

MENLO SCHOOL
STUDENT AND PARENT
HANDBOOK

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Attention Parents/Guardians:

We ask that you read this handbook and acknowledge that you have done so. The handbook currently does not make reference to COVID-19 and potential requirements that may be determined by the San Mateo County Department of Health (DOH) and/or other agencies regarding a return to School and School operations. We anticipate that there will be additions or changes to the handbook specifically related to COVID-19 in the coming months. When those recommendations are finalized, we will update you.

Middle School

This section focuses on policies, procedures, and guidance that pertain specifically to the Middle School. Other more general matters are covered in the All School section of this Handbook.

Middle School Daily Hours and Attendance

Daily Schedule Regular Hours

The Middle School operates on a seven-day rotating block schedule with five class periods each day plus a break for lunch and student life time. School hours are from 8:20 am to 3:15 pm except on Day 1 of the rotation when classes end at 2:45 pm. The campus will be supervised from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, and until 3:30 pm on Day 1. Parents should pick up their children either at the end of the school day or at the Library after 4:00 pm, unless their child is participating in a school-sponsored activity. Students are to be in the Library only if they are involved in quiet work, such as homework. Please note that this is not an after-school program; the librarian is present as an academic resource for students. Middle School students must be picked up from the library by 6:30 pm, Monday through Thursday, and 4:30 pm on Fridays.

Attendance and Absences

A clear, positive relationship exists between school attendance and academic achievement. Good attendance, timely arrival at school, and productive work habits are important components of a student's overall preparation in becoming an efficient learner and a responsible individual. Because of the block class schedule as well as the active and participatory nature of Menlo classes, regular attendance is essential. Students are expected to attend all classes, including PE, except in the case of illness, a family obligation, or a religious holiday. Students may not participate in any school-, arts-, or sports-related activity (including practices, games, rehearsals, performances, and Knight Club) on a day they are absent two or more periods of the school day. Students who anticipate an absence from school must get an absence form from the office to be signed by each teacher, acknowledging the student's absence so that upcoming assignments and tests can be addressed with the student.

For guidance as to when a student should remain home due to illness, see "Guidelines for Absences due to Illness" in the All School section of this Handbook.

Reporting Tardies or Absences

Students who are late, arriving after advocacy check-in should report to the Middle School Office for an "admit slip." In the event of illness or other absence, the student's parents should notify the Middle School Office (650.330.2001 ext. 2400) or email the Middle School at msattendance@menloschool.org. Absences not reported or for activities such as parties or outings with classmates, staying home to do homework, or oversleeping, may be deemed unexcused absences.

Middle School Academics

Grade-Level Teams

The teachers (English, History, Math, Science, World Language, and Creative Arts) for each grade are organized into grade-level teams led by a team leader. Grade-level teams monitor the progress of every student in the grade and work together to integrate and coordinate all areas of the curriculum.

Department Chairs

The primary responsibilities of the department chairs involve working with the Middle School Director to lead and nurture department members and develop the department's curriculum. Inherent in the role are responsibilities for planning, program alignment and evaluation, personnel management and evaluation, and financial and resource management.

Team Leaders

Team Leads are in charge of grade-level team meetings and serve as the contact person for all grade-level events, programs, and field trips. The Team Lead can answer all questions about what is happening in the grade as it relates to the advocacy program (the advocate should be the first point of contact for this), the class dynamic, and social and academic patterns. More broadly, team leads participate in administrative decision making, work to achieve institutional priorities of the School, and help build consensus within the division.

Grading and Report Cards

Grades, rubrics, and comments reflect each discipline's core competency skills. Report cards are emailed home each trimester and quarter. Parent conferences are scheduled during the beginning of the second trimester and student-led conferences are scheduled during the end of the third trimester.

Homework Policy

Homework is part of the [Middle School Habits of Learning](#). We believe that homework should be meaningful and help students to both reinforce what they learned throughout the school day and prepare for the future. Homework may, at times, introduce a concept or allow students who work at different paces to catch up to his or her peers. Homework allows students to practice organization and self-management skills and to steadily gain a feeling of self-reliance; it encourages students to reflect and add meaning to what was taught in class. Increases in homework from one grade to the next prepare students for the next grade level. The faculty has established homework guidelines. These serve as a guide to students, parents, and faculty. **Because each student's work style varies, these guidelines are approximate.** Approximate homework times for students in 6-8 grades may vary from 1 hour and 30 minutes to 2 hours and 30 minutes per school night.

Homework will be posted on the class Canvas website by 4:00 pm each school day. The faculty strives to be sensitive to added academic and Menlo-related extracurricular demands placed on the students at certain times in the school year because of athletic contests or special school activities. In advocacies and in class, teachers discuss time management strategies and organizational skills, and they monitor how students are doing with their homework load. **If a student is doing significantly more homework than the suggested time above, he or she should meet with his or her classroom teacher, advocate, or the academic support coordinator.** If it continues to be an issue, the parents and students should meet with the teacher.

What can parents do to help?

- Provide regular study times each day with a definite start and stop time.
- Establish a study area away from distractions (social networking sites, cell phones, video games, etc.) but close to a parent, with good light and space.

- Encourage your child to organize materials before starting his or her homework. Recognize that some students need to take modest breaks throughout homework time to stay focused.
- Encourage your child to finish homework before watching TV, using social networking sites, or playing video games.
- Encourage your child to communicate with his or her teachers to clear up any misunderstandings or to troubleshoot problems. **It is best that the student speaks to the teacher before the parent contacts the teacher about homework difficulties. This helps students learn to advocate for themselves.**
- Make sure your child is getting enough sleep every night and is eating a healthy breakfast and dinner.
- Consider displaying a monthly calendar. This can be very helpful for students to see the big picture, noting important project and test dates, athletic games, play practice, and important family events.

Testing Days and Due Dates

To avoid overloading students, no more than two major tests and/or presentations will fall on one day. Teachers may give quizzes or short papers in addition to scheduled large tests.

ERB Testing

Every year the Middle School gives the Educational Records Bureau (ERB) tests called the Comprehensive Testing Program IV (CTPIV) in 8th grade. We give these tests to help us evaluate the curriculum and measure student progress. Test results are mailed home during the summer.

Math Placement

All sixth grade students will take the same comprehensive math course. At the end of the sixth grade, math placement for seventh grade will be determined based on student performance over the course of the year. Students and families will be notified towards the end of the third trimester. In seventh grade, students will be placed into either Math 7 or Math 7E. Students placed in 7E are those who have demonstrated exceptional cognitive maturity for studying mathematics, are able to apply concepts to a broad range of applications, and have excelled consistently in sixth grade mathematics. We will continue to carefully assess and monitor a student's placement throughout the year and will move students between classes as warranted. Math 7E covers Pre-Algebra topics more deeply and is more conceptual. All eighth graders will take Algebra 1 and will be placed into either Math 8 or Math 8E.

It is important to note that a student's math placement for seventh or eighth grade is in no way the beginning of a permanent track. Placement in an advanced class is appropriate for some during the middle school years; however, for others, it could actually erode their confidence at this critical skill-building time in their lives. At the end of each year, we will re-evaluate every student's math placement to help facilitate success for the upcoming year.

Promotion

In order to be promoted to the next grade level, all students must demonstrate the Habits of the Heart and Mind, Habits of Learning, and have shown the ability to progress towards proficiency in the core competencies. If a student has had poor attendance or social, emotional, medical, or other issues that exceed the School's resources,

or if other factors indicate to Menlo School in its discretion that admission to the Upper School would not be appropriate, the student may not be offered enrollment in the ninth grade.

Although eighth graders do not need to apply to the Upper School, all students are reviewed for promotion by a committee of Middle School and Upper School administrators.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to every healthy academic institution. All students are expected to honor this value by acting honestly in every aspect of their academic lives. Violating academic integrity in any manner is contrary to Menlo School's values and Habits of Learning, and will be grounds for disciplinary action.

Because the major goal of a Menlo education is to promote the intellectual growth of each student, Menlo students are expected to perform and produce their own work. Work copied from another student, another author, or the Internet, or work completed by a parent or tutor does not enhance individual growth and is a violation of the community value of honesty. Students can learn a great deal by discussing a topic with classmates, parents or tutors, but we expect students to complete and submit their own work. Any student who is unsure of the line between group collaboration and individual work should consult with his or her teacher or advocate.

Classroom Preparation

Menlo School believes that every minute of the school day holds potential for engaging and challenging students in intellectual endeavors. To maximize opportunities for all students to learn, we expect students to be on time and prepared for each class. In addition to completing the homework, they should have the necessary books, laptop, pens, pencils, paper, binders, and any other supplies requested by the teacher to complete the course work.

Making up Missed Work

When students are absent due to illness, we hope that they will focus their energy on getting well rather than doing homework. If a student is absent one or two days, the student should check Canvas (Menlo's web-based course management system) or contact a classmate for homework assignments.

Students who are sick have at least an extra class period for each day of absence to make up work. If a student has been absent but feels well enough to begin homework, he or she should know how to work ahead for some classes and is encouraged to contact a classmate for homework. If a student is sick for three classes or more, teachers will compile tailored assignments and instructions in Canvas, or upon request, can send this guidance directly to the students. Whether an absence is long or short, students who have been sick are responsible for scheduling extra time with their teachers when they return in order to review the material they missed. If students must miss school because of a family obligation, they are responsible for notifying the School in advance by filling out and submitting an absence form, which they can pick up from the Middle School Office, obtaining assignments and test schedules well in advance of the time away from school, presenting the work on their first day back, and scheduling make-up assessments.

Tutorial

Teachers provide tutorial sessions during the school day on Days 2, 4, and 6 of the Middle School's rotating block schedule. Students are assigned an advocacy but may check out to work on group projects and/or see other teachers. These sessions should be regarded as an ongoing support system for all students to do homework, ask questions, and get extra help, and are intended for all students (not merely those who may be experiencing academic difficulties). Teachers may also request students to attend Day 1 office hours from 2:45-3:15 pm. Students who feel the need to meet with a teacher for extra help after school should schedule an appointment with that teacher in advance. Please note that there is always the possibility that other students will be present who also need help.

Middle School Behavior Expectations

We are committed to promoting the values of trust, honesty, and respect for people and property, appreciation of differences, and commitment to the community. Students are seen as the foundation of the Menlo community; we value their diversity of talents, interests, ideas, behaviors, and cultures. It is our expectation that all members of the community will take part in creating and maintaining a positive school climate. It is also our expectation that all members of the community will avoid or minimize behavior that is disruptive to any aspect of the learning environment or that invades the rights of others.

While we know that the middle school years are a time when students are experimenting with different behaviors and that students may make mistakes in this time of rapid growth and change, students are expected to behave in accordance with the School's values at all times, upholding the Habits of Heart and Mind. A demonstrated understanding of these values is one of the foremost criteria for admission. Once at Menlo, students are expected to be honest and trustworthy and to demonstrate respect toward all members of the community. At all times students should avoid behavior that compromises these values, threatens the safety of any member of the Menlo community or detracts from the educational environment. Both on and off the campus, as well as online and in social media, Menlo School students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that brings credit to themselves and the entire Menlo community.

Disciplinary Process

Our goal is to provide Middle School students support for personal growth and a clear understanding of our community values and behavioral expectations, as well as the consequences for misbehavior. We believe that when students understand the community's expectations and receive support for appropriate behavior, disciplinary situations become extremely rare. If a student disregards Menlo's values, the violation usually will be addressed through a disciplinary process. Violations of community values include but are not limited to dishonesty, theft, cheating, plagiarism, threatening or inflicting harm on a person verbally or physically, bullying—either in person or online—abuse or destruction of property, invasion of privacy or similar acts which may cause embarrassment to others, sexual or any other form of harassment, use of racist or sexist language, and the use or possession of nicotine and tobacco products (including e-cigarettes/vaping devices), alcohol, drugs or any type of weapon. Any other behavior that compromises School values, disrupts the learning environment, violates the rights of another member of the Menlo community or threatens the safety of any member of the community may also be deemed a violation.

