
Largo, FL 33771  
Tel: (727) 228-9519  
Fax: (727) 228-9520  
Principal: Veronica Han-G  
principallargo@platoacademy.net

#### **Plato Academy Seminole**

10888 126th Ave  
Largo, FL 33778  
Tel: (727) 228-6848  
Fax: (727) 228-6849  
Principal: Karen Staab  
principalseminole@platoacademy.net

#### **Plato Academy Tarpon Springs**

2795 Keystone Road  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688  
Tel: (727) 939-6413  
Fax: (727) 939-6080  
Principal: Danielle Turro  
principaltarponsprings@platoacademy.net

#### **Plato Academy St. Petersburg**

3901 Park Street North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33709  
Tel: (727) 521-7258  
Fax: (727) 82521-7259  
Principal: Michelle West  
principalstpetersburg@platoacademy.net

#### **Plato Academy Pinellas Park**

9200 49th Street N.  
Pinellas Park, FL 33782  
Tel: (727) 521-7260  
Fax: (727) 521-7261  
Principal: Carri Aranzabal  
principalpinellaspark@platoacademy.net

#### **Plato Academy Trinity**

8812 Old County Road 54  
New Port Richey, FL 34653  
Tel: (727) 877-2437  
Fax: (727) 877-2438  
Principal: Jennifer Perez  
principaltrinity@platoacademy.net

### **School Hours**

Student Hours - 8:40-3:10 (M-F)  
Drop Off Begins: 8:15 AM  
First Bell (enter room) - 8:30 AM  
Tardy Bell - 8:40 AM

# Contents

PLATO ACADEMY GUIDING PRINCIPLES .....	5
PLATO ACADEMY CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT .....	6
1. Parent Responsibilities: .....	6
2. Student Responsibilities: .....	7
3. Dress Code: .....	8
4. Student Attendance & Homework/Classwork Guidelines: .....	10
5. Participation in Physical Education:.....	12
6. Locker Use Procedures: .....	13
7. Discipline: .....	14
8. Cyberbullying/Bullying Policy: .....	17
9. Grievance Policy:.....	19
10. Citizenship Policy: .....	20
11. Patriotic Program - The Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem: .....	20
12. Greek Culture: .....	21
13. Classroom Transfer: .....	21
PLATO ACADEMY ESSENTIAL INFORMATION.....	22
1. Commitment to Character: .....	22
2. Communications: .....	22
3. School Supplies: .....	23
4. Lunch Procedures:.....	23
5. School Parties and Birthday Celebrations: .....	23
6. Field Trips: .....	24
7. Student Drop Off /Pick-up Procedures:.....	24
8. School Closing in an Emergency: .....	25
9. Cell Phones, Electronics and Toy Policy (“Private Electronic Devices”):.....	25
10. Report Cards - Progress Reports - Grading:.....	25
11. Promotion and Retention Guidelines: .....	27
12. Academics and Conduct Requirement for Sports Eligibility: .....	27
13. Enrichment Activities:.....	28
14. Extended Care Programs:.....	29
15. School Visitor Policy: .....	30
16. Textbooks:.....	30
17. Technology and Equipment Use Policy: .....	31
18. Withdrawals: .....	36
19. Administration of General Medications: .....	36
PARENT & STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM .....	38

## ***PLATO ACADEMY GUIDING PRINCIPLES***

The primary goal of Plato Academy Charter School is to ensure that each student's achievement is at the highest possible level. Education is to be provided in a manner that does not discriminate or cause harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, or social and family background. In order for this to be accomplished:

- Every school staff member will strive to create a positive, safe environment that encourages and supports student success. Underlying causes for misbehavior will be explored, and when possible, positive redirection will occur and acceptable alternative behaviors will be taught. Such redirection may involve a collaborative effort of school, student, parents, and community members.
- It is the objective and policy of the Administration of Plato Academy to recognize, preserve, and protect the individual rights of all students; and, at the same time, to encourage and enforce the exercise of these rights within the framework of an orderly and efficient school program. Within this framework, it is the duty of the administrative staff, and the faculty of each school to prevent student conduct that is dangerous, disruptive, or destructive, therefore endangering the proper maintenance and function of the school program. Staff members are expected to model core value behaviors that set an example for students. It is expected that all disciplinary measures will be conducted in a manner that is respectful to the student and preserves that student's dignity wherever possible. It is the expectation that each student will behave in a manner that does not threaten, interfere with, disrupt or deprive other students of their right to an education. It is also expected students will learn to accept responsibility for their behavior. An effective school environment must be safe and free from disruption.
- The Administration further recognizes that students are protected and have certain rights extended to citizens under the United States Constitution and its amendments; and that these rights cannot be abridged except in accordance with the due process of law. Therefore, in order to clarify the guidelines of student behavior in the school and establish procedures to be followed, the Plato Academy Code of Student Conduct (contained in this Handbook) has been adopted. If any issue is not addressed by this Handbook, it will be supplemented by the Pinellas County Code of Student Conduct. However, this Handbook will supersede the Pinellas County Public Schools Code of Conduct if a conflict arises, except in matters of dismissal or expulsion. The Codes shall be mandatory and applied in a manner that is consistent with Plato Academy Schools' philosophy of discipline. It is essential that all students, their parents or guardians, teachers, and administrators understand and abide by the Code of Student Conduct.

## ***PLATO ACADEMY CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT***

This *Plato Academy Code of Student Conduct* has been revised in order to present it in a style that is easier to understand. For the purpose of this Code, when we talk about a "parent" that term also includes "legal guardian." When we use the term "stakeholder" it means any student, teacher, staff, school leader, or community member with an interest in the success of the school.

### **1. Parent Responsibilities:**

School staff and parents must work together in order to maximize students' success at school. We are committed to working with and supporting families and we need parents to work with and support us.

#### **As a parent you should:**

1. Get to know the people at your child's school by attending open houses, teacher conferences, participating school-parent activities like PTO/ Booster meetings, joining committees, and volunteering. Building strong home school relationships helps to ensure that communications between the school and home are positive, respectful, and productive. (See Citizenship Policy)
2. Ensure your current telephone number, home address, work telephone number, and emergency contact number remains up-to-date at all times. **Parents can satisfy this responsibility by updating the Emergency Contact Information on the school's website.**
3. Understand and support the rules in this Handbook by talking with your child about them.
4. Teach your child to dress neatly and appropriately for school because it is a place to work and learn. Please make sure students are in proper uniform because it promotes a positive, focused learning environment.
5. Make sure your child arrives at school on time every day.
6. **Plato Academy Schools' mission is based on parental involvement: the cooperative effort between the school, students, parents, and the community. We strongly recommend parents contribute to the high quality of the school for 30 hours a school year per family, supporting the school and your child's teacher. Parent participation is of critical importance to the success of our schools and directly influences the quality of the learning environment for our students and teachers.** Ensure your child arrives at and leaves school on time. Do not leave your child at school more than fifteen minutes before the start of the school day or pick your child up more than fifteen minutes after the school day unless you have made special arrangements with the Before or After school care program. Supervision will not be provided beyond that time. This also includes school activities outside the regular school day such as clubs, dances, carnivals, practices, and games. If a child is not picked up within this time-frame, the student will be considered abandoned, and the school will have to call the appropriate authorities.
7. Contact the school the day your child is absent and follow up with a note to the teacher.
8. Be aware, when parents are divorced or separated, both parents have full rights to participate in the child's school activities and receive information in regards to what is happening at school unless there is a court order limiting that access. The office must have a certified copy on file of any such court order.

9. Provide the school with written permission from custodial parents if you want a stepparent who is not the legal guardian of the child to have access to information about the child or sign forms related to the child.
10. Be prepared to pay for any damage done to school property by your child. If payment is not made and the amount is substantial, administration determines the final action.
11. Understand that failure to pay for lost or damaged books, electronic equipment, or other teaching materials may result in your child losing the privilege of having the materials necessary to be successful.
12. Be aware that only people listed on the Emergency Contact form may take a student from school. Identification must be shown at the office.
13. Adhere to school's on-site traffic plan for drop-off and pick-up. Encourage your children, if they are walkers or bicyclists, to follow safety rules and use pedestrian-safety features where available. Please do not text or use your cell phone while in car line. Please do not smoke on school property. Never leave your car unattended. If you leave your car unattended with children inside we may call the appropriate authorities.
14. Students dropped off at school functions (including athletic games) without a parent's permission or chaperoned by an adult, will be considered abandoned and the appropriate actions will be taken.
15. Remain current on the payments of your student's before and after care fees. All fees are required in advance of the service to be provided. Students will not be permitted to attend Before or After care prior to full payment. If your student is left after school and not picked up within a 15 minute period, and the parent has been contacted and will not pick up, the school has the right to contact the appropriate authorities for an abandoned child. If you find yourself in financial difficulties, please contact the Executive Director of Early Learning and Before and After Care Programs to make arrangements as soon as possible.
16. Parents must be current on their child's lunch account or their child will not be able to purchase a hot lunch. It is recommended that parents pre-pay by the month for their lunches because when an account has a zero balance, the student will not be provided with a hot lunch. The school will provide that child with a cold sandwich, but these circumstances will not be allowed to happen repeatedly--once or twice at most. Parents will be responsible for providing lunch until the account is has a positive balance sufficient to pay the full cost of lunch.

