

AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL
SUMMARY OF UPDATED POLICIES IN THE 2016–17 PARENT HANDBOOK

Following is a summary of updated policies contained in the 2016–17 Parent Handbook. The complete version of the Parent Handbook can be found online at the Veracross Parent Portal and is also linked on the school’s website.

1. **Section 9.10, “Expulsion”** has been updated to clarify that a student who is expelled forfeits all benefits of enrollment, including participation in curricular and extracurricular programs, student activities, dances, summer tours, and all other school-sponsored programs. Depending upon the circumstances of the expulsion, the student may also be asked not to attend as a spectator or guest at school-sponsored programs.
2. **Section 12, “School Uniform Policy,”** has been updated to reflect the Uniform Committee’s decisions as follows:

General Uniform Modifications (Grades K-12)

- We have added a sentence to clarify that all male students are expected to wear the boys’ uniform and abide by the dress and grooming standards set forth for boys, and that all female students are expected to wear the girls’ uniform and abide by the dress and grooming standards set forth for girls.
- For boys K–12, while we have retained the grooming standard that hair should be trimmed above the collar leaving the ear uncovered, we have removed wording that hair must be “evenly tapered.”

High School Girls Uniform Modifications

- New this year for girls in grades 9–12, in addition to nail polish which is transparent and natural, girls may also wear nail polish of the following colors: red, white, blue, brown, tan, gray, green, or pink. Girls may not wear nail polish of a neon color or patterns or accessories on their fingernails. All fingernails must be the same color.

Elementary School Uniform Modifications

- New this year for girls in K–6, leggings, socks or tights may be gray in addition to previously approved colors of black, navy and white.
- New this year for boys in K–6, socks may be gray in addition to previously approved colors of black, navy and white.

3. **Section 17.23(c), “Online Social Network Interaction Between Employees and Students/Alumni,”** has been updated to provide guidance for safe and permissible interaction on social networks between employees and alumni, as well as between employees and legal minors under the age of 18. Permitted exceptions include connections on school-sponsored and school-administered social network sites, connections that include parents and colleagues in the social network interaction, and connections on social networks that encourage professional rather than personal or emotionally intimate connections.

4. **Section 14.15(a) and (b), “Extracurricular Participation in AHS-Sponsored and Non-AHS-Sponsored Activities for AHS Credit.”** These sections have been added to allow for AHS graduation credit to be earned and awarded for participation by AHS students in both AHS-sponsored and non-AHS sponsored extracurricular activities, provided certain conditions are satisfied.
5. **Section 15.18, “Holidays and Celebrations: Harvest and Halloween Activities”** has been updated to allow for K–12 in-class Harvest celebrations (not just K–7), and to clarify that although Halloween is not the focus, Halloween may be appropriately celebrated at AHS in keeping with the Christian history of All Hallows Eve and All Saints Day. Popular Halloween decorations, costumes, and activities that glorify darkness, evil, fear, and macabre themes continue to be discouraged.
6. **Section 15.18, “Holidays and Celebrations: Valentine’s Day,”** has been updated to allow for appropriate 7–12 celebrations of Valentine’s Day, including a dance for students ages 14 and up, and including in-class celebrations at the discretion of teachers, who should promote a principled and mature understanding of love, dating, marriage, and family.
7. **Section 21.14, “Facilities Policies: Animals,”** has been added to clarify that animals are not permitted at school without administrative approval, including household pets, snakes, turtles, and fish. Appropriate exceptions remain for animals permanently housed in the science room and for service animals.
8. **Section 27.8(a) and (b), Eligibility for AHS High School Credit from Attendance of Extra-curricular activities; Minimum Requirements for Distance Education Students to Participate in AHS On-Campus Extracurricular Activities** is being phased out effective immediately for any Home & Distance Education (HDE) students newly applying to AHS extracurricular programs. Beginning with the 2017–18 year, only students enrolled at the AHS campus will be eligible to participate in AHS on-campus extracurricular activities. Any HDE students currently enrolled in AHS extra-curricular programs (other than afterschool orchestra and choir) must complete at least three HDE course credits on an academic calendar similar to on-campus students, and will be held to the same AHS Honor Code, dress and grooming, and academic probation standards as on-campus students.
9. **Sections 26.1 and 26.11 “General Math Principles” and “Advanced Math Placement”** have been updated to outline more clearly the principles underlying the AHS approach to mathematics, and to clarify that the AHS math department will not advance a student during the year beyond the recommended math level corresponding to that student’s performance level until after the parent, teacher, and administrator have held a meeting.