Violations will be brought to the attention of the Assistant Director, who will formulate a course of action, and, in serious cases, involve the Director and the Head of School. Consequences for violations of school values are determined within the discretion of the School and may range from writing a reflection essay to expulsion. In especially egregious situations, the Director, Assistant Director, or Head of School may act immediately to suspend or expel the student. Students who repeatedly violate the School's behavioral standards in less egregious ways or do not demonstrate an appropriate effort to correct their unacceptable behavior may also lose the privilege of attending Menlo either permanently or for the following school year. A pattern of less serious disciplinary issues may also lead to the loss of this privilege. Should a student be denied promotion to the next grade for disciplinary or any other reason, the School will endeavor to alert parents of this decision in a timely manner so that alternative school plans can be made; however, this may not be possible in all instances.

Because the School's goal is to provide opportunities to learn and practice acceptable behavior, in most situations the Assistant Director or the Middle School Director will provide the student with a chance to reflect on and practice alternative behaviors. We view discipline as a cooperative effort between parents and the School, and we expect parents to be supportive of School values. When the School and parents work together, any disciplinary situation can be an opportunity for learning and growth.

Cell Phones and Personal Electronics

To minimize classroom distractions and protect students' belongings, all personal electronic devices (cell phones, portable music players, etc.) must remain at home or be kept in a locked locker during the school day. When students arrive at Menlo's campus, these devices must be stored in locked lockers. Cell phones may be used on campus after school hours. **Parents should not text or call their child during school hours.** If you have an urgent message for your child, please contact the office. The office phone is also available to students during the school day. If there is misuse of the equipment, they will be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the day. Smart watches and other similar devices will also be confiscated if used like a cell phone. If there is repeated misuse on any device, the parents of the students will be notified and further consequences will be determined by the Assistant Director according to the Acceptable Use Policy signed by the students and parents at the beginning of each school year.

Closed Campus

In order to maintain an environment appropriate for Middle School students, the Middle School has a closed campus. In other words, students may not leave the Menlo grounds during school hours unless they have written permission from their parents or are accompanied by a faculty member or parent. This written permission should be delivered to the Middle School office when the student arrives at school. While on the campus, students enjoy freedom along with certain responsibilities. They may walk to shared parts of the campus for lunch, sports or library work, but should return to the Middle School in a timely fashion. Middle School students are not permitted to visit Menlo College.

Dining Commons Behavior

Menlo values responsible, respectful, and civil behavior in all environments. In order to provide an enjoyable mealtime experience, students are expected to be civil in the dining hall. They should line up for food politely,

treat the staff with respect, take only what food they will eat, bus their own tables, and clear plates, cups, and utensils accordingly.

Dress Code

Students should dress for school in a manner that allows them to participate fully, safely, and comfortably in school activities. Students are expected to set an appropriate example for their peers. Specifically, students must wear clothes that cover their underwear (no boxer shorts or bra straps showing) and are not transparent, and must wear shoes at all times. Students may not wear offensive or inappropriate T-shirts or outfits that are excessively bare, such as tube tops, low-cut tops, low-cropped pants with bare midriffs, or skimpy shorts or skirts. Additionally, hats, hoods, or baseball caps should not be worn inside the classroom or during assembly. Expectations of field trip attire may differ depending on the location. Teachers will talk to students about appropriate dress before each field trip.

Swimsuits, bike shorts, and volleyball shorts are not to be worn outside of the athletic center or swimming pool area. If students are going to a game or event, they can wear sweats or regular athletic shorts over volleyball shorts, swimsuits, or bike shorts.

Parents should address Menlo's dress code with their children at home before coming to school in the morning and also while shopping for school clothes. Teachers or advocates will address students who are not suitably dressed for school, and parents will be contacted if a pattern develops. As we view discipline as a cooperative effort between parents and the School, we expect parents to be supportive of School values.

Fire Drills

The School has regularly scheduled fire drills. When the fire alarm signal is heard, everyone is to vacate the buildings quietly and calmly, proceed to the loop, and line up by class. Teachers will check to see that all students are present. Students are not to leave the area until they are instructed to do so.

Additionally, we intermittently hold earthquake and lockdown drills in order to familiarize our students with the appropriate procedures for other emergency situations.

Food, Drink, and Gum

To maintain an environment that is both clean and conducive to learning, we ask that students refrain from bringing food and drinks into classrooms (a non-glass water bottle is allowed) unless there are special events specified by the teachers. Chewing gum and glass containers are not permitted on the Middle School campus. Students bear responsibility for maintaining a pleasant school community and therefore should clean up after consuming food or drinks on campus.

Middle School Technology Program

Bring Your Own Device: Device Care and Acceptable Use

All Middle School students are required to bring an Apple laptop with them to school each day, charged and ready to use. Because the laptop is the student's personal device, he or she may install any apps, music, or videos that parents or guardians allow, but students are expected to use their device ONLY for schoolwork during school hours. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that any textbooks and applications required by their teachers are available on their device. Instructions for accessing and installing required programs will be provided at the beginning of the sixth grade, and tech help is available at the Tech Center. More information can be found at <https://www.menloschool.org/technology>.

Care and Repair

Students must take care of their devices and bring them to school fully charged every day. The device should be clearly labeled with the student's first name, last name, and grade. It should be kept in a case for protection, and students should avoid carrying it in a backpack in such a way that objects press against the screen, even through the case. It is the student's responsibility to charge their device overnight so that they have access to it in each class throughout the day. Teachers will not always have chargers/outlets available to students during the school day. If a student's device is damaged or lost, the student will need to replace it as soon as possible as it is required for classes. The Tech Department may be able to issue a loaner until the student's device is replaced.

Behavior and Acceptable Uses

The laptop is to be used for school purposes while on Menlo's campus. The device and any apps/websites are used only with permission from the teacher. While in class, the device stays on the tabletop, and the teacher may inspect a student's device at any time. Outside of class while on Menlo campus, the device may be accessed by any administrator or teacher. Students must have the teacher's permission before recording or taking photos. Games, videos, and music are not allowed to be played during school hours unless assigned by a teacher. Students are cautioned not to leave a laptop unattended outside or in a classroom, the quad, dining hall, library, sports center, or athletic fields. Locking it in a locker will guarantee its safety when not in use. Devices are not allowed to be out during passing periods or lunch recess. Anyone not in compliance with these expectations will be subject to the teachers' and administrators' determined consequences.

Student Google Accounts

Each student is assigned a Menlo School Google account that will act as the primary communication between the School and the student. Students are strongly encouraged to check their School email account daily. See the All School section for policies regarding email and computer use.

As with lockers and other facilities, the School reserves the right to access student Google accounts at any time for any reason. The Google Account should not be used for personal-oriented social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or Snapchat.

Each student should take reasonable steps to safeguard their account and should report any inappropriate or unauthorized use of their account to the School. Each account may only be used by the individual to whom the account is assigned and users may not authorize anyone, including family members, to use their account for any reason.

All school-related use of laptops is subject to the terms of the Computer and Network Use Agreement contained in this Menlo School Student and Parent Handbook.

Middle School General Policies and Information

After-School Supervision

The Middle School office closes at 4:00 pm. After that time, there is no supervision of students on the Middle School campus. Security patrols the campus, but we do advise that your child is picked up by 4:00 pm or immediately following the end of a game or play rehearsal. Students who need to use the Library after Middle School campus hours may do so, but please note that this is not an after-school program, and the librarian is present as an academic resource for students. All Middle School students should be picked up no later than 6:30 pm from the Library, Monday through Thursday, and by 4:30 pm on Fridays.

Cell Phone Usage by Parents in the Parking Lot

For the safety of our students and in accordance with California law, please do not use your cell phone while driving in the parking lot or on campus roads.

Communication with Teachers

Parents may contact teachers by telephone (see website directory for teachers' extensions) or by email. Each of the teachers' email addresses is structured by first name, followed by a period, followed by the last name, and then followed by @menloschool.org (e.g., Jane Smith's email would be jane.smith@menloschool.org). Please note that teachers may not respond immediately to phone or email messages as they may be teaching class or in a meeting, but do expect a response by the end of the next working day.

Health Services

Health and medical services are provided by the Health Services Coordinator/School Nurse. Students who feel ill or need medical attention should inform their teacher and then proceed to the Health Office. The Health Office is located in room 501 on the Middle School campus and can be reached by phone at 650.330.2001 ext. 2530. For further information, please refer to Health Services and Medicine in the All School section of this Handbook.

Lost and Found

Lost and found barrels are kept near the Middle School Office and back stairwell for clothes, books, and other items that are lost or misplaced. Beginning in September, items in the lost and found will be given to charity at the end of each month. Parents are strongly encouraged to label their child's clothing and personal items. Articles left in the Library are taken to the Upper School lost and found.

Parent Drivers for Field Trips and Sporting Events

It is inevitable that parents may drive students other than their own children in their personal vehicles. For the protection of our students, we ask that all parents who expect to drive Menlo students (other than their own children) provide Menlo's Transportation Manager (ext. 2562) with a copy of a valid driver's license and proof of

insurance coverage. All drivers (teachers, administrators, and parents) who drive students are subject to a DMV record check and clearance by the Transportation Manager.

Parent Parking

During the school day, Middle School parents may park in the Valparaiso lot where several spaces are reserved for visitors. It is very important to keep the handicapped parking open for those who need it, and tickets will be given to violators. Parents also need to avoid stopping/parking in the “School Buses Only” section of the Loop in front of the Middle School and always keep fire lanes clear. For athletic events, parents may also use these parking areas and walk to the fields or park in the Cartan Field Lot on Alejandra Ave. The parking by Wunderlich Field is reserved for Menlo College only. **Parents may not park in the Middle School parking lot or use it as a drop-off or pick-up location for their children.**

Parents Away From Home

Parents are asked to notify the Middle School Office and the student’s advocate when they plan to be away from home and their child is in the care of another adult.

School-Day Appointments

Parents are asked to make every effort to schedule doctors’, orthodontists’, and other appointments after school (3:15 pm and later). When possible, Rotation Day 1, with its earlier dismissal, is an ideal day for appointments. When that is not possible, parents should email the Middle School Office or write a note and have their child give it to the Middle School Office at the start of the school day. Before leaving campus, the student should check out with the Middle School Office. Upon returning to campus, the student should check in at the Middle School Office.

Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Students must be safely dropped off in the morning and picked up in the afternoon. Parents should be sure to use the Loop for morning drop-off and to pull all the way forward to the curb before children disembark. Do not stop the flow of traffic on the loop during this busy time to drop off your eager child and do not use the Middle School parking lot for drop off. Although the traffic on the Loop may be heavy and the Middle School lot a tempting shortcut, it is much too small for a car to safely navigate the drop-off and U-turn. In the afternoon, students may be picked up on the Loop at 3:15 pm using the same parking guidelines. To avoid the peak times, students can be dropped off between 8:00-8:10 am and picked up between 3:20-3:30 pm.

Tardiness

The campus opens at 8:00 am and instruction begins at 8:20 am. Students should arrive at school with enough time to go to their lockers, gather the materials they need for class, and settle into their seats so they are ready to learn when the bell rings. Therefore, students should arrive at school between 8:00 and 8:15 am. Students who arrive after 8:20 am will be marked tardy. After 8:30, students must report to the office to obtain a pass before going to class.

Since most Middle School students are dependent on others for transportation to school, we ask parents to ensure the prompt arrival of their children each day. Some tardies are unavoidable, and in those cases, students are issued an “excused tardy” slip when they arrive. Examples of excused tardies include a family emergency, illness,

and stalled traffic. We do not excuse tardies for students who oversleep, stay home to finish homework, or are simply late without a legitimate reason. This includes students who carpool with older siblings.

Students who are tardy miss valuable instruction and disrupt class. Advocates will contact parents of students who are habitually tardy. If there is no improvement, students may be referred to the Assistant Director.