## 2. **Student Responsibilities:**

### **To be successful, the student should:**

- Attend school each day
- Arrive on time
- Be prepared with proper materials and supplies
- Make sure important messages are communicated between school and home.
- Complete all assignments to the best of your ability and on time
- Dress appropriately in full uniform
- Be tolerant of and respectful to others
- See teachers about makeup work and complete it in a timely manner

- Contact the teacher then the principal, if needed, regarding conflicts or concerns
- Set goals for success
- Get enough sleep
- Set responsible activity hours outside of school

A student must participate in school crisis plan activities and practices such as lock-down and fire drill. (Failure to meet these requirements may lead to disciplinary action.)

### 3. **Dress Code:**

Plato Academy is a school of choice, which means parents of our students have made a careful and committed decision about where to send their child. Plato Academy holds that a higher standard of dress and grooming creates a safe environment for students which fosters learning and encourages greater respect for individuals, students, and themselves, thereby promoting a positive educational environment. The uniform policy applies to all students in kindergarten through grade 8 and will be carefully enforced. Apparel that disrupts educational activities and processes of the school (i.e. non-uniform apparel) will result in the removal of the student from the regular school environment until acceptable apparel can be secured. Students who report to school out of dress code will have parents called to come to the school to bring the proper uniform. Students and parents are expected to honor these guidelines. Reasonable accommodations based on a student's disability, sincerely held religious belief, or medical condition may be made by the principal in consultation with the Director of School Improvement (SSED). Such requests must be made in writing and submitted to the principal with signed documentation from a doctor for medical issues or a signed affidavit setting forth the religious issues and the requested exemption to the policy. Discretion in all uniform issues resides in the principal whose duty is to ensure the school environment remains disruption free. Plato Academy holds that dress and grooming regulations are a reasonable means of instilling discipline and compelling uniformity of dress and appearance.

#### **Requirements for student dress are listed below:**

- All uniform apparel must be purchased by the Plato Academy approved uniform vendor. The approved school vendors are Risse Brothers School Uniforms. The School has provided a link to the vendor's site on the school website at PlatoAcademy.net.
- Students must wear an official Plato Academy solid-colored shirt with logo.
- All uniform dress shirts (button-down) must be tucked in; Plato Academy polo shirts can be un-tucked.
- Students may not wear jackets or coats that do not meet dress code in the classroom during the school day. Jackets or coats must either be Plato uniform jackets or coats, or must match Plato Academy colors (i.e. red, blue, white, etc.) with no logos, insignias or other items.
- **FRIDAY ATTIRE:** Any shirt or top with Plato Academy insignia (i.e. Spirit shirts, team jerseys, and cheerleading uniforms) may be worn on Fridays. In addition to the regular uniform bottoms, students may wear the approved Risse Brothers uniform vendor black mesh PE shorts on Fridays and any bottoms issued or approved by the school for their sport programs.

- All uniform shirts and blouses must cover midriff, back, and sides. Dress shirts must be tucked in the pants. Plato Academy polo shirts may be worn outside the pants. Colored bras, boxers, and t-shirts must not be visible through the uniform. All shirts, tops, and dresses shall have sleeves and cover the shoulders. Tanks or t-shirts under the Plato Academy uniform shirt must match Plato Academy colors (i.e. red, blue, white, gray, etc.).
- Uniform apparel must cover all undergarments.
- Uniform shorts, skirts, and jumpers may be hemmed, but be no shorter than 3” from the knee in length.
- Socks and leggings must match the uniform colors and be plain with no designs.
- All jewelry and clothing shall be free of the following: profanity, violent images, wording, or suggestion; sexually suggestive phrases or images; gang-related symbols; alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or advertisements for such products. All jewelry must be safe and shall not be disruptive to the learning environment.
- No body piercing other than earrings. Earrings must hang no lower than one half an inch from the bottom of the ear. Gauge and tunnel earrings are not allowed nor are spike earrings.
- Hair shall not be dyed in any unnatural color or worn in a way that is disruptive to the learning environment.
- Safe and appropriate footwear must be worn. Since all students have P.E. every day we highly recommend that students wear gym shoes (tennis shoes or sneakers) with socks. Inappropriate footwear includes, and is not limited to: roller skates, skate shoes (healies), bedroom slippers, sling back flip flops, sandals, slip-on shoes, and boots. Safety is a concern and sneakers seem to be the best choice for safety. Light-up or glittery shoes are not allowed.
- Clothing must be appropriate size, with the waist of the garment worn at the student’s waist.
- Warm-up pants are not allowed.
- Clothing not properly buttoned, zipped, fastened, or with inappropriate holes or tears shall not be worn.
- Sunglasses may not be worn inside unless a parent provides a doctor’s note to the school.
- Hair must be neat and clean with no "unnatural" colors, i.e. fluorescent, bright green, etc. Hair should be combed down without spikes. Hairstyles disruptive to the learning environment will not be permitted.
- No hats or bandanas may be worn. Headbands may only be worn if holding hair back and may not be worn across the forehead.
- Sweatbands are not allowed to be visible on school grounds during the regular school hours, unless permitted for physical education class.
- Hats or other head coverings may be worn during outside P.E. activities, but **may not** be worn during any portion of the regular school day without the express permission of the Principal.

Cold Weather Uniform Guidelines:

- A solid white, blue, or red undershirt (such as a turtleneck) may be worn under the school polo or school shirt.
- Long-sleeve school uniform polo is available for purchase from Risse Brothers.

- Only the red school uniform jacket, hooded sweatshirt, or sweater bearing the Plato Academy logo may be worn in school during class time. Non-school jackets may be worn to school, but must be taken off in classrooms.
- Girls may wear solid white, red, or navy tights or leggings under their uniform shorts or skorts.

**Dress Code Violation** – Administration will determine the appropriateness of the dress. Parents choose Plato Academy because we set higher standards in all aspects of the educational environment.

- **First offense** – written warning sent home. Document must be signed and returned as a gesture of acknowledgement
- **Second offense** – Mandatory conference with teacher and administration
- **Subsequent offense** – Student will be sent to the office and parents will be called. Students will not be permitted into class until he/she is in proper uniform. Student may be provided clean and appropriately sized uniform compliant outfit at principal’s discretion.

#### 4. **Student Attendance & Homework/Classwork Guidelines:**

Regular attendance and punctuality are very important habits that all students need to acquire. Attendance is important to learning because when a student is absent, they miss the strategies necessary to master skills being taught in class that are needed to be successful. Plato Academy puts great emphasis on regular attendance and arriving to school on time.

##### **In General:**

1. **Every three (3) unexcused tardies or unexcused early pick-ups will result in the student receiving one unexcused absence.** An excusable early pick-up would be for an emergency-- a serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action, usually medically related.
2. Students who have been absent five (5) days or more in a grading period may be required to bring a certificate of illness from a licensed doctor to the school.
3. Excessive absences may lead to a referral and a parent conference.
4. When a student is absent for three (3) consecutive days the teacher will call home.
5. Students accumulating more than fifteen (15) unexcused absences per school year may impact the student’s enrollment preference for the following school year and the matter may be referred to the State Department of Children and Families.
6. If a student is absent during the school because he or she is ill or if the absence is unexcused, attendance at after school activities (such as sports, dances, or clubs) may not be permitted.
7. **If a child has a fever, the student MUST be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.**

##### **A. Excused Absences Include Those for the Following Reasons With Sufficient Documentation:**

- The student is ill or injured.
- Major illness in the immediate family (this means parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents or others living in the home or who are close relatives).
- Death in the immediate family of the student.
- Religious holiday of the student's faith. This requires a parent's note before the absence.
- A major disaster as determined by the administration.
- Any absences, including those for field trips or other parental requests as judged appropriate by the Principal, provided that the request is submitted to the principal forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the absence. A principal may waive the requirement for advance notice if extenuating circumstances exist.

**B. Unexcused Absences:**

Any absence that does not meet one of the criteria above is an unexcused absence. The following are examples of unexcused absences (this list is not exhaustive):

- Out-of-school suspensions
- Family vacations
- Students without complete, compliant Certificates of Immunization.
- Outside of school appointments

**C. Tardies:**

It is imperative that all students are in the classroom and prepared to begin learning at 8:40 a.m. Students not in their classrooms by 8:40 will be considered tardy. Please keep in mind that a tardy student not only distracts from that student's learning, but from the learning of other students.

Definition: Any student not physically in the classroom at 8:40 am. All tardies are considered unexcused for the following reasons: over-sleeping, too tired, heavy traffic, or couldn't get motivated. Plato Academy also holds that leaving school early will be counted as a tardy if there is not a legitimate reason for leaving school early such as a doctor or dentist appointment. Unexcused early pickups may be counted as a tardy.

Documentation:

- A tardy slip will be issued after 8:40 a.m.
- A tardy student may be required to document relevant information in a classroom sign in/sign out sheet in addition to the tardy slip. 33782

Consequences:

- Every three (3) unexcused tardies or unexcused early pick-ups (anything prior to 3:10 dismissal) will result in the student receiving one unexcused absence.
- Numerous unexcused tardies may result in the following:

- Parent or guardian contacted by the school
- Detention for the student with parental notification
- Parent or guardian contact by other authorities.
- Students accumulating fifteen (15) unexcused absences per school year may result in retention due to lack of attendance and may result in a report being made to the Department of Children and Families.