Telephone Use

Students may use the Middle School office phone during school hours but must ask permission first. The phone is intended only for special circumstances. There is also a telephone available in the Library. Daily plans should be made before coming to school so that the need to use the phone is limited. Please do not expect your child to call home each day to be picked up from school in the afternoon. **Cell phones, if brought to campus at all, should not be used during school hours. Students must turn their phones off and must keep them in their locked lockers.**

zipNotes

Keep an eye out for zipNotes, emailed to parents and published online weekly to keep the Middle School community informed. It includes up-to-date calendar items, information about sports events, field trip information, MSPA news, announcements, invitations, and requests. You will find zipNotes online at the Menlo School website at www.menloschool.org.

Middle School Student Support and Activities

Advocacy Program

The Middle School Advocacy Program provides the opportunity for a small group of students to build a close relationship with a caring adult on campus. Team-building activities, service learning days, spirit activities, mindfulness and wellness activities, character and ethics discussions, and academic problem-solving play an important part in creating vital connections. The advocate's role is to provide support, promote constructive communication with peers and adults, counsel students on academic progress, promote efficient calendar planning, and provide opportunities for social development within a structured environment. Advocacy groups meet every morning and two days during each seven-day rotation so students can receive the guidance, attention, and support they require. Parents are encouraged to call or email the advocate with any concerns relating to their child. If the concern is confined to an issue within a single subject area, then the classroom teacher of that subject should be contacted first and copy the advocate. There is a faculty Advocacy Coordinator for each grade level.

Clubs and Other Activities

Clubs and activities exist to provide students with opportunities to develop their talents and interests and to explore new ones. A wide variety of clubs are offered, such as Student Council, chorus, orchestra, yearbook, robotics, among others. Students have a choice of drop-in and commitment clubs, and may participate in any club that interests them. Clubs meet once out of each seven-day rotation during the school day. There are also several clubs that meet after school.

Counseling

The Middle School is staffed by a licensed counselor. Counseling services include crisis intervention, individual counseling, parent education and consultation, and referrals. The Counselor coordinates Human Skills classes aimed at increasing student awareness of lifestyle issues such as body image, nutrition and wellness, relationships, sexuality, coping and resiliency skills, the adolescent brain, and social issues such as substance use and abuse, and eating disorders. The Middle School Counselor, along with grade-level team leads, also plans grade-level parent education nights. For more detailed information, see Student Support Services in the All School section.

Academic Support

The mission of the Middle School Academic Support Office is to empower middle school students to achieve academic success in partnership with the teachers and families. The Learning Specialist provides a toolkit of learning strategies based on the strengths and challenges of students. Services range from consultations with parents, teachers, and students, one-on-one meetings with students and parents, and team-teaching in the classroom. In Learning Seminar, the learning specialist teaches metacognition of learning and guides student practice. In partnership with the Counselor, the Learning Specialist facilitates parent education workshops to equip families with language and techniques to help solidify learning at home. The Learning Specialist also works with teachers, the Counselor, and parents to evaluate the need for educational testing and helps to identify resources outside the Menlo community, which may be available to address the learning needs of each student. Ultimately the program works to develop self-awareness, self-determination, self-advocacy, and reflection skills consistent with the individual strengths of students to ensure lifelong learning.

Service Learning

Students participate in a range of community service learning projects both on and off campus. The goal of this program is to educate students about the needs in their community and their roles as community members to affect positive change. Middle School Service Learning Week is planned each year with local agencies that provide services to those in need. Each grade level chooses a theme for its service and aims to make it a part of the academic curriculum. In addition, the School organizes fundraisers as well as food, school supply and toy drives and invites guest speakers to assemblies.

Student Government

The purpose of student government is to unify students and create a voice that speaks for student interests. The Student Council is composed of elected co-presidents, spirit and sports commissioners, communications coordinators, service and sustainability coordinators, and two sixth grade senators. The officers are elected in the spring for the following academic school year. Elected members of the Student Council will serve for the entire year. Students who wish to run for a position must fill out an application and explain why they feel they would be a responsible candidate. Students have one week to campaign and prepare for their speeches or debates. In order to run for any office and to retain their position, students must maintain a minimum B average, with no grades below C. Members of Student Council should exemplify the Habits of Heart and Mind. They should demonstrate, through their citizenship, the values and missions of the School. Student Council members should be prepared to attend all scheduled Student Council meetings.

Upper School

This section focuses on policies, procedures, and guidelines that pertain specifically to the Upper School. Other more general matters are covered in the All School section of this Handbook.

Upper School Academics

Academic Requirements

The following courses must be taken as minimum academic requirements for graduation:

Creative Arts – 3 semesters

- One semester in Freshman Arts Rotation
- Two semesters of either Chamber Orchestra, Chorus, Drama, Jazz Band, Jazz Dance, Moviemaking, Studio Art, or Photography

English – 4 years including both semesters senior year

World Language

- Intermediate level/3rd level
 - 2 years minimum taken in Upper School

History – 3 years

- Modern World History
- U.S. History or AP U.S. History
- Junior-Year History electives

Mathematics – 3 years, including

- Algebra 2

Science – 3 years

- Conceptual Physics or Physics 1
- Conceptual Chemistry or Accelerated Chemistry
- Biology

Freshman Rotation

Physical Education - 4 semesters

- Participation for one season in a school sport and the Wellness portion of Freshman Rotation each count for one semester of PE credit. If a student has already fulfilled the Creative Arts requirement, a year of Jazz Dance can count for two PE credits. Freshmen can earn up to three credits in their freshman year. From sophomore year on, the maximum number of PE credits a student can earn per year is two. PE credits can also be earned by enrolling in a Menlo School wellness program or for pre-approved outside activities Menlo does not offer. Outside activities can earn a maximum of two credits. See the Athletics Handbook for more details.

Community Engagement

- Students must earn 10 community engagement credits each school year and have at least three unique experiences. Credits are earned by students writing reflections on [Fortress](#) after participating in approved types of experiences with and outside of Menlo. The requirement also includes a Senior Project, carried out through a supported process during senior year with time for completion and presentation of it during M Term. Please see the [Community Engagement section](#) of Menlo's website for more information.

M Term – Grades 9-11; Senior Project in Grade 12

Academic Overview

The courses listed above are required. Menlo strongly recommends that students take additional coursework. Menlo's graduation requirements meet or exceed the minimum eligibility requirements for the University of California in all academic categories. While Menlo requires a minimum of four academic core courses each year for four years, students should plan on taking five academic courses for several years in order to meet the graduation requirements. Academic core courses include all the offerings from the English, World Language, History, Math, and Science, and all Computer Science offerings. Additionally, AP Music Theory and AP Art Portfolio are considered academic core classes.

Honors and/or Advanced Placement courses are offered in all academic departments; each department establishes the requirements for admission into its courses. Students enrolled in an AP course are expected to take the College Board AP Examination administered in May, but any student may elect to take any AP exam without taking the AP course. If a Menlo student is enrolled in an AP course and does not ultimately sit for the AP exam, the school may elect to remove the AP designation from their transcript to reflect that the student did not complete the full, expected coursework for which the class prepared them. Menlo offers AP exams in all AP courses offered. AP exams in courses not offered at Menlo can be ordered at a student's request by the Registrar.

As the Menlo transcript represents a student's experience on campus, courses taken outside of Menlo generally will not appear on the student's transcript and are not included in the computation of grade point average (GPA). Transcripts from other institutions will not be attached to the Menlo transcript unless it represents a change in progress which could include a gap semester/year during high school or transferring schools. When applying to college, transcripts from summer enrichment programs or courses can be sent directly by the student.

Students can remediate a low grade either by retaking the course at Menlo or via an outside summer course. In both instances, prior approval from the Upper School Director is required. For remediated classes, the transcript will show both of the grades: the old grade will have an asterisk next to it to indicate it has been replaced, and only the grade earned in the repeated course will be used in the computation of the GPA. Students should get the advice of the Upper School Director as to whether to remediate a specific semester or the full year. If the student remediates only one semester—and most summer programs are set up to be a semester's length—Menlo will report and calculate in the GPA the higher of the two semester's grades earned at Menlo along with the remediation grade, each earning half a year's credit.

Students can add a new course to their schedule within the first two weeks of the semester. Students may drop a course, without any notation of their transcript, in the first five weeks for a semester-long class and eight weeks in a yearlong class. (Specific times and dates are posted on the doors to the Academic and College Counseling Offices). If a student drops a class after the "drop" date, he or she will receive a W/P, and if the student is not passing, he/she will receive a W/F.

When a student changes a course, the grades earned in the new class determines the end-of-year mark that is recorded on the transcript. We advise against students approaching course selection and the start of the year assuming they might add or drop courses or change levels once classes begin. In fact, we do not allow students to change levels very late in the semester if making such a move will not provide the student ample time to

successfully catch up in the new class and sit for its exam at semester's end. In such instances, we require the student to wait until the start of the new semester to change levels. Students should also know that moving courses can be very disruptive to the rest of their schedule and entails dropping an elective and/or being placed in new sections with new teachers.

Students who drop a yearlong academic class in the second semester lose credit for the first semester's work.

The freshman curriculum consists of required courses along with Math and World Language courses as determined through placement examinations. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors fill out course selection forms in the spring. Students may not request a specific teacher for a course, but if they are assigned to a teacher they have had previously, we'll make every effort to put them in a different section with a new teacher. This change is not always possible.

Community Engagement

Community engagement (CE) challenges students to engage with the core component of Menlo's mission to "become ethical, responsible, and engaged members of ever wider communities" and the school value of "commitment to purposes higher than ourselves." There are four areas of focus:

1. getting out of your comfort zone
2. growing social consciousness
3. building empathy
4. daring to lead on issues that matter to you.

These focus areas manifest in a variety of ways at Menlo including projects in academic courses, annual or monthly activities at which students can volunteer such as Community Cooks, Math Tutoring at Taft Elementary School, Literacy Day (9th grade) or Special Olympics (grades 6-12).

Community engagement is also an overarching focus of the M Term experiential learning progression grades 9 through 12. Students explore questions from "How can an individual have an impact on a system?" to "What issues do I care about enough to address?" to "What tools are available to make social or environmental changes?" through visits to homeless shelters, San Quentin prison, Salinas Valley agricultural fields, or Yosemite Valley, among other sites. The capstone to a Menlo student's community engagement commitment is the Senior Project, in which students apply their interests to address a local to global need in an independently designed multi-step process, demonstrating a sense of developing purpose and leadership.

Global Online Academy

Students in grades 10, 11, and 12 are eligible to take classes online via GOA (Global Online Academy) for credit. Our website provides a link to the GOA catalog. GOA classes are full courses, and therefore students who take seven Menlo classes are not permitted to also take a GOA class. These classes are electives, and, as such, cannot replace a core academic class required for graduation from Menlo School. Students are allowed to take one GOA course per term, including the summer.

When choosing whether or not to drop a GOA course, the family should consider both Menlo's internal drop dates and the GOA drop dates. A student who drops a GOA course before the Menlo drop date will not receive a "W" on

their transcript. If that date occurs after the GOA drop date, though, the family, rather than the school, will incur the cost of the class.

As GOA courses are full courses that appear on a student’s transcript, students are expected to uphold all behavioral and academic expectations of Menlo School while enrolled in them. If a student struggles to meet those expectations in a GOA course, Menlo’s GOA Coordinator and Student Support Team will collaborate to ensure that the student gets back on track or is recommended to drop the course, just as they would with a core Menlo class. Finally, as GOA courses are online and largely self-directed, students who show recurring patterns of violating academic or behavioral expectations within a GOA course will lose the privilege to take additional GOA courses in the future.

Independent Study

Students may also pursue independent study. Independent study courses may not be taken in lieu of a core course and do not count toward the minimum of four classes per semester. All independent study courses are taken on a pass/fail basis. These courses may be taken with permission from the Director of the Upper School and must be directed by a member of the Menlo staff. Petitions are available from the Registrar. Students cannot take an AP course via independent study.

Grades

Grades reflect the student’s achievement and are based on examinations, classroom discussion, homework, and any other performance standards that a faculty member considers relevant.