**D. Make-Up Work:**

1. After an absence, a student must arrange with the teacher for any make-up work. Credit for makeup work may only be given for excused absences. The number of days allowed to make up the work shall be the same as the number of school days the student was absent.
2. If a teacher assigns an assignment or long-term project prior to the absence, the project, assignment, or test shall be completed expeditiously upon returning.

**E. Homework/Classwork Guidelines:**

Plato Academy recognizes the importance of homework to reinforce content already taught in the classroom, to help students develop independent work and study habits, to build self-discipline, to instill a sense of responsibility, to identify any area of difficulty for the student, and to involve parents/guardians in the learning process. We also believe in the importance of free time for children. **Therefore, homework will not be issued on weekends or holidays.**

Homework is usually assigned Monday through Thursday. Students who do not have homework assignments completed and turned in by the assigned date may earn a lower grade or may receive after school homework detention with parent notification. Students with incomplete homework/classwork may be assigned homework during the weekends or holidays if the work cannot be completed during the school day.

Students with excused absences will have the same number of days as they were absent after returning to school to turn in missing assignments, including classwork/homework. Students with unexcused absences will be unable to make up missing home or classwork.

**5. Participation in Physical Education:**

**Participation** – Every student is required to participate in P.E. class—if scheduled—daily during school. If a student is not able to participate due to an illness or injury, a note from a parent is required to be excused. If the student is not able to be in P.E. for more than three days, a doctor’s note will need to be obtained in order for the days to be excused. On the note, we request the reason why the student will not be participating, what limitations they have, and how long they will not be allowed to participate in certain activities. Dr. notes should be addressed to the student’s teacher, and a copy needs to be given to the P.E. teacher.

If a student suddenly becomes ill or injured and requests to sit out of P.E., a form will be filled out by the student and sent home explaining why he or she sat out and describe what they were learning in class that day. This form will need to be signed by the parent and returned to the P.E. teacher the following class. If the inactive form is not returned the following day, the student will receive an unexcused absence from P.E. If the student acquires three or more unexcused absences in one grading period, their grade for participation will be affected.

**Behavior** – Every student is required to display good behavior including the following:

- a. Good sportsmanship
- b. Respects the teacher
- c. Respects all classmates
- d. Follows directions
- e. Listens
- f. Good attitude
- g. Honesty
- h. Always tries to do their best
- i. Has fun

If a student breaks the rules, displays inappropriate behavior, disrupts the class, chooses not to participate, intentionally harms others verbally or physically, then the student will receive disciplinary action. Depending on the behavior issue, a student could have sports privileges, recess, P.E., or extracurricular activities limited or taken away for a period of time.

- **Effort** – All students are expected to do their best in P.E. every day, even if they do not like the activity or sport. If the student chooses to display less than 85% effort, the parent/guardian will be contacted due to the effect it may have on the student’s P.E. grade.
- **Dress Code** – All students are required to wear comfortable shoes so that they will be able to run and perform physical activities, without limitations or fear of getting hurt. They are required to wear the school uniform at all times. Girls who wear dresses must wear shorts under their jumpers. If a student is not in proper attire for P.E. class, the student will have to sit out of P.E. class and an inactive form will be filled out and sent home for the parent to sign.
- **Grades** – All students will be graded on behavior, effort, and participation. If there is any concern with a student in any of these areas, the parents will be contacted via email or a phone call to discuss the concern before grades are given.
- **Injury** – If a student gets injured at school, the coach will write an incident report and send the student to the office. The office will then notify the parent or guardian to determine appropriate action.

## 6. Locker Use Procedures:

Lockers—if applicable—are made available for students as a privilege—not a right—to use in storing school supplies and personal items necessary for use at school. Lockers are not to be used to store items that cause, or can reasonably be foreseen to cause, an interference with school purposes

or educational functions. Nor should lockers be used in any way forbidden by state law or school rules. A student who uses a locker that is the property of the school is presumed to have no expectation of privacy in that locker or the locker's contents. The following rules and regulations shall be enforced throughout the school year:

- Locks—Locks will be permitted at the discretion of the Principal. The school may retain access to student lockers by keeping a master list of combinations or retaining an extra key. Students may not use their own locks to prevent access to lockers by school officials. Any unauthorized locks may be removed without notice and destroyed. Students may not trade lockers or locks with other students. Failure to follow such requests will result in a student forfeiting his or her locker privileges for, perhaps, an entire school year.
- Locker Use—Lockers are to be used to store school supplies and personal items necessary for use at school. No material that violates the Student Code of Conduct is allowed in the locker. Students will be expected to keep their lockers in a clean and orderly manner. Failure to follow such a request will result in a student forfeiting his or her privilege in accessing a school locker for a designated amount of time up to the entire school year.
- Locker Inspection—The school retains the right to inspect lockers to ensure they are being maintained in accordance with these rules, or upon a reasonable suspicion that the locker contains items that may interfere with school purposes.
- Law Enforcement Officials—Administration may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to assist the school administrators in inspecting lockers or their contents for purposes of enforcing school policies only if such assistance is required.

## 7. **Discipline:**

### **Misconduct that may result in discipline:**

#### **In General:**

Students are expected to behave well at school and school-sponsored activities. Students may be disciplined if they do anything at school or at a school function (or attempt to do anything) that violates a school rule or may:

- Hurt, harass or threaten others
- Damage property
- Disrupt class or school
- Violate a criminal law
- Show disrespect of any kind towards another person: teacher, parent, staff, volunteer, visitor, or student

#### **Specific Acts:**

Listed below are some acts that fall within the above five types of misconduct. These acts are not the only acts that may result in discipline, including suspension, dismissal, or expulsion, according to the Plato Academy Code of Student Conduct and the PCSB Code of Student Conduct.

Some, but not all, of the acts that may result in discipline are:

1. Cheating (teacher shall also record a “zero” for each act of cheating), including plagiarism
2. Falsifying or altering records (i.e. forging a signature)
3. Improper use of computers or electronic devices
4. Threatening to hurt someone
5. Hitting someone
6. Using physical force against someone
7. Stealing
8. Fighting
9. Extortion
10. Blackmail
11. Misconduct
12. Arson
13. Vandalism
14. Interference with school personnel
15. Interference with the movement of another student
16. Cyberbullying/Bullying
17. Gambling
18. Trespassing
19. Defiance
20. Verbal abuse of another
21. Profanity
22. Failure to give correct name
23. Participation in disruptive demonstration
24. Leaving school grounds without permission
25. Sexual activity at school or at a school function
26. Sexual or other harassment
27. Making a false alarm (this includes pulling a fire alarm)
28. Possession of common objects that could hurt someone (such as self-defense chemical spray, nail files, silverware, screwdriver, etc.)
29. Possession of toy or replica gun or knife
30. Possession of drug paraphernalia
31. Possession of tobacco or alcohol
32. Possession of illegal narcotics
33. Possession of over-the-counter medications (if prescribed, these must be delivered to the front office with a doctor’s note)
34. Possession of prescription medications (if prescribed, these must be delivered to the front office with a doctor’s note)
35. Possession of hazardous material
36. The unauthorized use of electronic items such as, but not limited to, the following;
  - Cell phones (including the camera that may be part of the phone)
  - Tape player/recorder
  - Radio

- Camera
  - Camcorder
  - Television
  - MP3 player or any upgraded one
  - Pager or beeper
37. Violation of a school rule
  38. Other serious misconduct
  39. An incident involving illegal substance at school or at a school event
  40. Involvement in the making of a bomb threat or a bomb
  41. Possession of a gun (real, toy, pellet, or BB) at school, or at a school function
  42. Possession of any object brought to school that could be used against others with the intent to do harm even if for self-defense
  43. Possession of any type or style of knife
  44. A violent act resulting in an injury
  45. Possession of brass knuckles at school or at a school function

#### CONSEQUENCES:

Plato Academy (K-8) believes that a safe, secure, and nurturing school environment with a Academy's (K-8) belief that all students are entitled to an optimum learning environment free of disruption. In order for this to transpire Plato Academy (K-8) implements a schoolwide discipline policy that provides consistency to all students because the rules and consequences will be applied fairly throughout the school.

The principal has the discretion to provide consequences that promote a safe, secure, and nurturing learning environment considering the totality of the circumstances for all students. For serious or repeated infractions the principal may suspend the student out of school for up to ten (10) days at a time. Serious infractions include but are not limited to: causing substantial harm to self or others, destruction of property, use of profanity or vulgar language, bullying and taunting, causing significant disruption to the learning environment. Consequences will increase in severity in accordance with frequency and severity of harm and/or disruption.

#### **Searches and Seizures:**

A student's purse, backpack, and other personal possessions can be searched if there is a reasonable belief or suspicion that any of them contain drugs, weapons, contraband, or other items not permitted on campus; as well as, reasonable suspicion that the backpack or purse may contain property of the school or another student. These are safety precautions designed to give Plato Academy students a safe and healthy school in which to learn.

#### **Cheating/malpractice:**

Cheating/malpractice definition: Behaviors that result in or may result in a student gaining an unfair advantage over another student and includes the following:

- *Plagiarism*: the representation of the ideas or work of another person as the student's own. Student who have questions regarding whether or not something constitutes plagiarism have a responsibility to consult with the teacher prior to submitting the work/assignment.
- *Collusion*: the supporting of malpractice by another student, as allowing one's work to be copied or submitted for another.
- *Duplication of work*: the presentation of the same work for different assignments
- *Other*: includes but is not limited to:
  - Engaging in misconduct during an exam, test, quiz or other assessment situation
  - Falsifying any records, documentation
  - Copying, paraphrasing, reusing or submitting another's work without acknowledging the source, including information from the Internet
  - Identical answers on passages on tests, reports, essays

**CONSEQUENCES:**

First Offense: Grade of zero (0) on assignment

Second Offense: Grade of zero (0) and referral to office with possible suspension

**8. Cyberbullying/Bullying Policy:**

Plato Academy Charter schools are committed to the prevention of any cyberbullying/bullying behaviors and will take subsequent swift action in response to any reported cyberbullying/bullying or harassment incidents in accordance with Florida Statute 1006.147. Providing a quality education in an environment of safety is a core value to the administration and teachers at Plato Academy as referenced in our Mission Statement. Students shall adhere to the Code of Student Conduct policies in this Handbook. Bullying and/or Cyberbullying, as defined below, is prohibited during school, via school equipment, at school-sponsored events, or by any electronic act that results in the disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment, whether or not the electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment.

**“Bullying”** includes cyberbullying and means systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees. It is further defined as unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by a student or adult, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school performance or participation; and may involve but is not limited to: 1) Teasing, 2) Social Exclusion, 3) Threat, 4) Intimidation, 5) Stalking, 6) Physical violence, 7) Theft, 8) Sexual, religious, or racial harassment, 9) Public or private humiliation, 10) Destruction of property.

**“Cyberbullying”** means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which includes, but is not limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic system, photo-electronic system, or photo-optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, Internet communications, instant messages, or facsimile communications. Cyberbullying includes the creation of a webpage or weblog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person, or the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages, if the

creation or impersonation creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying. Cyberbullying also includes the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying.

**Harassment** means any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student or school employee that:

1. Places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property;
2. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits; or
3. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

**Bullying and harassment** also encompasses:

1. Retaliation against a student or school employee by another student or school employee for asserting or alleging an act of bullying or harassment. Reporting an act of bullying or harassment that is not made in good faith is considered retaliation.
2. Perpetuation of conduct listed in the definition of bullying or harassment by an individual or group with intent to demean, dehumanize, embarrass, or cause emotional or physical harm to a student or school employee by: a) Incitement or coercion, b) Accessing or knowingly and willingly causing or providing access to data or computer software through a computer, computer system, or computer network within the scope of the district school system, or c) Acting in a manner that has an effect substantially similar to the effect of bullying or harassment.

**“Cyberstalking”** as defined in s. 784.048(1)(d), F.S., means to engage in a course of conduct to communicate, or to cause to be communicated, words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication, directed at a specific person, causing substantial emotional distress to that person and serving no legitimate purpose.

**Reporting an act of bullying/cyberbullying, or harassment:** Any student, staff, volunteer, or parent/legal guardian who witnesses bullying, or has reliable information that a student has been the victim of cyberbullying/bullying, as defined above, shall report the incident to the principal or designated representative immediately either in person, via email, or anonymously. Once the report has been received, the principal or designated representative will begin an investigation. Students and parents can report anonymously to the following site:

<https://www.anonymousalerts.com/pinellascs/>

**Consequences:** Students who engage in bullying during school, on school property, during and/or while in route to or from any school function in connection to or with any school sponsored activity or event, or by an electronic act that results in the disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion, according to Plato Academy or PCSB Codes of Student Conduct, from the school. Students accused of bullying or harassment may be subject to being reported to the county/state

bullying/harassment database.

**Prevention:** Plato Academy shall work to sustain a healthy, positive, and safe learning environment for all students. This requires the efforts of everyone in the school environment – principal, teachers, staff, parents/legal guardians, and students.

## **9. Grievance Policy:**

All Plato Academy Charter School complaints will be addressed in a timely and consistent fashion. Disagreements should be solved whenever possible among the people most closely involved while preserving positive relationships. Therefore, when parents have complaints or disagreements with any parties at Plato Academy Charter School, they should observe the following guidelines:

1. If the complaint involves a situation in the classroom, parents should seek to resolve the issue with the **Classroom Teacher** or teacher assistant in a manner that is not disruptive to the learning environment via email or a scheduled meeting.
2. If a resolution with the classroom faculty is not possible, or if the complaint is with a school-wide policy or procedure, the parent should seek to resolve the issue with the Assistant Principal or **Principal** via email or a scheduled meeting.
3. If resolution is not possible with any of the parties above, parents should address a complaint to the **Superior Schools Education Department (SSED)**
  - a. Complaints should be made in writing—email is preferable because of its speed. This allows all parties involved to work from a consistent body of information.
  - b. **(SSED)**, in general, will not address a complaint based on hearsay (second-hand conversation) or made on behalf of another parent or family.
  - c. **(SSED)**, in general, will not address a complaint if resolution with the appropriate individuals in Items #1 and #2 has not yet been attempted in good faith.
  - d. **(SSED)** reserves the right not to address a complaint that is made anonymously.
  - e. **(SSED)**, in general, will not address specific complaints about the performance of individual school employees in a public meeting. If such a complaint is brought at a public meeting, the Superintendent will take the complaint under advisement and will provide an appropriate response at a later time.
  - f. **(SSED)** reserves the right to notify individual school employees about complaints brought against them. Parents may request that they are not personally identified as the party bringing the complaint, but, a thorough investigation and complete resolution of the issue requires, in most cases, that all parties communicate with one another. (See Citizenship Policy).
  - g. **(SSED)** will respond to a complaint via a written letter or email. This will occur within 10 business days of receiving the complaint.
4. If a parent complaint is not addressed to the satisfaction of the people involved, parents have the right to seek resolution with the Governing Board of Directors for the school. The Governing Board has appointed a Charter School Representative for each Plato Academy school to facilitate parental

involvement, provide access to information, assist parents and others with questions and concerns, and to resolve disputes. Complaints may be addressed to the Charter School Representative at the contact information provided to parents in writing and that is listed on the Plato Academy website (PlatoAcademy.net) under the “Board Information” link of each school’s webpage stating clearly how parents may contact the Board directly. Once anyone with a grievance has worked through the appropriate grievance procedures above and still not found satisfactory resolution, they are encouraged to contact the board directly at board@platoacademy.net.

This Grievance Policy is not designed to supersede or supplant federal law and parent rights under The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as amended, 1996, or section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

## **10. Citizenship Policy:**

Plato Academy provides its students with a safe, supporting, challenging, and enthusiastic learning environment. Creating such an environment is the result of good citizenship. To help guarantee this environment exists, Plato Academy students are required to meet behavior expectations outlined above in this handbook. Adults are expected to respect the following Citizenship policies:

- As citizens within an academic community focused on providing students with a learning environment that is enthusiastic, supporting, challenging, and safe, Plato Academy employees, parents, and community members will demonstrate the concept of “Citizenship” in their dealings with all Plato Academy Stakeholders, including students, parents, school employees, and visitors.
- Physical or verbal acts that are hostile, threatening, or harassing in any way will not be tolerated. Profanity and insults are not constructive and unacceptable
- Whether it is face-to-face or over the phone, through texts, blog posts, or emails, good Citizenship requires an attitude that is productive and strives for harmony.
- Destructive criticism is unacceptable.
- Employees and parents should report any behavior that falls below this standard of Citizenship using the grievance procedures outlined above. Our students deserve good role models.

## **11. Patriotic Program - The Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem:**

At Plato Academy every morning the Pledge of Allegiance is recited and National Anthem is sung. Each student will give the pledge by standing with the right hand over the heart. According to Florida Statute, a student has the right not to participate in reciting the pledge. Upon written request by his or her parent, the student will be excused from reciting the pledge, including standing and placing the right hand over the heart. When the pledge is given, unexcused students must show full respect to the flag by standing at attention, males removing the headdress, except when such headdress is worn for religious purposes. When the

U.S. national anthem is sung, students and all civilians shall stand at attention, men removing the headdress, except when such headdress is worn for religious purposes.

**12. Greek Culture:**

As part of Plato Academy's Greek Culture program, the Greek national anthem is sung every day along with the U.S. National Anthem and U.S. Pledge of Allegiance recitation. The Greek national anthem, "Hymn to Liberty" praises those who fought in the Greek War of Independence. Students are encouraged to participate, however, there is no requirement for any student to sing the Greek national anthem.

**13. Classroom Transfer:**

A parent whose student is assigned an out-of-field teacher may request that his or her child be transferred to an in-field classroom teacher within the school and grade in which the student is currently enrolled. Please contact the school Principal if you would like more information regarding a transfer on this basis.

## ***PLATO ACADEMY ESSENTIAL INFORMATION***

### **1. Commitment to Character:**

Plato Academy has adopted a program that creates a safe learning environment for all students with the focus on the core traits of responsibility, honesty, respect, and self-motivation. Each month the school will focus on one specific trait that will mold our students in becoming better citizens of the world as they grow and become our future leaders.

### **2. Communications:**

**Plato Academy is constantly improving its digital capabilities, including communications with parents via its website. Increasingly, communications between home and school will occur on the school's website or via email.**

**Parental Responsibility:** It is a parent's responsibility to check the online grade book at least once every two weeks and regularly check the school website and email for announcements from the school or from teachers. Parents must update any changes to their contact information on the Emergency Contact form on the school website. Parents are expected to regularly use the online grading system to monitor their child's progress.