Grades are awarded on the following scale:

A	(93-100)	4.0	C	(73-76)	2.0
A-	(90-92)	3.67	C-	(70-72)	1.67
B+	(87-89)	3.33	D+	(67-69)	1.33
B	(83-86)	3.0	D	(63-66)	1.0
B-	(80-82)	2.67	D-	(60-62)	0.67
C+	(77-79)	2.33	F	(<60)	0.0
P	(pass)	0.0			

Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated using the scores above in conjunction with the credit-weight of the course. Year-long classes receive 10 credits; semester-long classes receive 5 credits. Pass/fail grades are awarded in Physical Education and the non-Creative Arts half of the Freshman Rotation. Students may also elect to take courses that are not required and are not Honors or AP on a pass/fail basis. Under this option, a passing grade is “C” or higher. These courses do not enter into the calculation of the GPA.

Students’ grades are adjusted upward by .5 in Honors or AP courses. Menlo does not rank individual students by GPA.

In order to remain in good academic standing, students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.00 each semester in their academic core courses. Any student who falls below this minimum is placed on academic probation. Without

significant improvement in the following semester, the student on academic probation may be asked to leave the School. Seniors must pass all second-semester courses and clear all Incompletes (INCs) in order to graduate.

Incompletes

The grade of INC (Incomplete) may be used if a teacher wishes to extend a student's opportunity to complete assigned work. Any case of an Incomplete status must be promptly and clearly communicated to the student, parents, and advocate. A student will be given two weeks after semester grades are due to make up the work. Exceptions may be made for health reasons; these must be communicated to the student and Director of the Upper School. Work that is not made up by the end of the two weeks will become a "0" to be averaged with the student's other grades in that course. The final averaged semester grade is reported promptly to the Academic Office.

College Entrance Requirements

"D" grades are considered passing at Menlo, and courses in which students receive grades of "D" earn credit toward Menlo's graduation requirements. However, a "D" will not earn a student promotion to the next level in a sequence without special department approval. Students should be aware that "D" grades do not meet the University of California and California State University "a-g" subject requirements for admission to those universities. This is the case even though the student's overall GPA might be higher than the minimum GPA required to be eligible for admission. For example, both the University of California and CSU systems require applicants to complete four years of high school English with grades of "C-" or higher to be eligible for admission. Thus, any Menlo student earning a semester grade in English below "C-" will need to make up that subject deficiency in order to be eligible for admission to the UC or CSU systems.

Grading Procedures

The expectations for a course are established by individual teachers and given in written form to each student by the end of the first week of school. Each student is responsible for understanding the requirements and grading policy of courses in which he or she is enrolled.

Report Cards

Letter grades are reported mid-semester and at the end of the semester. Mid-semester grades are progress indicators and do not appear on the student's transcript or affect GPA. Semester grades (for semester-long classes) and yearlong grades (for year-long classes) appear on the permanent transcript. These grades, except INC (Incomplete), are considered final. Report cards are sent home at the end of each mid-semester and semester grading period.

Changing Grades

A teacher may change a student's grade only if a computational or clerical error produced an incorrect grade. A teacher may not change a student's grade after re-evaluating his or her work. Any grade change must be approved by the Director of the Upper School.

Academic Make-Up Policy

- When students are ill, Menlo expects that they will stay at home and focus on getting well.

- Upon returning from an excused absence, students will be given the opportunity to make up major pieces of work (tests and presentations) without loss of credit.
- Make-up policies for daily work such as homework and quizzes will be determined by the teacher.
- A student whose absence is unexcused will not receive credit for the unexcused day and will not be allowed to make up work. All attendance decisions will be made by the Dean of Students.
- A student who is consistently absent on test or quiz days or when major work is due will be reported to the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students and the teacher will discuss the situation and determine an appropriate course of action. (See the [Semester Absence Policy](#) below for more information about repetitive absences.)

Study Away

Menlo supports students who want to study abroad during their high school years. Ordinarily, a student would take a year away as an enrichment experience and return to Menlo to complete four years on our campus. If a student wishes to receive credit from another institution for study abroad or at another institution, that student would need to receive prior approval from the Upper School Director. Menlo can only approve a small number of such requests per year.

Academic & LD Support Services

Menlo School seeks to help all students reach their full academic potential and to become independent learners. Because of the nature and demands of its academic program, the School does not offer either a formal resource program or educational and related testing. The School does, however, provide selective support for students with some limited diagnosed learning differences. For example, we hold periodic individual and group meetings that address what students can do to help themselves become their own advocates; we help students develop an awareness of their academic strengths, weaknesses, and styles of learning; we refer students to outside tutorial help and to licensed professional evaluators; and we offer appropriate college counseling to ensure that students continue their higher education in a setting commensurate with their individual needs and abilities.

Students seeking assistance with learning differences must meet periodically with the Academic Support Coordinator to discuss how best to approach their academic program and to review academic issues and progress. Whenever a student seeks to obtain accommodations with respect to standardized tests, appropriate testing and assessment records from a qualified professional must be filed with Menlo School following the documentation guidelines developed by Educational Testing Service's Office of Disability Policy (available through the Academic Support Coordinator). The comprehensive testing/assessment should be submitted to Menlo School by October of the sophomore year in order for the student to be eligible to receive accommodations for standardized tests such as the PSAT and SAT.

Menlo School also seeks to help students with physical disabilities achieve full academic potential. Assistance in this regard is also arranged through the Academic Support Coordinator.

Upper School Behavior Expectations

Students are expected to behave in accordance with the School's values and rules at all times both on and off campus, online and off. Any behavior that denigrates or insults another student or detracts in any manner from

others' ability and opportunity to learn is not acceptable. The same is true with respect to behavior that intrudes upon or violates the rights of others. Menlo students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that brings credit to themselves and to the entire Menlo community.

Behavior in the Classroom

Menlo prides itself on fostering respect between student and teacher and respect among students, and on maintaining an atmosphere of trust in its classrooms. Students are expected to adhere to the School's values and rules in the classroom and to treat their classmates and teachers with civility and respect. Teachers typically will familiarize students with specific behavioral expectations at the beginning of each course. Most difficulties between teacher and student are resolved privately through discussion. We recognize, however, that on occasion a serious problem may arise. In such a case, the teacher will ordinarily consult with the student's advocate, the Dean of Students, and parents as appropriate.

Dispute Resolution

For information, please see the All School section.

Dress Code

Students should be clean, neat, and dressed appropriately for school. Student dress may not depict the following: the use of tobacco products, electronic cigarettes or similar devices, the use of alcohol, the use of illegal or mind-altering substances, drug paraphernalia, an act of violence, any other illegal act, profanity, explicit sexual material, nudity, explicit sexual acts, or racist or sexist language. Students whose dress is determined to be inappropriate by the Dean of Students will be asked to change clothing or will be sent home. For official School functions, the School will determine the standard of dress.

Substance Abuse

Any student found to be in possession of, or to have consumed, sold, or distributed any of the prohibited substances listed below (or any other substance that has like effect) while at school, while traveling to or from school, during school activities or traveling to or from such events will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee and may be subject to immediate expulsion. This policy applies as well to possession, consumption, sale, or distribution of a prohibited substance at any off-campus location prior to attendance at a school event. In addition, students found to be in the presence of these substances at school, during school activities, prior to, or traveling to or from such events may also be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.

Prohibited substances: alcohol, nicotine, and tobacco products (including e-cigarettes, vaping devices, and any other means of delivering nicotine or similar substances), illicit drugs, hallucinogenic or mind-altering agents, and anabolic steroids.*

*See the Athletic Trainer for information about dietary, nutritional, and performance-enhancing supplements.

Expectations of Parents

Menlo considers the partnership between the School and home to be essential for the success and well-being of students and for the fulfillment of the School's mission. Such a partnership involves parents respecting and upholding the values and policies stated in the Student and Parent Handbook. All School policies are important;

perhaps the most important relates to drugs and alcohol. Parents who knowingly allow minors to use drugs or alcohol in their homes should understand that they are violating California law, Menlo School policies, and, most importantly, creating an unsafe environment. Because this is such a serious issue, in such circumstances, as well as in any other situation where drugs or alcohol are involved, Menlo will take appropriate disciplinary action. This may include the termination of the student and family's affiliation with the School.

Academic Integrity and Expectations

Menlo School is committed to promoting the major values of trust, honesty, respect for people and property, appreciation of diversity, and commitment to the community. The individual student, with unique talents, is the foundation of the Menlo community. We value the range of talents, interests, ideas, customs, and cultures found among our students.

Academic integrity is essential to every academic institution. All students are expected to honor this value by acting honestly in every aspect of their academic lives. Violating academic integrity is contrary to Menlo School's values and will be grounds for disciplinary action.

A major goal of a Menlo education is to promote the intellectual growth of each student. To this end, Menlo students are expected to perform and produce their own work. Substitution of another's work for one's own violates the School's expectation of academic integrity and impedes the intellectual growth of the student.

Students can improve their understanding of a topic by discussing assignments with parents, tutors, or other students, as well as by appropriate use of a variety of learning and study aids. However, we expect students to submit their own work. Submitting another's work or ideas as one's own without proper attribution constitutes plagiarism and is no less an academic offense than cheating on a test.

The following are some examples of academic dishonesty:

- Presenting as one's own an idea or statement taken in full or in part, or even paraphrased, from some other source, whether another person, a published work (including material in electronic form), or another student's work.
- Using unauthorized notes or other aids in a test/assessment; or copying from or being influenced by another student's work (orally or visually) during a test, quiz, etc.; or seeking unauthorized information about a test or quiz to be taken.
- Giving unauthorized aid to another student; allowing another student to copy or use one's test, paper, or homework; telling another student what was on a test that can reasonably be expected will be given to that student at a later time.
- Submitting papers or other work already produced for another course without the approval of both teachers.
- Obtaining help (from a parent, tutor, another teacher, or another student) on homework or take-home tests that exceeds the limits specified by the teacher assigning the work (in effect, plagiarism).

- Stealing, deceptively using, or deliberately destroying or altering library or other educational materials not one's own, including computer programs and laboratory procedures or notebooks. (This might be vandalism, but it is also academic dishonesty.)

The preceding situations are only illustrations. Inappropriate academic behavior may take other forms as well.

If a student is suspected of academic dishonesty, the teacher or test proctor will report the incident to the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students will then review the incident. If the Dean of Students believes that the student may have engaged in academic dishonesty, an appropriate course of action will be determined and may include a review by the Disciplinary Committee. In certain instances, Menlo School has the discretion to decide and may conclude that immediate expulsion is appropriate.

Upper School Disciplinary Process

Disciplinary Committee

Menlo seeks to provide students with support for personal growth and with a clear understanding of our community values and behavioral expectations as well as an understanding of the consequences for transgressions. On occasion, students may fall short of Menlo's expectations and values by behaving at School, at a School activity or in any other setting in a way that compromises School values, threatens the safety or reputation of themselves or another member of the Menlo community, violates the rights of other members of the community, or detracts from the learning environment. For example, the following are considered violations: dishonesty; theft; verbal or physical abuse; bullying; hazing; defamatory statements; sexual harassment; substance abuse (including the sharing of prescription drugs); abuse or destruction of property; use of racist or sexist language; academic dishonesty; any act or statement that invades the privacy or violates the rights of another member of the Menlo Community. Behavior taking place in cyberspace is of equal concern and will be treated no differently from behavior taking place in person. The above are only illustrations, and other types of inappropriate behavior may be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.

When a possible infraction has occurred in the Upper School, the Dean of Students may (but is not required to) convene the Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee consists of the Dean of Students (chair), faculty members and student representatives as determined by the Dean of Students. The Disciplinary Committee often serves as a "sounding board" for the Head of School, the Upper School Director, the Dean of Students, and others as appropriate when general issues of behavior and integrity arise within the community. It also reviews specific instances and makes recommendations when School values and rules may have been violated by a student. The course of action recommended by the Committee is forwarded to the Upper School Director and/or the Head of School for further consideration and final action.

A student who has violated School values or rules may be referred to counseling with teachers, his or her advocate, one of the School Counselors, and/or the Dean of Students to provide the student with opportunities to reflect on and learn from the matter. In situations involving more serious violations or repeat offenses, within the

School's sole discretion—and with or without consultation with the Disciplinary Committee—discipline can also include restriction of privileges, probation, suspension, or expulsion.

The results of the disciplinary process, whether involving the Disciplinary Committee or not, will be communicated to the student, his or her parents, and the Advocate(s), and become part of the student's disciplinary file. In addition, the administration reserves the right to share the results of the disciplinary process with the School community in an effort to help students understand the relationship between the incident and the School's values.

Students who violate the School's major behavioral standards or do not demonstrate an appropriate effort to correct unacceptable behavior may lose the privilege of attending Menlo, either immediately or for the following school year. A pattern of less serious disciplinary issues may also lead to the loss of this privilege. Should a student be denied promotion to the next grade for disciplinary or any other reason, the School will endeavor to alert parents of this decision in a timely manner so that alternative school plans can be made; however, this may not be possible in all instances.

Reporting of Disciplinary Incidents to Colleges and Universities

Because colleges and universities place a high value on personal and academic integrity, applicants and their college counselors are often asked to report disciplinary violations that have involved the student who seeks admission. If requested by a college or university to which a student has applied, Menlo School will report incidents in 9th through 12th grade that resulted in the student being dismissed, suspended, or placed on citizenship probation. Menlo School will also report voluntary withdrawals when disciplinary action is possible or pending whenever such information is requested by a college or university.

College admission officers generally seek additional information from the School to determine whether a reported violation was an isolated incident or part of a pattern of behavior. Our experience is that it is to a student's advantage to deal with questions relating to disciplinary incidents in an honest, straightforward way; the student is well served by writing directly to the college or university's admissions office to explain the incident. It is also our experience that it is often to the student's advantage to address the matter with college or university admissions personnel even before the School makes its report.

The School reserves the right to inform a student's prospective college or university of any significant change in behavior that required disciplinary action or resulted in departure from the School through the very end of senior year. In fact, most colleges and universities require that the School report such information even after the student has been accepted for admission. This policy (because of the requirements of most colleges and universities) also encompasses behavior that takes place prior to graduation, which does not come to the attention of the School prior to the end of senior year and thus cannot have been the subject of the formal disciplinary process.

Upper School Attendance Information

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes except in the case of verified illness or when excused by the Dean of Students. Students must attend a minimum of two classes in order to participate in any extracurricular activities on the day of the absence unless special permission is given by the Dean of Students. In

the event of a Friday absence, the student may be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities on Saturday or Sunday.

Per Semester Absence Policy

Any extended absence from class denies the student a complete understanding of the curriculum. If a student misses six or more days, excused or unexcused, in any class during a semester, his or her status will be reviewed by the Dean of Students and he or she may lose credit for the class. For legal and safety purposes, Menlo School is required to keep accurate records of student attendance.

Excused Absence – Full Day

Illness

In the event of illness, the student's parents must inform the School by calling the Attendance Line at 650.330.2000 ext. 2300 between 7:30 am and 9:30 am or by emailing the Student Life Office at studentlife@menloschool.org.

Extended Absence

Students who expect to miss two or more days of school due to appointments or family obligations must obtain an Absence Request Form from the Student Life Office. The completed form must be returned to the Student Life Office at least two days prior to the day(s) on which the absence will occur.

College Visits

Students are encouraged to visit colleges during school vacations. A total of five days of excused absences for college visits will be granted over the span of a student's junior and senior years. If a visit is scheduled when school is in session, the following procedure must be observed:

- The student must obtain an Absence Request Form from the Student Life Office.
- The Absence Request Form must be completed by the student's parents, teachers, coaches, and advocate and by the College Counselor.
- The request must then be approved by the Dean of Students.
- This procedure must be completed no fewer than two days prior to departure from campus.

Field Trips

Field trips, athletic contests, and special events approved by the Dean of Students are excusable absences and will not count toward the semester absence policy as defined above. Teachers are informed of the student's absence through an approved roster of the event. Students are responsible for all work missed.

Religious Holidays

Religious holidays are considered excused absences and will not count toward the semester absence policy. The student's parents must inform the School by calling the Attendance Line at 650.330.2001 ext. 2300 or by emailing the Student Life Office at studentlife@menloschool.org.

Medical/Mental Health Extended Leave

In cases where a student is experiencing a protracted medical or mental health challenge, the School recognizes that an extended excused absence may be necessary and beneficial. Any extended leave must be accompanied by medical confirmation from a doctor or therapist directly treating the student. The length of extended absences will vary and will be determined in conversation with the School Health Office or Counseling Office in conjunction with the Middle School Director or Upper School Dean of Students. An academic plan will be implemented with the assistance of the aforementioned School parties that will be tailored to the specific situation. In some cases, a student may need to repeat a course or academic year if it is determined by the School that a student has missed too many school days in order to earn credit.

Excused Absence – Partial Day

Illness

A student who becomes ill during the school day must alert his or her classroom teacher and then report to the Health Office located in Room 501 on the Middle School Arrillaga Family Campus. If the School Nurse is unavailable, the student should report to the Student Life Office. Students may not leave campus without signing out with either the School Nurse or the Student Life Office.

**Please see the All School section for Guidelines for Absences due to Illness.*

Appointments

Communication about early dismissal for an appointment must be shared with the Student Life Office by 9:00 am on the date of the request. The excuse must include the type of appointment and date and time of dismissal.

College Representative Visits to Menlo

Each fall, over 100 college admission representatives visit Menlo's College Counseling Office. To assist in planning ahead, the College Counselors provide a calendar, updated weekly, of upcoming visits by representatives. This schedule is available in Naviance Family Connection and is posted in the College Counseling Office.

Seniors may meet with visiting college representatives as long as they have advance teacher permission (a minimum of 24 hours) if they are to miss class. They may not miss more than two sessions of any one class. Juniors may meet with visiting college representatives only during their free periods.

Unexcused Absence

A student who is absent from a class or other School obligation for reasons other than illness, excused absence, or early dismissal will be considered unexcused. The Assistant to the Dean of Students will notify a student and his or her parents or guardians if he or she has been recorded as unexcused from any class via their student Google account. The student will then have 48 hours to clear the absence by having a parent or guardian contact the Assistant to the Dean of Students. If the unexcused absence is not cleared within this 48-hour period, the Dean of Students will meet with the student and notify the student's parents and advocate. After this time, the unexcused

absence will become part of the student's permanent attendance record. Chronic unexcused absences are considered a serious discipline problem and may result in probation or dismissal from the School.

Tardiness

Students are expected to arrive promptly for class. Each teacher establishes a classroom policy regarding tardiness and communicates the policy to students at the start of each semester. If a student is chronically late to class, the teacher will inform the Dean of Students, who will discuss the issue with the student, inform the student's Advocate(s) and contact the student's parents. If the problem persists, further disciplinary action will occur. A student who is late to school must report to the Student Life Office prior to attending class.

Upper School Technology Program

Bring Your Own Device: Device Care and Acceptable Use

All Upper School students are required to bring a laptop with them to school each day, charged and ready to use. While teachers are equipped with Mac laptops, students may bring either Mac or Windows devices. Because laptops are the student's personal devices, they may install any apps, music, or videos that parents or guardians allow, but students are expected to ensure their devices are always available for school use. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that any textbooks and applications required by their teachers are available on their device. More information can be found at <https://www.menloschool.org/technology>.

Care and Repair

Students must take care of their device and bring it to school fully charged every day. We recommend the device be clearly labeled with the student's first name and last name. It should be kept in a case for protection, and students should avoid carrying it in a backpack in such a way that objects press against the screen, even through the case. It is the student's responsibility to charge their device overnight so that they have access to it in each class throughout the day. Teachers will not always have chargers/outlets available to students during the school day. If a student's device is damaged or lost, the student will need to replace it as soon as possible as it is required for classes. The Tech Department may be able to issue a loaner until the student's device is replaced.

Behavior and Acceptable Uses

The laptop is to be used for school purposes while on Menlo's campus. The device and any apps/websites are used only with permission from the teacher. While in class, the teacher may inspect a student's device at any time. Students are cautioned not to leave their laptops unattended outside or in a classroom, the quad, dining hall, library, sports center, or athletic fields. Locking them in a locker will help ensure their safety when not in use.

All school-related use of laptops is subject to the terms of the Computer and Network Use Agreement contained in this Menlo School Student and Parent Handbook.

Student Google Accounts

Each student is assigned a Menlo School Google account that will act as the primary communication between the School and the student. Students are strongly encouraged to check their School email account daily. See the All School section for policies regarding email and computer use.

As with lockers and other facilities, the School reserves the right to access student Google accounts at any time for any reason. The Google Account should not be used for personal-oriented social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or Snapchat.

Each student should take reasonable steps to safeguard their account and should report any inappropriate or unauthorized use of their account to the School. Each account may only be used by the individual to whom the account is assigned and users may not authorize anyone, including family members, to use their account for any reason.

Upper School General Information

Driving Privileges

Driving at Menlo is considered a privilege, not a right. Students are expected to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Due to limited parking on the campus, driving privileges are extended to 11th and 12th grade students only. Students must park only in the lot assigned.
- Students must register their vehicles with the Student Life Office. Students are expected to display a parking decal on their vehicle at all times. Vehicles without parking decals will not be admitted into the parking lot.
- All student vehicles must be parked in a designated student parking lot. All cars must be parked entirely within a space. Unregistered or illegally parked vehicles will be ticketed and may be towed.
- To enforce handicapped parking laws, the School parking lots are patrolled by the Atherton Police Department. Tickets will be issued and/or towing will be enforced by the APD.
- Cars parked in posted fire lanes or handicapped spaces are also subject to a fine and immediate towing by APD.
- Driving motor vehicles on School walkways is prohibited. Violators are subject to a fine and removal of driving privileges.
- Parking and registration fines are paid at the Student Life Office.
- Unless otherwise posted, the speed limit on campus is 10 mph.

Please also note that, for good cause, Menlo School may request access to a student's vehicle that is parked on campus.

Lockers

Each student is entitled to a book locker and an athletic locker. At the start of the school year, students select a locker in which to keep books and personal belongings. Lockers are selected on a first-come, first-served basis. Locker numbers must be registered with the Student Life Office.

Freshmen will be assigned a lock and locker during Freshman Orientation. If a lock is lost or broken, replacements may be purchased at the Bookstore. Only school-issued locks may be used on school lockers.

Athletes may only obtain an athletic locker for the duration of the sports season during which they are actively participating. Numbers for these lockers must be registered with the Athletic Department.

Please be aware that the School reserves the right to inspect any student locker at any time and for any reason.

All School

Student Support Services

Counseling

Menlo's credentialed school counselors, Tracy Bianchi and Jake Fauver in the Upper School and Jake Davis in the Middle School, are available to students who wish to discuss personal issues in a relaxed, private atmosphere. The counselors also coordinate programs relating to overall wellness and social-emotional issues, including:

- Healthy school/life balance
- Media literacy and digital citizenship
- Personal challenges
- Transitions
- Loss
- Overall wellness and developmental social issues

The School Counselors operate in a private and supportive manner. They coordinate programs aimed at increasing student awareness of lifestyle choices such as healthy relationships, social norms and stress reduction, substance education, diversity of thought, and management of depression and anxiety, and overall wellness.

The school counselors also sit on various parent education and student support committees aimed at proactive management of issues related to adolescent development. In addition, they teach:

Middle School Human Skills Program

Human Skills is a comprehensive wellness curriculum that students take in all three years of Middle School. During the Human Skills program, students learn skills that aim to develop their personal, social, and emotional competencies. In addition, these classes provide a trusting environment for students to explore the pre-teen and teen experiences. The Human Skills program is created and facilitated by the Middle School Counselor.

Human Skills 6: meets twice per rotation for a semester. In this course, students explore personal development, emotional intelligence, and relationships with peers. Topics include new friendships, effective communication, self-esteem, bullying, and how to navigate the transition to middle school.