**Communication between Home and School:** All students shall be directed to deliver all school communications to his or her parent. The parent should expect to assist their student in forming the good habit of delivering all papers and communications home and back to school on time as directed by the teacher. Students are accountable for delivering and returning all communications on the day they are given to them. New communication technologies will also be employed throughout the school year to provide communications between home and school.

**Students leaving campus with someone other than a parent:** If a parent has made arrangements for their child to go home with another student, a parent must add that other student's parent to the list of acceptable people to pick up their child on the emergency contact form on the school's website. If that system is down or inaccessible a written note is required by the parent informing appropriate Plato Academy staff upon arrival at school. We are responsible for the safety of your child and we must know that arrangements students make with each other have been approved by the parents. Just like in After Care, a student will not be released to another parent unless we have a note stating specifically who will pick up your child and on what day. Phone calls between students will not be permitted, only written notes from the parent.

**The items below require parent signature.** Plato Academy Charter School communicates with parents in the following ways and requires parents to note their awareness with a signature:

1. Notes sent home from teachers or staff
2. Injury or Accident Report forms
3. Parent signatures on student's work when applicable
4. Behavior forms that have been sent home
5. Report Cards and Progress Reports
6. Parent conferences including but not limited to phone, or in person

### **3. School Supplies:**

Plato Academy teachers have put together a supply list for each grade level and all students will need to have the supplies on the first day of school. Supply lists are posted on our website on teacher's web pages.

Parent communications will be via email, teacher webpages, and class newsletters. For students who have been issued an electronic device, it will serve as an agenda. The purpose of the communication is to give students, parents, and teachers a way of exchanging important information. It allows all parties to write messages as needed concerning the education of the students.

### **4. Lunch Procedures:**

Students at Plato Academy have the option to pack their own lunch or they may purchase a hot lunch. A lunch calendar will be available online at the school website. The cost of lunch will be \$2.75 per elementary and middle school student and must be paid in advance using the Plato Academy online payment system. Breakfast will be provided free of charge. Payment procedures for school lunch are posted on the website under the "Make a Payment." If your student is running late and they require a hot lunch, please call in to the school by 9:00 a.m. and pay for the lunch using the online payment system. For safety reasons, do not pack glass containers or food items needing microwaving or heating.

Parents are welcome to have lunch with their student and may bring an outside lunch for their child only (to be eaten during their designated lunch time). Parents may not bring food for other students in the school unless we have a written note from the other student's parent.

If a student should happen to forget to order a lunch or if they forgot their lunch box, they will be asked to call home and parents will be responsible to bring them a lunch. In order for students to do their best work, we need to feed the brain. Therefore, any student without a lunch will receive a modest meal and parents will be billed. If the lunch is forgotten more than two times, Plato Academy may conduct an investigation of child neglect and, if deemed appropriate, will contact Children's Services. For parents with limited financial means, free and reduced lunch options are available to families who qualify.

### **5. School Parties and Birthday Celebrations:**

Classroom teachers arrange parties with the help of classroom parents. Any food brought in by parents must be commercially prepared. Homemade items cannot be served to children. Celebrations are encouraged to support academic success.

Plato Academy is happy to celebrate a child's birthday at school if parents wish to send in a special treat sufficient to share with all children in their child's class. Parents should notify the teacher to make arrangements on timing. All foods must be commercially prepared. Teachers should be keenly aware of and strive to prevent any possible known student allergic interactions to food. Birthday Party Invitations cannot distributed at school unless there is an invitation for every student in the class.

## **6. Field Trips:**

Educational field trips are an important part of the student's school year. Each trip is an outgrowth of the instructional program designed to support and enrich the curriculum. Permission forms, with information about locations, cost, etc. are sent home for parents to read and sign prior to any field trip. Money will not be refunded after the field trip. Students who do not have a signed permission slip in on the designated deadline will not be permitted to attend the field trip. Due dates are very important and permission slips cannot be turned in late. Students on disciplinary probation or students who have violated fundamental discipline guidelines may lose the privilege to attend field trips. Dress for field trips will always be school dress uniform--unless stated otherwise by teachers and approved by administration.

All field trip drivers and chaperones must have completed the required school background screening form and pass required background checks. Any vehicle used to transport students under this policy shall be: 1) currently registered in the State of Florida, 2) insured for personal injury protection and property damage liability in at least the minimum amounts required by law, and 3) in good working order. All field trip drivers must have and provide a copy of a valid driver's license and insurance card. Prohibited vehicles for student transportation include convertibles and SUVs with a wheelbase of 10" or less (which per Federal Law will have a rollover warning label displayed). Students are required to wear seat belts at all times.

Instructors will assign students to each car and students may not switch cars. Please do not make any stops to or from a trip. If you volunteer to chaperone on a trip, please stay with the group of children assigned to you and do not leave until the designated time without approval. Students will not be dismissed to parents at the field trip venue unless approval is obtained. Due liability issues and the supervisory responsibilities of all chaperones, younger and older siblings cannot be brought on class field trips. Smoking or use of other tobacco products is not allowed on field trips or on school campus by adults. Chaperones must adhere to all rules and guidelines of the field trip venues. Field trips are for registered Plato students only.

## **7. Student Drop Off /Pick-up Procedures:**

Parents/Guardians are expected to provide transportation for their children back and forth from school. Students should NOT arrive before 8:15 a.m. for school if they are not registered in the before care program. Students arriving prior to 8:15 that are not registered in the before care program will be required to attend and pay for Before Care. Plato Academy believes all students have a right to a safe environment and we strive to ensure that by not allowing any student to be unattended on campus. Students who arrive on campus before 8:15 a.m. will not have teacher supervision unless they are in Before Care. When students arrive on campus they need to go to their assigned area and quietly wait for the teacher to let them in their room. Parents must exit the building by 8:30am. Please also refer to your school's specific AM and PM Drop Off and Pickup or Carline schedule.

After 3:30 p.m. all remaining students will be signed in to After Care and will be required to pay the After Care Cost. Plato Academy may be forced to consider a child as "Abandoned" when the parent responsible for the child's welfare rejects parental obligations, leaving the child at school after the

school day, and has not told the child or the school that the parent will be late. In such cases, Plato Academy may call the appropriate officials.

## **8. School Closing in an Emergency:**

Plato Academy will do all that it can to protect the health and safety of its students. Residents in Florida know the dangers of inclement weather especially during the hurricane season. While very infrequent, there may be times when our school may have to close to protect our students and be reopened as emergency shelters for the community. Local television and radio media inform the public when school closings occur. In emergency situations, Plato Academy will close when Pinellas County Schools issues a school closure.

In emergency situations where schools are closed, Plato Academy will send out emails to families, post current information on its website, and make phone calls to families notifying them of the closure.

The following media outlets, among others, will also provide up-to-date information to the public in the event a school closing occurs or if the student day must be shortened due to emergency conditions:

WFLA-Ch. 8  
Bay News-Ch. 9  
WTSP-Ch. 10  
WTVT-Ch. 13  
WFTS-Ch. 28  
WUSF 89.7 radio

## **9. Cell Phones, Electronics and Toy Policy (“Private Electronic Devices”):**

Private electronic devices may not be used during school hours, including transitions between classes and in extended care. Private electronic devices may only be used upon departure from school premises. Private Electronic devices need to be turned off (not set on vibrate) during school hours and must be kept out of view.

- Private Electronic Devices blatantly used during school hours or that are audible, although out of view, will be confiscated and sent to administration with disciplinary consequences.
- All contact between parent and students **MUST** be made through the administrative office for proper documentation of such contact. Electronic Devices that violate this policy will be confiscated and kept in the front office until a parent arrives to retrieve it directly from administration. Violating this policy may result in suspension because of the level of disruption it creates to the learning environment.

## **10. Report Cards - Progress Reports - Grading:**

Report Cards are completed by the teacher four times per year for grades K-8 and are sent to the parent or guardian who must sign the envelope and return it to school, unless otherwise noted by the

School. Progress Reports will be issued to students in need of additional support between grading periods. Parents keep each Progress Report provided to them.

### Explanation of Codes

The set of codes listed below is used in:

- Grades 1 & 2 – all areas
- Art, Music, Greek, and Physical Education – all areas
- Grades 3-5 - work habits and conduct
- Grades 6-8 - all areas (as noted with an asterisk (\*) below)

E – Excellent performance in classroom work or behavior. Daily performance meets or exceeds Plato Academy grade level expectations.

V – Very good performance in classroom work or behavior. Daily performance meets or exceeds Plato Academy grade level expectations.

S – Satisfactory performance in classroom work or behavior. Daily performance may be at or somewhat below Plato Academy grade level expectations.

N – Needs Improvement in classroom work or behavior. Daily performance is below Plato Academy grade level expectations.

U – Unsatisfactory in classroom work or behavior. Daily performance is markedly below Plato Academy grade level expectations.