Human Skills 7: meets twice per rotation for a semester. The course centers on the theme of choices and consequences. Topics include identifying personal goals, digital citizenship, brain fitness, mindfulness-based stress reduction, diversity and inclusion, media literacy, drug education, and refusal skills.

Human Skills 8: meets once per rotation over the entire course of the year. In this course, students learn about human sexuality. Topics include anatomy and physiology, healthy relationships, sexual health, contraceptive choices, gender/sexual identity, and setting limits.

Upper School Human Behavior and Human Sexuality Curriculum

The Adolescent Human Behavior Course is part of the Freshmen Seminar and is designed to educate freshmen on internal and external aspects of Menlo life and beyond. The course provides a safe place that supports and educates students in making healthy choices and aids in the development of social consciousness, empathy, and proactive decision-making. The course offers opportunities for students to explore their attitudes on topics ranging from negative peer influences, substance use, sexuality, gender, mental health, social media challenges, and positive social psychology. In a rapidly changing world in which young people face many challenges, the inclusion of these topics within our curriculum is welcomed and embraced by the freshmen.

The School's Human Sexuality curriculum, also taught in Freshman Seminar, is centered around Teen Talk High School, a 10-hour comprehensive sexuality education course developed by [Health Connected](#). Teen Talk High School complies with [California's Healthy Youth Act](#) and meets the California Health Education Content Standards for "Growth, Development and Sexual Health."

If you would like to discuss any of the counseling programs or if you have any concern about your child's participation or supportive discussions with one of our counselors, please contact Tracy Bianchi (tracy.bianchi@menloschool.org or ext. 2227) or Jake Fauver (jake.fauver@menloschool.org or ext. 2228) in the Upper School or Jake Davis (jake.davis@menloschool.org or ext. 2461) in the Middle School.

Health Services and Medicine

Limited and only basic onsite health and medical services are provided by a licensed registered nurse. Nonprescription medications will be available and administered at the student's request from the Health Office only with written authorization by the parent or guardian when on file. The Health Office is located in Room 501 on the Middle School Arrillaga Family Campus.

Students who feel ill or need medical attention should inform their teacher and then proceed to the Health Office.

Prescription medications can only be dispensed by the School Nurse during the school day at the request of a parent or guardian. For safety, parents are asked to supply prescription medications in the original container, clearly labeled with the child's name and the prescribing physician's instructions. All medications are kept in a locked cabinet. If a student needs an over-the-counter medication that is not generally available on-site to the School Nurse, the medication should be delivered to the School Nurse in its original container for dispensing.

Middle School students are not allowed to carry prescription or non-prescription medication of any kind on their person, in their backpack, or stored in their locker unless the parent or guardian has spoken with and received approval from the School Nurse.

Upper School students who require prescription medication during the day may in most instances self-medicate. We request that an Upper School student not carry more than a one-day supply of medication while at school.

An Upper School student may not self-medicate if the medication involved is categorized by the government as a controlled substance. In those instances, the medication must be kept in the care of the School Nurse and dispensed to the student in the Health Office.

For the health and safety of every student, it is against School policy for students to share prescription medications with each other. Violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Immunization Policy

Menlo School is required by law to follow California statutes and rules concerning immunization. By law, California schools are required to check immunization records for all new student admissions and for students advancing to [7th grade](#) before entry. Parents must furnish a copy of their child's Immunization Record as proof of immunization. Medical exemptions allowed. If you have questions on this subject, there are resources available online (for example through the National Vaccination Information Center or the Shots for School site maintained by the California Department of Public Health). You can also contact the School Nurse with questions on this subject.

Head Injury Policy

Menlo School believes that the student's health and safety are of paramount importance.

After a head injury, the student, his or her parents, the Athletic Trainer (for students in the Upper School), the School Nurse, and other appropriate School personnel will be involved in the process to determine when a student is ready to return to normal athletic and academic activity.

Parents or guardians, as well as students, must sign the concussion information sheet (found within your student's Magnus Health account) as it pertains to AB 25, passed into law October 2014, to require school districts to immediately remove an athlete from a school-sponsored athletic activity if he or she is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury. In effect from August 2015, AB 2127 is an addendum to AB 25 and requires a step-wise return-to-play protocol, including clearance after a head injury by a licensed physician trained in the management and care of concussion. The purposes of this statement are to help educate parents, students, and athletes about head injuries, to define the signs and symptoms of a concussion, and to clarify our protocol by which we determine if and when a student or an athlete may return to normal athletic activity.

Concussions can occur with any head injury, as well as in all sports, but are more prevalent in contact sports. Individuals who suffer a concussion may display the following signs and symptoms following such an incident:

- Disorientation
- Confusion
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Amnesia
- Headaches
- Disrupted hand-eye movements
- Loss of consciousness
- Blurred or double vision
- Increased fatigue, altered sleep patterns

If a student demonstrates any sign or symptom of a concussion after receiving a direct or indirect blow to the head, the School Nurse or Athletic Trainer will contact the parent or guardian, and the student will be removed from athletic activity until a physician trained in the care and management of head injuries in accordance of AB 2127 clears him or her.

Additionally, the student will not be allowed to participate in athletic practice or events until he or she is determined to be symptom-free by the Athletic Trainer and/or the School Nurse, achieves an acceptable score on the ImPACT Test Concussion Impact test (a subjective and objective computerized cognitive evaluation system), and BioSway balance test and exhibits no further symptoms after a step-wise return-to-play protocol is completed.

If a student sustains more than one concussion in a twelve-month period, he or she will not be allowed to return to participation in sports until evaluated by a neurologist or concussion specialist.

If your student is diagnosed with a concussion, contact the School Nurse as soon as possible at 650.330.2001 ext. 2530. The School Nurse may initiate temporary academic accommodations appropriate for the student's symptoms.

During the period of recovery from concussion, and while receiving temporary academic accommodations, a student may be asked to not attend specific extra-curricular events (according to the discretion of the school).

The process and procedure outlined above are also applicable when a student is injured as a result of an incident that does not involve a Menlo School athletic event or program. A student's parent or guardian should notify the School Nurse and/or, for Upper School students, the Athletic Trainer promptly about any such injury. The School can then assist with observation, testing, and clearance as the student recovers and help ensure that the student is not subjected to unnecessary risk of further harm.

Lost and Found

Middle School: Lost and found barrels are kept near the Middle School office for clothes, books, and other items that are lost or misplaced. Starting in September, items in the lost and found will be given to charity at the end of each month. Parents are strongly encouraged to label their child's clothing and personal items.

Upper School: Students who lose personal property should check with the Student Life Office or with Security for the location of the Lost and Found. Students who find lost property should bring articles to the Student Life Office.

Lunch

Lunch for Middle School students is served daily between 11:10–11:50 am, and for Upper School students between 11:50 am-12:35 pm. In order to provide an enjoyable mealtime experience, students are expected to be civil in the dining hall and appropriate dress is required. Students should line up for food politely, treat the staff with respect, take only what food they will eat, clear their own tables, and leave plates and utensils in the dining hall. Students may not take lunch from the Dining Hall without permission from the Dean of Students.

Transportation

Menlo School is committed to transporting students in the safest manner available. In most cases, students will be transported in yellow school buses or charter buses with SPAB (School Pupil Activity Bus) certified drivers.

Upper School students may not drive themselves to school-sponsored activities without parent permission and prior approval by the Dean of Students or Athletic Director, and at no time may a student drive another Menlo student to such an activity.

Shuttle to the Train Station

A yellow Menlo School bus (or occasionally a white GMC Suburban) takes students to and from the Menlo Park train station free of charge every morning and afternoon. The bus makes a continuous loop from the train station to Menlo 7:15 am-8:30 am each morning and 3:20 pm-5:45 pm each afternoon. No advance sign up is necessary. Please avoid stopping along the red curb section of the loop, which is reserved for bus parking. For questions, contact the Transportation Department at 650.330.2001 ext. 2562, or see the School's [website](#).

Menlo School Buses

Yellow school buses, operated by First Student, transport students free of charge from locations around the Peninsula to campus and back in the afternoon. Buses are scheduled to arrive in the morning at 8:10 am and leave in the afternoon at 3:30 pm. Students should wait at the bus stop a few minutes before departure time to keep bus operations running smoothly. First Student can be reached at 650.685.8263. Families can get more information and sign up on the school's [website](#).

Parent/Teacher Drivers

It is inevitable that parents and teachers may drive students other than their own children in their personal vehicles. For the protection of our students, we ask that all parents and teachers who expect to drive Menlo students (other than their own children) provide Menlo's Transportation Coordinator with a copy of a valid driver's license, proof of insurance coverage, and an "authorization to drive students" form. All drivers (teachers, administrators, and parents) who drive students are subject to a DMV record check and clearance by the Menlo School Transportation Coordinator.

All School Policies

Behavior on School Buses and Other School Transportation

When traveling on a bus or in any other School vehicle, students are expected to behave in accordance with School values and rules. Students should treat their classmates and the driver with civility and respect. Most difficulties between driver and student are resolved privately through discussion. However, if safety is jeopardized by failure to follow directions or rules, disciplinary action and/or suspension of riding privileges will be decided at the discretion of the Dean of Students or the Middle School Assistant Director. Students must wear seatbelts while the bus or other vehicle is in motion. Buses and other vehicles should be kept clean. Bus exits and aisles are to remain clear at all times. No portion of a student's body (hand, arm, head, etc.) may be extended outside the bus

at any time. Instructions of the bus or vehicle driver must be followed. Federal law and School policy require all Middle School students crossing a street before or after riding a bus to be escorted by the driver.

Dispute Resolution

As an educational institution, Menlo School expects that students and their parents will accept and fully respect the exercise of professional judgment by faculty and administrators in academic matters, assessment of student abilities, and application of community standards through disciplinary and similar processes. In any instance (except as to tuition and/or fee collection disputes) where the School's discretion or judgment in such matters is not accepted, the sole and exclusive remedy for the student and/or parent is to submit the dispute for resolution by final and binding arbitration administered by and pursuant to the rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) then in effect for commercial disputes. Further details with respect to the arbitration process are provided each year along with the annual Enrollment Agreement. AAA rules can be found at www.adr.org.

Menlo School Data Privacy Policy

Menlo School collects certain personal information about students and parents in order to fulfill our mission or as required by law. We collect only the information that we are required to collect. We are committed to safeguarding that information whether it is stored on-site or off-site, in our offices, on our systems or on those of outside data processing services vendors, regardless of the storage media. We have strong controls on our systems to try to assure that the information is used only for its intended purposes and we only do business with vendors that have equal or stronger controls and policies to enforce them. Because not all information we collect needs to be seen by the same group of people, we segregate access to information accordingly. Medical information (in accordance with federal and state laws), financial information provided by families applying for need-based aid, and student academic records are examples of information that is carefully and securely handled and segregated. Consistent with our mission, we do disclose certain information to other schools, colleges and universities, or potential employers, as directed by parents and students eighteen years of age or older. This disclosure is made only in conjunction with an application initiated by the student or, if solicited by the other party, after obtaining a release from the parent or student eighteen years of age or over. We do not provide email addresses or mailing lists to anyone outside the Menlo School community. All email mailing lists that we create are solely for regular School or MSPA- or School-related communications. Any use of email addresses or mailing lists by anyone in the Menlo School community for any purpose other than Menlo School or MSPA-related communications is strictly prohibited.

In contrast to personal information about parents and students, for reasons of safety and security, the School reserves the right to access and inspect a student's locker, Menlo Google account, and tote bag or backpack (while the student is on campus including in a School parking lot) at any time for any reason.

Guidelines for Absences Due to Illness

While regular school attendance is necessary for optimal learning, a mere presence at school does not ensure effective learning. A student must feel well in order to maximize the learning experience. In addition, a student who is sick and comes to school may spread the illness to other students and staff. We recommend that a student remain home if any of the following conditions are present:

- Fever. Any student with a fever greater than 100 degrees should stay home. He/she can return to school after he/she has been fever-free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medicine such as Tylenol or Motrin/Advil).
- Diarrhea/Vomiting. A student with diarrhea and/or vomiting should stay at home and return to school only after being symptom-free for 24 hours.
- Conjunctivitis. Following diagnosis of conjunctivitis, the student may return to school 24 hours after the first dose of prescribed medication.
- Rashes. Common infectious diseases with rashes are most contagious in the early stages. A student with a suspicious rash should return to school only after a healthcare provider has made a diagnosis and authorized the student's return to school.
- Colds. Consider keeping your student at home if he/she is experiencing excessive nose blowing and coughing.

A student who has started antibiotics needs to be on the medication for 24 hours before being considered non-contagious and able to return to school. When a student returns to school, he/she should be able to participate in all school activities including physical education. Remember, it is an extremely long day for a student who is sent to school ill. Not only is it difficult to concentrate and learn if repeatedly coughing or blowing your nose, but it also creates disruption in the classroom and affects the concentration and learning of your student's classmates. Remember: hand washing is still the most effective way to reduce the spread of infection.

Any student who has a lengthy absence due to illness should work directly with the School Nurse to coordinate missed academic work with the student's teachers.

Religious Holidays

Menlo fully supports students' opportunity to celebrate religious holidays and ceremonies. If school is in session during a religious holiday, teachers are asked not to give tests on those days or the following day. The principle is that students bear no negative academic consequences for celebrating a religious holiday. Teachers will understand that students celebrating a religious holiday or celebration may not have completed their homework, and will make accommodations to allow students to catch up on the work without academic penalty.

Reporting of Student Health and Safety Issues

Menlo School is required by law to report to the San Mateo County Health Department circumstances that impact the general health of our student population. This includes instances of infectious and highly contagious diseases, extreme outbreaks of flu, outbreaks of head lice, and so forth.

When students confide in teachers, counselors, advocates, or others employed by the School with respect to a situation of known or suspected abuse or neglect of a student, the School, and its employees are similarly required by law to report the matter to San Mateo County Child Protective Services. For the safety and welfare of the child, the School and its personnel are held strictly accountable for making appropriate reports in all such instances.

Insurance and Unavoidable Risks

Menlo School urges and expects that all families carry medical and possibly other insurance for their children who are students at the school. That insurance is the only insurance on which students and their families can rely with certainty.

Menlo School does carry student accident insurance, but that is an “excess” policy, which may not apply when something happens to a student. This coverage may provide payment for costs (up to \$25,000.00 total lifetime maximum, per covered person, per accident) incurred that are over and above payments made by the primary insurance carried by the parent/guardian of a Menlo student. Further:

1. The claim for benefits under this policy must arise from a Menlo-sponsored activity.
2. The policy may pay only costs that are not reimbursed by the health insurance policy carried by the parent/guardian of the injured student.
3. The policy may only pay a portion of the costs not reimbursed by the health insurance carried by the parent/guardian of the injured student.
4. Reimbursed costs paid under the policy are determined by and at the sole discretion of the insurance carrier. Menlo School has no control or influence over the carrier’s decision. Parents cannot and should not assume that any payment will be made under this policy.
5. A claim for reimbursement under the policy must be made within 59 days of the date the injury occurred, and treatment must commence within 59 days from the date of injury. Claim forms are available from Menlo’s Athletic Trainer.
6. Only costs incurred within 365 days of the accident are eligible for coverage.
7. In maintaining this coverage, Menlo School assumes no liability for medical conditions being treated or for any costs not covered by the primary insurer for the Menlo student.

Participation in certain school activities, including athletics, involves the risk of injury or worse. Menlo parents and students assume those risks. A student should not participate in the activity if he, she and/or his or her parents are not comfortable with this fact or if the student and family have not obtained adequate insurance coverage on their own.

Family Vacations

Family vacations should be planned to coincide with official school vacations. Students who miss school for family vacations may lose academic credit, and their absence will become part of their attendance record.

Families may be tempted to extend school vacations an extra day or two. However, the time teachers have available to work with students is very limited. When a student misses school because of illness or a family emergency, the faculty will do what it takes to make up the work the student has missed. Missing school for family vacations is quite a different matter. In these cases, faculty members are not responsible for providing make-up work or examinations missed because of an extended school break.

Parents Out of Town

Parents must notify the School when they plan to be away from home or leave a child in the care of another adult. In such instances, the School must know how to reach the parents and must also have the name and number of an adult who can be contacted in case of an emergency. Upper School families should inform the Student Life Office of the emergency contact. Middle School families should notify the Middle School Office with this information.

Anti-racist and Anti-discriminatory: a Non-neutral Commitment to Equity, Equality, and Safety

As an institution, Menlo holds in high regard the racial, physical, cultural, linguistic, spiritual, and intellectual backgrounds of our diverse student body. Our School's constituencies recognize that our society is at a unique inflection point—one that requires us to dig deeper and go beyond our current institutional priorities in order to further address systemic forces of structuralized discrimination and racism that shapes who we are, our beliefs, and how we construct our relationships with others within the academic experience.

Thus, as a school, we are making a conscious decision to *no longer* operate from a space of passive neutrality; we are declaring that Menlo School is an anti-racist and anti-discriminatory learning community. Racism and discrimination further intersect with intolerances such as heterosexism, Islamophobia, sexism, and antisemitism, and are deeply embedded in racial/cultural biases that prevent so many students from fully actualizing their hopes and dreams through a transformative educational experience.

Furthermore, Menlo is committed to being part of a larger systematic change that confronts racism and inequality of any type within our local educational context. We have a renewed sense of urgency and commitment to lead in this area. As such, we are committed to confronting racism in order to create a more inclusive and just world, which commits us to a purpose greater than ourselves. Therefore, the School is standing in unwavering solidarity with a firm commitment to *disrupting, dismantling, and ending racism and discriminatory behaviors* on-campus, off-campus, or online that may manifest in the following ways:

- Racially-charged epithets;
- Cultural appropriation;
- Socioeconomic prejudice and/or taunting;
- Anti-semitism;
- Religious/spiritual insensitivity;
- Identity-related and/or sexist language;
- Homophobia and LGBTQIA hate speech and/or suppression.

The aforementioned behaviors and/or beliefs are a direct threat to our core values and ethics as a school. Through our educational programming, we will build a moral mandate whereby the School community shares the collective responsibility to address, eliminate, and prevent actions, decisions, and outcomes that result from and perpetuate racism and discrimination. Additionally, every student at Menlo shall honor, respect, and champion the diversity and life experiences of all community members to support the School's mission, vision, values, goals, and objectives to provoke systemic change that promotes justice, safeguards human rights and ensures fair and equitable treatment and respect for human dignity for all people on our campus.

While students and their parents must know that Menlo maintains zero tolerance for such behaviors, the School does not want to develop a culture of fear, whereby students are not provided the opportunity to learn, reflect, and grow from their mistakes. The School reserves the right to make a decision that is aligned with the best interests, collective safety, and emotional health of all students, which includes victims, witnesses, and the general student body. A single incident will be addressed through the School's discipline system and can result in expulsion, or other consequences as outlined in the School handbook.

We are encouraged and thrilled that you have selected Menlo as your school of choice. We are a forward-thinking educational institution, leaning on 108 years of excellence. As our culture continues to change, we will remain committed to establishing and sustaining an equitable community that delivers upon its educational promise, thus ending the predictive value of race and ensuring each individual student's success. Again, thank you for choosing Menlo.

Sexual Harassment and Discrimination

Respect is an essential value of the Menlo community. Sexual or any other form of harassment, along with discrimination, by a student, faculty member, School employee or even a visitor to the campus will not be tolerated. For students, this policy applies to all events with which the School is associated, whether they take place on campus or off. All incidents of harassment or discrimination, as well as any related type of inappropriate behavior such as sexual abuse, will be investigated thoroughly and promptly.

All forms of inappropriate conduct toward a student by anyone connected with the School, regardless of where the incident occurs (including online), are prohibited. Sexual overtures or similarly inappropriate behavior directed toward a student by a teacher, administrator, other employee or adult visitor to the School are not acceptable under any circumstances.

Sexual harassment is defined to include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. By way of example, this would include the following:

- Explicitly or implicitly making sexual conduct a term or condition of academic status or progress
- Using sexual conduct, or the rejection of such conduct, as the basis for making academic or other decisions within the School
- "Sexting" or the possession of or distribution of pornographic material or material which may be an invasion of personal privacy with respect to the physical appearance of another person (and which may also be a violation of California law)
- Use of epithets, derogatory jokes, innuendo, comments or slurs of a sexual nature, unwanted advances, inappropriate invitations, or remarks having express or implied sexual content
- Non-verbal conduct, such as leering, staring at certain body parts or making sexually suggestive gestures
- Physical conduct, such as unwanted touching, blocking normal movement or assault
- Threats or demands to submit to sexual requests as a condition of receiving some benefit in exchange
- Retaliation for reporting or threatening to report harassment, or for participating in an investigation of alleged harassment

Sexual harassment and other related forms of inappropriate behavior can take many forms. It can be blatant and overt, or subtle and indirect. It can occur between individuals of either gender, between peers or between people

in a hierarchical relationship. Determination of what constitutes sexual harassment or related inappropriate behavior depends on specific facts and circumstances of a given situation. However, because Menlo has no tolerance for such activities, a single incident may be grounds for expulsion of a student.

Discrimination is equally unwelcome at Menlo School. The law prohibits discrimination based upon race, color, ancestry, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity, physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic information or characteristics, marital status, veteran status, political beliefs, and similar categorizations. Menlo students are expected to honor and follow both the law and its spirit. Once more, a single violation—depending on severity—may be grounds for expulsion of a student.

Other sanctions that a student may suffer for violating this policy include one or more of the following:

- Verbal warning or reprimand
- Referral for a psychological assessment
- Restriction from extracurricular activities
- Suspension

Faculty members and other School employees who violate this policy are subject to discharge. In situations where an individual who violates these policies is not an employee or otherwise directly connected with the School, that person will be dealt with as effectively as possible—for example, by being banned from campus or by being referred to government authorities for investigation and possible prosecution.

Whenever a student believes he or she has been subjected to sexual or other harassment or discrimination, the matter should be reported immediately by the student or by a parent. Reports can be made to the Middle School Assistant Director, the Upper School Director, the Dean of Students, and/or the Head of School.

All reports of harassment, discrimination, or similar inappropriate behavior will be investigated promptly and thoroughly by the School. The School understands that such matters are sensitive. Investigations are confidential and the privacy of parties concerned will be respected to the greatest extent possible. The School prohibits retaliation or reprisal against anyone who makes a report of harassment or participates in the investigative process.

If you have questions or concerns about this policy or any aspect of its application, either generally or with regard to a particular situation, please speak with the Middle School Assistant Director, the Upper School Director, the Dean of Students, or the Head of School.

Bullying, Harassment, Hazing, Teasing, and Similar Disruptive Behavior

Bullying, (non-sexual) harassment, hazing, teasing, and similar actions are forms of aggression that may be physical (hitting or kicking), verbal (name-calling, insults, ridicule, racist comments, or subjecting another person to unwarranted embarrassment), relational (gossip or ostracism), or reactive (taunting that invites retaliation). An essential principle of our community is mutual respect. Bullying, harassment, hazing, teasing or any similar behavior, in or out of the classroom, violates Menlo School's values, disrupts the learning environment, interferes with the rights of others or with their opportunities to learn and benefit from being at the School, imposes undue burdens on the maintenance of appropriate discipline, and will not be tolerated.

Bullying, harassment, hazing, teasing and any similar behavior carried out online or in any “virtual” forum are also prohibited. Examples of online bullying include harassing or hurtful tweets, Snapchat transmissions, or instant messages (IM); chat room, phone or email messages; inappropriate cell phone photos and videos; the creation of insulting “second life” characters; and images or messages posted to websites. Students are always expected to treat one another—as well as all members of the Menlo community—with respect, whether they are on campus or online.

Social Media and Networking Sites

When using social media and networking sites, as well as personal websites and blogs, all members of the Menlo community must use discretion in posting information and images. Any posting is widely circulated within the School community or that becomes public, even without the author’s knowledge or consent. And any posting that becomes public can damage in an irreparable way the reputation of the School, faculty members, employees, fellow students, or others. Some types of postings, along with related Internet activity, may also implicate federal and/or state criminal statutes, and obviously should be avoided by members of the Menlo community.