The set of codes listed below is used in:

- Grades 3-5 - grades in Core Courses: Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Greek Language, and Health
- Grades 6-8 - grades in Core Courses: Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Physical Education, and Health, and Elective courses, including but not limited to Art, Music, and Greek Language

A – (90-100%) Student's average grade during the marking period falls within the range of 90-100% and daily work consistently meets high quality standards

B – (80-89%) Student's average grade during the marking period falls within the range of 80-89% and daily work consistently meets acceptable standards

C – (70-79%) Student's average grade during the marking period falls within the range of 70-79% and daily work consistently meets acceptable standards

D – (60-69%) – Student's average grade during the marking period falls within the range of 60-69% and daily work is inconsistent in meeting acceptable standards

F – (0-59%) Student's average grade during the marking period falls within the range of 0-59% and daily work consistently does not meet acceptable standards.

All students participate on a regular basis in art, music, and physical education classes. In PE, students participate in activities and learn about subjects relating to the following standards:

physical education literacy, responsible physical activity, and the promotion of physically active lifestyles. In Art and Music classes students participate in activities and learn about subjects relating to the following standards: skills and techniques, creation and communication, cultural and historical connections, aesthetic and critical analysis and applications to life. Each student receives grades based on student expectations. Expectations are different for each grade level. More specific information on the expectations for your child's grade level will be shared at Open House.

### Student Honors Criteria

Principals List – Students in grades K-8 who receive all A's or E's or in the academic subjects and who achieve all E's for conduct, work habits, physical education, art, and music shall have their name entered on the Principal's List

Honor Roll – Students in grades K-8 who receive no grade lower than "B" or "V" or for middle schoolers "S" in the academic subjects and who achieve all E's or V's S's for middle school for conduct, work habits, physical education, art, and music shall have their names entered on the honor roll.

### **11. Promotion and Retention Guidelines:**

Our teachers will challenge each student with motivating, engaging instruction in a safe learning environment. The curriculum is based on the content and performance strategies that will nurture high academic standards along with the love of learning. Our philosophy is to encourage critical thinking skills that will prepare our students to become productive, contributing citizens in our multicultural society. In reality, we know that students are individuals and they learn at different levels.

In order for a student to be promoted, the teacher and administration will look at these criteria:

- Class grades
- Report card grades
- Common assessments
- Teacher recommendation and observations
- Standardized Assessments/Student portfolio
- Parent's willingness to help or get help for student
- Student's maturity and ability to succeed at the next level

In order to uphold our mission, no student will be promoted unless they are academically ready and have the maturity to succeed in the next grade.

### **12. Academics and Conduct Requirement for Sports Eligibility:**

It is the philosophy at Plato Academy that all students will work to their fullest potential. We are educating the whole student, not just academically. So behavior and manners are as important as grades. We also understand that all students achieve at different levels and as long as a student is *doing their best* and working to their potential they will be allowed to participate. We understand

that all students are not “A” students and we will not hinder students from enjoying extra activities when they are behaving well and doing their best academically.

All competitive and recreational sports during and after school are considered a privilege to all students. To be a member of a team or sport, students must maintain good behavior in ALL classes, during school activities, and on field trips. If any student is sent to the office with a referral, the student may not be able to participate in the next club-meeting or game.

If a teacher is concerned about a student’s work, grades, or behavior, a note will be given to the coach or club teacher and a meeting will be held to discuss the need for the student to receive tutoring during sport or club time in order to help the child improve his or her grades. The Principal has the discretion to permit or prohibit students from participating in sports based upon her consideration of the whole child: academics, citizenship, and effort.

If a student is terminated from a team or club, they can request one meeting for a review of the decision. The meeting will take place by appointment only and will include an academic teacher, the student, the parent, the coach or club teacher, and the Principal. The student must write a letter of apology, stating the mistake they made, what they learned from it, and why they should be allowed to rejoin the club or team. A unanimous decision by all members of the committee will be required before the student can be reinstated into the sport or club.

### **13. Enrichment Activities:**

Enrichment Activities are offered as Plato’s Clubs that is part of Plato Academy’s Extended Care Program for which each school’s Extended Care Program Director oversees. Programs may include: Cheerleading, Soccer Programs, Greek Choir, Technology Club, Drama Club, Sports Club, Dance Club, Greek Club, Newspaper Club, a Book Club, Spanish Club, Cooking Club, and many more. Enrichment Activities are provided to students at all grade levels. Offerings will vary by campus and grade according to the specific talent of the staff and parent volunteers at each campus. Enrichment Activity information will be posted on the Platoacademy.net website for each campus and will be available in the school office. The guide may include the activities offered, if additional fees or supplies are needed, the days, and times, etc.

In order for each club to be successful and for each student to receive a positive, enriching, and structured experience, space will be limited in each club. If any club has an overwhelming interest, every effort will be made to add additional clubs at another day and time. Please be advised that clubs may be substituted or cancelled due to lack of interest or staff. Due to inclement weather, clubs may also be cancelled. Every effort will be made to notify you due to a change in schedule as soon as possible.

Please note that, Enrichment Activities are different from extracurricular Middle School Sports Programs and Middle School Cheerleading (also known as SSL Superior Sports League) Each of which have different participation costs, requirements, forms, rules and regulations depending upon the sport. Information regarding SSL and Cheerleading, including days, time, and costs will be posted online and available in the school office or by speaking with the respective coaches.

#### Enrichment Activity Fees:

For students attending Plato Academy's After Care Program, Plato's Clubs are inclusive with no additional fees.

**FOR NON-AFTER CARE ENROLLED STUDENTS:**

A completed registration packet and advanced payment will be required for each student prior to participation in any Plato's Club. A \$10.00 Enrollment Fee per student per Plato Club must be paid prior to participation to cover costs of supplies and/or equipment. (This fee does not cover uniforms or t-shirts).

For Non-After Care enrolled students, Plato's Clubs will have a fee of \$10.00 per day per Plato Club. Please note that PAYMENT IS DUE IN ADVANCE MONTHLY FOR CLUB PARTICIPATION. Nonpayment by the end of the first week may result in possible disenrollment from Plato's Clubs. Parents must understand that it is their responsibility to pick students up promptly when a Plato's Club ends unless the student is enrolled in the After Care Program. For their safety, students are not permitted to wait unsupervised until their pick-up arrives. Please understand a late fee of \$1 per minute will apply, and continued late pick up may result in the student's disenrollment from the Plato Club Program.

If a parent has volunteered to hold a Plato Club, their child(ren) will be able to participate in any Plato Club offered on that day free of charge.

**14. Extended Care Programs:**

Plato Academy's Extended Care Program is structured to give all students an opportunity to expand their horizons, get involved in new activities, enhance their socialization, and have the ability to complete their homework with the assistance of our teachers, if needed. Enrichment Activities are included as part of the full-time Extended Care Program. Students needing Extended Care services must have pre-registered and completed all necessary forms prior to being enrolled. Before Care begins at 7:00 am and any student dropped off prior to 8:15 will be considered before care and be charged accordingly. After Care begins at 3:30 and ends at 5:45 pm. If a student is not picked up by 3:30 p.m., the Director will contact the parents. A drop fee will be assessed with payment being due at the time of pick up. The Extended Care Program fees will be posted online and at the front office for the school year, including camp days when the school may be closed (such as teacher training/in-service days).

Should an emergency arise and you require drop care in our Extended Care Program, please contact the campus Director immediately for special accommodations and to confirm availability of sufficient staff to monitor your child(ren). We understand that emergencies arise, but when a pattern of emergencies necessitating drop care develops, the result may be full enrollment to the program at the designated rates. Our program must follow strict licensing standards and adhere to strict supervisor: student ratios. Leaving your child in the school's care without notice is tantamount to abandonment. If necessary, Plato Academy will contact the appropriate authorities (i.e. Child Services, Police) when a child is not picked up at the appropriate time. Further details are outlined in the enrollment paperwork available from the on-site Director.

Extended Care Fees and Hours:

Before Care services for students is from 7:00am-8:15am. If your child is dropped off PRIOR to 8:15, *parents must walk their children into the school and sign them in* at the front office and you will be billed a weekly rate of \$25.00. A drop care fee of \$5.00 will be charged for daily, pre-arranged use.

After Care services for students is from 3:30-5:45pm. If your child is enrolled in After Care, you will be billed a weekly rate of \$60.00 *If your child remains at school after 3:30 you must register your child for After Care services; students are not permitted to wait on campus alone indefinitely while waiting to be picked-up as this is a safety issue.* If your child remains at school after 3:30pm, they will be sent to After Care and a drop care fee of \$15.00 will be charged for their participation that day.

If your child is enrolled in both Before and After Care, you will be billed a weekly rate of \$70.00.

### **15. School Visitor Policy:**

Plato Academy welcomes and encourages visits to school by parents, other adult residents of the community, interested educators, and representatives of the news media. These visits must be confirmed and approved in advance in order to preserve the ongoing educational programs at each school and to prevent any disruptive intrusions at the school and on the campus. In order for the educational program to continue undisturbed when visitors are present and to prevent the intrusion of disruptive persons into the schools or into the student's learning environment, it is necessary to institute procedures regarding visitors.

All visitors must sign in at the main administration building of the school and present a photo I.D. before being granted access. Each guest will be required to sign in, indicate the purpose of the visit, wear a name badge, and sign out when they are leaving school grounds. The principal or his/her designee has the authority to prohibit the entry of any person to a school or a student's learning environment or to expel any person when there is reason to believe the presence of such person would disrupt the orderly and efficient operation of the school. If such an individual refuses to leave the school grounds or creates a disturbance, the principal or his/her designee is authorized to issue a trespass warning and/or and thereafter request from the local law enforcement agency whatever assistance is required to remove the individual.