Menlo School strongly encourages all students and their families, as well as faculty members and staff, to carefully review privacy settings on any social media and networking site they use (such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Flickr, LinkedIn or others) and to exercise care and good judgment when posting content on such sites. Faculty and staff are strongly discouraged from using social media and networking sites to communicate with students. All members of the Menlo community are urged to respect the privacy rights of others at all times, and especially when using social media and networking sites.

If Menlo believes that a student, faculty member, or employee’s activity on a social media or networking website, blog, or personal website may or does violate School policies, the School may request that such activity cease immediately. Depending on the nature and severity of the incident, individuals involved also may be subject to disciplinary action.

Video and Image Use

Unless notified otherwise, the School may use the names and likeness of our students in School-related publications, including but not limited to, the yearbook, *Menlo Magazine*, KnightLine, eNotes and zipNotes, website, social media, press releases, and promotional literature and videos. Upper School students in photos will be identified by first and last name. Per the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), Middle School students in photos will be identified by first name and grade level only unless explicit parent permission is provided in advance of any usage. The Menlo Knightbook (Menlo’s school directory) will include, for families in both divisions, student photos, student first and last names, student Menlo School email addresses, family addresses, and family phone numbers. Personal and private information about students and their families is confidential and restricted for School purposes only. Any misuse of such information, by a parent or by a student, may result in the Student’s immediate dismissal from the School. If for any reason you do not wish your name and/or photograph or that of your student to appear in Menlo’s print and online publications, please contact the Communications Office at 650.330.2001 ext. 2330, as soon as possible.

Menlo School Website Access and Privacy Guidelines

Menlo School's website is located at www.menloschool.org. This site has been developed as a way to keep our families in close and current contact with the daily life of our school and we hope you will visit it often. Strict guidelines are employed to ensure the safety and security of our students and their families (see below).

1. The following personal information may not be displayed in non-password protected sections on the website:
 - Home phone numbers
 - Personal address
 - Personal email
2. In photos, Upper School students will be identified by first and last name. Middle School students will be identified by first name and grade level only unless explicit parent permission is provided in advance of any usage.
3. In text and articles, students may be identified by full name within text as long as there is no identifying photograph accompanying the text.
4. For student-submitted articles, Upper School student work may indicate authorship by using the student's first and last name, as long as no photograph of the student accompanies the article. For Middle School work, only the first name and last initial may be used to identify authorship.
5. Adult members of the community (including parents and alumni) may be identified by name in photographs.
6. Menlo reserves the right to disclose personal information where needed to enforce Menlo's rights; protect the rights, property, or safety of others; to support external auditing and similar functions; or when required by law.

If for any reason you do not wish your name and/or photograph or that of your student to appear on our website, please contact the Communications Office at 650.330.2001 ext. 2330, as soon as possible.

Student Google Account and Canvas Learning Management System

In order to fully participate in the learning process at the School, students need access to a computer and an internet connection at home. If this presents a financial hardship, please contact the Financial Aid Office.

All students will be issued a Menlo School Google account and a login for Canvas, our web-based system for teacher/student collaboration. Students must secure their devices with a password that they do not share. The Google account is not restricted to receipt of email from other Menlo School email accounts. While Menlo School uses appropriate spam filters, we cannot guarantee that all unwanted email will be captured in the filter. We strongly encourage parent supervision of email and Internet usage by students when off campus.

Computer and Network Use Agreement

Access to the Menlo School Network ("Network") and to the Internet (via the Network) is available to all computer users ("users"). Menlo School recognizes the educational value of such electronic services and their potential to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

Menlo requires that all users of these electronic services agree to abide by certain guidelines. In general, inappropriate and illegal interaction with information services is prohibited. Use of the Network is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. Menlo may revise this Computer and Network Use Agreement at any time and any changes will be effective immediately upon being posted. Any material changes will not be applied retroactively.

Usage

Users must respect the rights of other users. Menlo School provides mechanisms for the protection of private information from examination by others. Attempts to circumvent these mechanisms in order to gain unauthorized access to the system or another person's information are prohibited. Authorized system administrators may access a user's files and track network and internet usage for maintenance or security purposes. System administrators will report suspected unlawful or improper activities to the Director of Technology. The School also reserves the general right at all times to control fully any use or access to its computer equipment, network, and facilities, and although safeguards are in place, there is no guarantee of privacy. Users should not expect that communications or information stored or transmitted using school technology facilities are private, confidential, or secure. Users acknowledge that all files and data created, transmitted, or stored on or through any of Menlo's systems belong to Menlo. Menlo reserves the right to monitor and record the activities. Users must not use Menlo's systems for any commercial purposes.

Abuse of Computing Privileges

Users of Menlo information resources must not access computers, computer software, computer data and information, or networks without proper authorization, or intentionally enable others to do so, regardless of whether the computer, software data, information, or network in question is owned by the School.

Modification or Removal of Equipment

Users must not attempt to modify or remove computer equipment, software, or peripherals owned by others without proper authorization from the Director of Technology.

Password Protection

A user authorized to use a password, or otherwise protected account, may be subject to both civil and criminal liability if the user discloses the password or otherwise makes the account available to others without permission of the Director of Technology.

Unauthorized Access

Users should not attempt to gain access to files, voice or data communications, or to any portion of the Network that they are not authorized to view and/or use regardless of whether the files are unprotected. An effort to do so—either directly or in conjunction with a third party—may be subject to both civil and criminal liability. Such an act is also likely to result in cancellation of Network privileges and, in the case of a student, disciplinary action. A user should report immediately any breach of Network security to the Director of Technology.

It is equally essential that a user who obtains access inadvertently to files or information stored on the Network that she/he is not authorized to view and/or use report the event immediately and not read, use or distribute the files or information.

Unauthorized or Destructive Programs

Users must not intentionally develop or use programs that disrupt other computer or network users or that access private or restricted information or portions of a system and/or damage software or hardware components of a system. Users must ensure that they do not use programs or utilities that interfere with other users or that modify normally protected or restricted portions of the system or use accounts.

Reporting Problems

Users must report suspected abuse, especially any damage to or problems with their files. Users, when requested, are expected to cooperate with the Director of Technology in any investigation of system abuse.

Copyrights and Licenses

Users must respect copyrights and licenses to software and any other legally protected digital and non-digital information.

Prohibited Use

Use of Menlo computers, accounts, and the Network to purposely send, view, or download fraudulent, harassing, obscene (e.g. pornographic), threatening or other messages or material that might contribute to the creation of a hostile academic or work environment is prohibited. All computer use must be consistent with Menlo policies generally, as well as consistent with Menlo policies with respect to bullying, harassment, hazing, teasing, and similar behavior.

Consequences of Misuse of Computing Privileges

A user who is found to have purposely or recklessly violated any of these policies will be subject to disciplinary action.

If the School has compelling evidence of misuse of computing resources, and if that evidence points to the computing activities or the computer files of a user, the School shall pursue one or more of the following:

- Provide notification of the investigation to the Middle School Assistant Director or the Upper School Dean of Students.
- Temporarily suspend or restrict the user's computing privileges during the investigation.
- Ask the Director of Technology to inspect the user's files, and/or other computer-accessible storage media on School-owned and operated equipment.
- Refer the matter to the Middle School Assistant Director or the Upper School Dean of Students for possible disciplinary action.

Safety and Emergency Information

Safety and Emergency Information

The health and safety of Menlo students are of paramount concern. Students are expected to follow all safety directions and guidelines communicated by teachers, coaches, administrators, and security personnel.

Weapons of any kind, including pepper spray or mace, are strictly prohibited on School grounds. If a student or parent becomes aware of a suspicious situation or any possible or actual threat, whatever the nature or source, the matter should be reported immediately to School Security, the Head of School or another administrator, a faculty member, or—if appropriate—directly to the police. Students, in particular, are directed not to personally confront a dangerous person or incident on campus but rather to take all appropriate steps to ensure their own safety.

No motorized vehicles are allowed in either courtyard areas or on the ramps, hallways or stairs. Students are mandated by law to wear protective helmets and other safety gear while riding on wheeled vehicles to and from school. Students are not allowed to walk/balance on railings or drop any object from one floor to the next.

Emergency Preparedness

Menlo School mirrors the city, county, and state emergency structure through the SEMS (Standard Emergency Management System). The plans are reviewed regularly by these organizations to ensure that Menlo School policies are in compliance with local, county, and state agencies. An essential part of this plan is to familiarize students and staff with procedures related to all emergency situations through a series of drills and simulations.

Emergency Procedures

Medical/Accident

- **Using a school phone, dial extension 1122** to connect to Security (or call 650.799.4993), who will contact the appropriate personnel. Give your exact location on campus and give a concise account of what happened.
- If Security is unreachable and you must call outside for emergency help from a campus phone, remember to dial 9 first and then dial 911.
- When giving directions to 911, be specific about your location on the campus. Remember to state that Menlo School is located in Atherton and the main entrance is at 50 Valparaiso Avenue. The entrance to the Cartan Athletic Field is 30 Alejandra Avenue, and the entrance to Wunderlich Field is 65 Alejandra Avenue.

Earthquake/Disaster

Students and Staff

After an earthquake or other disaster, all students and faculty should evacuate all buildings. Upper School students should group by graduating class in the designated Upper School assembly point: the grass oval “Loop.” Middle School students should also proceed to the grass oval “Loop” and line up by class. Faculty members and/or adult leaders will take roll for each class. Students will be expected to remain on the grass and be quiet so that they can hear instructions. If the disaster does not cause serious damage, students will remain at school until the regular dismissal time.

Family Information

If the disaster is severe such that there is damage to buildings, communication systems, and power, students will be evacuated and cared for on-site at Menlo School until a parent or previously designated representative on file with the School comes to pick up the student.

In order to maintain accurate records about the release of each student, please observe the following guidelines:

- **DO NOT TRY TO CALL THE SCHOOL.** If telephone lines are working, they will be needed for emergency communication.
- When it is safe to do so, come to the main entrance to the School, located at 50 Valparaiso Avenue. There will be School personnel posted to direct you to your student.
- You or your previously designated representative on file with the School will need a photo ID for your student to be released to you.

As a General Precaution:

- Stay away from bookshelves, windows, and heavy objects that might fall. Identify nearby fire extinguishers.
- Know all possible EXITS from each room. Know the location of the EMERGENCY ASSEMBLY POINT: for all students, the grass oval “Loop.”

During an Earthquake:

- **If inside,** stay inside. Take cover under a desk or table. Do not get in a doorway. Stay away from windows, mirrors, and chimneys. Do not use elevators.
- **If outside,** stay outside. Move to an open space away from buildings, power lines, poles, trees, and plate glass windows.
- If driving, pull to the side and stop, away from overpasses, buildings, and power lines.

After an Earthquake:

- Wear shoes to avoid injuries from broken glass and debris.
- Evacuate the building and go directly to the EMERGENCY ASSEMBLY POINT.
- Help the injured, elderly, and disabled to evacuate.
- Do not remove the seriously injured unless they are in danger of further injury. Report their location to the Emergency Operations Center.

- Be alert to aftershocks, which may occur from a few minutes to a few hours after the main quake.
- Do not light a match or turn on a light switch.
- Leave the phone lines open for disaster services.

In Case of Fire:

- Leave the room, making sure all persons are out, and close the door behind you (DO NOT LOCK THE DOOR).
- If trapped in a smoke-filled room or space, stay low, crawl to the nearest exit and cover your nose and mouth with a damp cloth.
- Activate the nearest fire alarm box.
- If you are familiar with fire extinguisher usage, control the fire until help arrives.
- If your clothes catch fire, DO NOT RUN. Smother the flames by rolling on the ground.
- Know the location of the EMERGENCY ASSEMBLY POINT, which is the grass oval in front of Stent (the Loop) for all students.

For a full description of the Menlo School Emergency Plan, please contact [Tony Lapolla](#), Dean of Students.