Plato Academy is in full compliance with the Jessica Lunsford Act, which focuses on increasing the security measures used to protect children and staff through enhanced background checks and improved screening and supervision of vendors working within or near schools.

### **16. Textbooks:**

Textbooks are one of a variety of instructional materials used at Plato Academy. Novels, teacher- and supervisor-developed packets, experimental kits, models, nonfiction school books, reference books, periodicals, on-line services, newspapers, magazines, subject-based audio/video recordings, software, maps, and globes are examples of other instructional materials used to successfully meet the needs of our students. All textbooks and school books are loaned to students free of charge. However, students are responsible for lost or damaged books and will be expected to pay for them.

## 17. **Technology and Equipment Use Policy:**

Plato Academy believes that technology is necessary for our students to succeed in the 21st Century. Thanks to our partnership with Superior Schools, all middle school students will have their own electronic device or laptop for their daily use in class. Electronic devices or laptops will be rolled out to other grade levels when available. The use of the Plato Academy's technology and Internet resources is a privilege, not a right. The privilege of using the technology resources provided by Plato Academy is not transferable or extendible by students to any people or groups and terminates when a student is no longer enrolled in Plato Academy. Plato Academy technology devices are to be used with one primary goal in mind: *maximize student learning*.

The following is the school's Technology and Equipment Use Policy to which all students and families must abide.

### A. **Internet Policy:**

Plato Academy provides students with access to the Internet during school hours. Access to the Internet is provided for the purpose of educational research and learning. School administration will have final judgment on what sites can be accessed on school property.

### **Student Internet Usage Responsibilities:**

When accessing the Internet with Plato Academy equipment students and parents should know:

- Internet access should be for educational purposes while using Plato Academy equipment.
- Plato Academy will provide Internet blocking of inappropriate materials **as able** with a restricted Wi-Fi network and a content filter. The school will utilize and install filtering technology to help provide a safe digital environment for students both onsite and offsite from school. Unfortunately, Plato Academy is not able to guarantee perfect restrictions/filters for non-school Wi-Fi networks. Parents are **strongly** urged to monitor student technology usage and agree to be responsible for proper supervision of their children while away from school. Plato Academy is not responsible for inappropriate student use of technology or Wi-Fi services.
- Users are expected to respect that the web filter is a safety precaution, and should not try to circumvent it when browsing the Web. If a site is blocked and a user believes it shouldn't be, the user should alert a member of school faculty or administration.
- All activity over the school network or using Plato Academy equipment may be monitored and retained indefinitely.
- Students are expected to follow the same rules for good behavior and respectful conduct online as they are offline.
- Misuse of school resources or equipment can result in disciplinary action.

- Plato Academy makes a reasonable effort to ensure students' safety and security online while at school, but will not be held accountable for any harm or damages that result from use of school technologies.
- Users of the Plato Academy network or other technologies are expected to alert school faculty or administration immediately of any concerns for safety or security.
- Students are not permitted to connect to the Internet using a detected hot spot or 3/4G account while at school. We will be able to detect this on our network.
- Students should not plagiarize (or use as their own, without citing the original creator) content, including words or images from any electronic or print media. Users should not take credit for things they did not create themselves, or misrepresent themselves as an author or creator of the materials. Research conducted should be appropriately cited, giving credit to the original author.
- School network: Plato Academy makes no guarantee that its network will be up and running 100% of the time. In the infrequent case that the network is down, Plato Academy will not be responsible for lost or missing data.
- Students may access Wi-Fi networks outside of school with parent permission, approval, and supervision.
- Students are reminded that this Technology and Equipment Use Policy applies to activities at home and at school when Plato Academy technology is used.
- Parents are responsible for providing any content filtering or restrictions on their own networks and for monitoring usage at home.
- Students should always use the Internet, network resources, and online sites in a courteous and respectful manner. Users should also recognize that along with valuable content online there is also unverified, incorrect, or inappropriate content. Users should use trusted sources when conducting research via the Internet.
- **Users should not post anything online that they would not want parents, teachers, or future colleges, or employers to see. Once something is online, it's out there—and can sometimes be shared and spread in ways you never intended.**

### **Cyberbullying:**

Cyberbullying is a form of bullying (discussed above) and will not be tolerated. Harassing, dissing, denigrating, impersonating, hating, pranking, excluding, and cyber-stalking online are all examples of cyberbullying. ***Don't be mean.*** Don't send emails or post comments with the intent of scaring, hurting, or intimidating someone else. Engaging in these behaviors, or any online activities intended to harm (physically or emotionally) another person, will result in severe disciplinary action and loss of privileges. In some cases, cyberbullying can be a crime. Remember that your activities are monitored and retained.

### **Parent/Guardian Responsibilities:**

We encourage you to talk to your children about values and the standards that your children should follow on the use of the Internet just as you do on the use of all media information sources such as television, cell phones, videos, movies, literature, and music.

### **B. Equipment Use Policy:**

All students at Plato Academy will have access to technology. For those students that will be issued individual technology devices that will be taken home each night, parents and students must read, sign, and return the Plato Academy *Technology Agreement* and *Plato Academy Technology Student Pledge* before a technology device will be issued. All technology devices issued are school property and all users of such school property, or property used at school per the agreement of a parent, must abide by the following policies:

### **Student Equipment Responsibilities:**

#### **Usage:**

- Students will be given a protective case for certain technology devices. The case must remain on the device at all times. If any damage occurs to a device while it is out of the case, the student's family is responsible for the cost of repair. The case will also have an identifying sticker that cannot be removed or defaced.
- All content will be pushed out from Tech Support in response to suggestions from Teachers, Students, Parents, Staff, Administrators or interested community members. Send these requests to [support@superiorschools.com](mailto:support@superiorschools.com).
- Monitored Use--All files stored on the technology device are the property of the school and are subject to regular review and monitoring. Students should have no expectation of privacy when using the technology device. Any and all activity on the technology device can be monitored. Plato Academy may routinely monitor all technology devices.
- Technology devices are intended for student use at school each day. Students must be responsible to bring their technology device to all classes. Students must know the whereabouts of their technology device at all times.
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure that work is not lost due to mechanical failure, failure to back-up files, or accidental deletion. Technology device malfunctions are not an acceptable excuse for not submitting work; therefore, students should back up all work.
- If a student leaves their technology device at home, they are responsible for getting the course work completed as if they had their technology device present.
- The software/apps installed by Plato Academy School must remain on the technology device in usable condition and be easily accessible at all times. From time to time the school may add software applications for use in a particular course. We call this process "pushing." Students may be required to check in their technology devices for periodic updates and syncing.
- The School will synchronize the technology devices so that they contain the necessary apps and files for schoolwork. Students will not synchronize technology devices or add apps to their assigned technology device to include home syncing accounts. Students should not synch their technology devices to any computer.

- If technical difficulties occur or illegal software or non-Plato Academy School installed apps are discovered, the technology device will be restored to Plato Academy standards. The school does not accept responsibility for the loss of any software or documents deleted due to restoration to Plato Academy standards.
- Sound must be muted at all times unless permission is obtained from the teacher for instructional purposes.
- Teachers can request iBooks to be pushed out to students.
- If apps are pushed out to be installed, it will be with Plato Academy staff approval.
- All media, including music, images, and software must be appropriate for the school environment.
- Parents are **strongly** encouraged to frequently and fastidiously monitor their children's activity on the Internet outside of school.
- Unless otherwise arranged with Plato Academy, students are not permitted to create Apple IDs or use Apple Gift Cards to download music, games, apps, or iBooks. Evidence of downloads will be addressed.
- Students may be selected at random to provide their technology device for inspection.
- Students should not attempt to download, alter, or disable software installed on the technology device.
- Inappropriate media may not be used as a screensaver or background photo.
- Presence—anywhere--of guns, weapons, pornographic materials, inappropriate language, alcohol, drug, tobacco, and gang-related symbols or pictures are prohibited.
- Passwords are to be used. Technology devices will be password-protected with a password being assigned at the time technology devices are issued. Students are prohibited from sharing their password with others. The student and parents as well as Plato Academy should know the password and be able to access the technology device at all times.
- *Photos:* All technologies provided by or used at Plato Academy are intended for education purposes. Photos or Videos can only be recorded in public spaces with the consent of students, teachers, staff, or parents being photographed. The nature of the content of photographs must be appropriate for the Plato Academy school environment.

#### Care:

- Technology devices that are broken or fail to work properly must be taken to the school-site technology representative (TechRep) for an evaluation of the equipment.
- Students are responsible for the general care of technology devices used for school purposes. Certain technology devices will be issued with a protective case.
- **Technology devices issued with a protective case must always remain in the same case provided by the school.**
- A technology device and protective case must remain free of any writing, drawing, stickers, or labels that are not the property of the Plato Academy School.
- ***Do NOT leave your technology device in a place that is experiencing extreme hot or cold conditions (i.e. a car in Florida). Extreme heat can damage the unit itself. Also, extreme cold can cause severe screen damage.***
- An technology device must never be left unsupervised, such as in an unlocked car.
- Clean the screen with a soft, dry microfiber cloth or anti-static cloth.
- **Do not use cleaners of any type on the unit or case.** Use of chemicals WILL damage the unit or screen.

- Cords and cables must be inserted carefully into the technology device to prevent damage.
- Do not stack objects upon technology device.
- Do not drop, toss, or mishandle the technology device in any way.
- Treat others' technology devices with the utmost care
- Technology device **screens are particularly sensitive to damage** from excessive pressure on the screen. Do not place anything near the technology device that could put pressure on the screen.
- Do not lean on the top of the technology device.
- Do not "bump" the technology device against lockers, walls, car doors, floors, etc. as it will eventually break the screen.

#### **Internet Security:**

- Users are expected to take reasonable safeguards against the transmission of security threats over the school network. This includes not opening or distributing infected files or programs and not opening files or programs of unknown or untrusted origin.
- **If you believe a computer or mobile device you are using might be infected with a virus, please alert a teacher, your principal, or tech support at: support@platoacademy.net.** Do not attempt to remove the virus yourself or download any programs to help remove the virus.

#### **Personal Safety:**

- Users should never share personal information, including phone number, address, social-security number, birthday, or financial information, over the Internet without adult permission.
- Users should recognize that communicating over the Internet brings anonymity and associated risks, and should carefully safeguard the personal information of themselves and others.
- Users should never agree to meet someone they meet online in real life without parental permission.
- If you see a message, comment, image, or anything else online that makes you concerned for your personal safety, bring it to the attention of an adult (teacher or staff if you're at school; parent if you're at home) immediately.

#### **Technology Device Check-In and Repairs**

Individual school technology devices and accessories must be returned during the final week of school during student checkout so they can be examined for serviceability. Technology devices and accessories must be returned in satisfactory condition. If a student transfers out of Plato Academy during the school year, his or her technology device will be returned at that time. Each School's TechRep will manage this process. A school Principal can also address any technology device issues. The student will be responsible for any damage to the technology device.

#### **C. Violations of Technology and Equipment Use Policy:**

Violations of this Use Policy may have disciplinary repercussions pursuant to the Pinellas County and Plato Academy Codes of Student Conduct, including but not limited to:

- Notification to parents and/or suspension of network, technology, or computer privileges.

- Loss of technology device use for a determined period of time (student still responsible for all required work).
- Detention or suspension from school and school-related activities
- Legal action and/or prosecution

If a student fails to return the technology device at the end of the school year or upon termination of enrollment, that student may be subject to criminal prosecution and/or civil liability, including a theft report being filed with the Police Department. Plato Academy reserves the right to withhold issuance of report cards and academic records to students who fail to return technology devices. The student will also be responsible to pay the cost of the technology device.

This policy is provided to make all users aware of the responsibilities associated with efficient, ethical, and lawful use of technology resources. If a person violates any of this policy, privileges may be terminated, access to technology resources may be denied, and the appropriate disciplinary action shall be applied. *Violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension and even expulsion for students, in accordance with Plato Academy/PCSB Codes of Student Conduct. When applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved.*

#### **18. Withdrawals:**

Please notify the school as soon as possible when a student will be leaving. The school follows a checkout procedure, which includes checking school, textbook and equipment records, as well as completing reports. Fines will be assessed for lost or damaged equipment, textbooks or school books.

#### **19. Administration of General Medications:**

All children's medication MUST be kept locked up in the school office. The office staff will follow appropriate procedures for dispensing all medication. School personnel do not normally dispense medication. The student dispenses the medication with office staff supervision. However, if a child is required to take any type of medication at school, it must be authorized by a physician and parent. Medication must be in the original container. Parents must submit the form and medication to the office. Teachers are not to dispense any other medications, including any over the counter remedies such as cough drops or aspirin.

Students may not carry medications in their book bags or on their persons. They may not keep medications in their lockers. All medications for students shall be held and delivered to students by designated school personnel. Students will then dispense medications to themselves.

- School personnel may administer medication(s) only to those students who have an official authorization form on file at the school. The Administration of Medication form shall provide for both the physician's and parent's signatures for administration of over-the counter medications in original/new sealed container including dietary or herbal supplements or only the parent's or guardian's signature for administration of prescription medications and shall indicate the kind of medication, dosage and time to be given at school and any special instructions. A new authorization form shall be required each school year.

- Approval for self-administration of medication(s) (Inhaler, Epi-pen, Insulin, etc.) shall be written by the physician under special instructions on the Administration of Medication Form available from the Principal.
- It is the parent's responsibility to pick up all unused medication as soon as possible. Any medication remaining at the end of the school year shall be destroyed.



## ***PARENT & STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM***

We at Plato Academy Charter School are dedicated to assisting our students in achieving their full potential by requiring and nurturing high academic and behavioral standards in a safe, supporting, challenging and enthusiastic environment fostered by a commitment and cooperative effort between the school, students, parents, and community. Accordingly, we ask that each parent and student carefully read and review (for younger students please review them) the Plato Academy Parent & Student Handbook (“Handbook”). The Handbook is posted online at [www.PlatoAcademy.net](http://www.PlatoAcademy.net) and is revised from time to time. Parents and Students are to acknowledge the following:

### **Student Responsibilities and Acknowledgements:**

1. I understand the importance of abiding by the Pinellas County Schools and the Plato Academy Codes of Student Conduct and agree to adhere to them as well as the other policies and procedures in the Plato Academy Parent & Student Handbook (“Handbook”) (revised from time to time and available on-line on the school’s web site [www.PlatoAcademy.net](http://www.PlatoAcademy.net) under the “My Academy” tab). I further understand that Plato Academy Parent & Student Handbook supersedes the Pinellas County Public Schools Code of Conduct when a conflict arises, except in matters of dismissal or expulsion.
2. I promise to work hard every day to achieve my personal best.
3. I will arrive at school each day prepared, ready to learn, and on time.
4. I will complete and turn in all class assignments and homework when due.
5. I will strive to honor my school and my family by exhibiting exemplary behavior at all times and in all places, as I understand that my behavior is a direct reflection me, my family, and the school.
6. I will always demonstrate proper courtesy when speaking to faculty, staff, and other students.
7. I will not use any personal electronic devices during the school day, including making or receiving phone calls, texting, or communicating with others (including family members). School phones are available if needed.
8. I will not disrespect other students, fight with them, or encourage other students to fight.
9. I will refrain from using inappropriate language.
10. I will not intimidate, harass, or threaten others.
11. I will exhibit the principles of good sportsmanship.
12. I will abide by all technology, equipment, and Internet usage policies and procedures.
13. I will adhere to the school uniform policy described in the Handbook.
14. I will deliver all announcements, messages, and reports to and from school.
15. I am responsible for taking care of all books, materials, and equipment loaned to me by the school. I will replace anything that is misused or lost, unless otherwise agreed.

16. I understand that the Handbook can be updated from time to time and that it is my responsibility and my parents' responsibility to keep informed of changes by visiting the website. I understand that additional policies that are found in the Handbook and sent out via school or student newsletters must be adhered to. I agree to cooperate with all the established policies and procedures at Plato Academy.

**Parental Responsibilities, Acknowledgements and Consents:**

1. I will abide by and ensure that my child complies with the Handbook, the Pinellas County Schools and the Plato Academy Codes of Student Conduct. I understand that Plato Academy Parent & Student Handbook supersedes the Pinellas County Public Schools Code of Conduct when a conflict arises, except in matters of dismissal or expulsion.
2. I will upload any changes on the emergency contact form (addresses, emails, telephone numbers, etc).
3. I will abide by and ensure that my child complies with all applicable technology, equipment, and usage guidelines, policies, and procedures.
4. I will ensure that my child arrives punctually at school daily. I understand that students must be in their seats by the start of class. Any student arriving after this time will be issued a tardy slip.
5. I agree to contact the school office if my child is going to be absent. On the day the student returns to school, the student must bring a note from a parent or guardian explaining the reason for the absence. Otherwise, I understand the absence will be considered unexcused.
6. I agree that it is my responsibility to update my online profile with any change of home address, phone numbers, and emergency contact information.
7. I agree to check the online grading system at least once every two weeks to remain apprised of my student's grades.
8. I agree to ensure that my child wears the proper uniform attire from the designated uniform vendor every day as stated in the uniform policy in the Handbook.
9. I agree to arrange for my child to have a daily, nutritious lunch. Lunch may be brought from home or purchased from the school.
10. I understand that Plato Academy holds the belief that parents play an integral role in their children's educational and social lives and asks that a parent or guardian personally transport their child to and from school. Carpooling is permitted since it also positively contributes to the child's socio-educational life.
11. As an investment in my child's education I understand that I, or other adult members of my child's family, should complete 30 volunteer hours per family prior to the last day of school. I understand that the school will provide me with various options to complete these hours.
12. I agree to read all information sent home from the school so that I will be informed of activities and academic opportunities provided by the school.
13. I give my permission to allow my child to be photographed or videotaped for use in school and classroom newsletters and news stories, school yearbook, news stories and/or promotional materials that relate to Plato Academy Charter School that may be displayed in print or via electronic means, such as on the school's website via the Internet. Unless rescinded, this permission will remain in effect in subsequent years.
14. I acknowledge that the Handbook details the responsibilities of staff members, students, and parents or guardians. I understand that the Handbook can be updated from time to time and that it is my responsibility to keep myself informed of changes by visiting the website periodically. I

understand that additional policies that are found in the Handbook and sent out via school or student newsletters must be adhered to.

I have read this handbook and agree to all of its terms and conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date