

## **SENIOR PRIVILEGE PROGRAM POLICY**

By the time a student is a senior the School expects them to demonstrate a level of maturity and accept responsibility for their actions and behavior in a manner that would allow for additional privileges. Consistent with these expectations the School created the Senior Privilege Program (the “Program”). As part of the Program the School provides seniors under certain conditions, the opportunity to park on campus and walk off campus for lunch. While senior status extends privilege it also carries with it a serious level of responsibility.

Participation in the Program is a privilege not a right. The School retains the right to determine which students will be allowed to participate in the Program. A number of conditions must be met in order for a student to participate in the Program. First, participation in the Program is contingent upon parental consent. Prior to granting permission to their child to participate in the Program parents are expected to review the terms of the Program and the School’s expectations and conditions for participation. Parents are also expected to review the terms of the Program with their child. Parents may consent to one or all of the privileges included in the Program. Students may be given permission to park on campus and/or leave campus for lunch, or any combination of these privileges. Parents may decide that they prefer not to give permission for their child to participate in any of these options.

Students are expected to comply with the School’s rules and procedures when exercising privileges provided by the Program including those as outlined in this policy. Failure to comply may cause their privileges to be suspended or rescinded and possible disciplinary action including removal from the School.

### **Student Drivers**

#### **Requirements to Be a Student Driver**

Students accepted to participate in the driving portion of the Program will be allowed to park on campus. To participate in the driving portion of the Program as a student driver a student **MUST** be in good standing. Student drivers **MUST** be seventeen years old or older, have completed a mandatory defensive driving course, be covered by an insurance policy that provides full coverage for injury of damage resulting from the student’s driving, and hold a valid New York State Driver’s License (Class D). Students are not permitted to park on campus if they only have a junior license. The defensive driving course must be DMV approved and a copy of the certificate of completion must be submitted with the Senior Privilege Program permission form.

To be considered for participation in the Program as a student driver the School must first receive a Senior Privilege Program permission form signed by both the parent/guardian and the student along with a certificate of completion of the defensive driving course. After the School receives the permission form along with a copy of the certificate of class completion the School will confirm that all conditions of participation have been met. Students granted permission to be a student driver will receive an email from the School confirming the student’s acceptance.

#### **Leaving Campus by Car During the School Day**

For very limited reasons student drivers may leave campus by car during the school day. The safety of our students is of primary importance. It is imperative that the School is on notice when a student leaves campus during the school day as well as when they return. Seniors who are approved for participation in the Program must sign out prior to leaving campus during the school day and upon their return to school. The sign-out sheet is located near the attendance office. Students with permission to leave for an authorized appointment or by obtaining permission through the Nurse’s office if they are not feeling well are required to sign out prior to departing campus and sign back in upon their return in that school day.

The following are the reasons a student driver may leave campus by car during the school day:

- Student Illness –In the case of illness, prior to driving off campus a student must first see the nurse for evaluation. If the school nurse in consultation with a parent feels it would be best for the child to go home the student shall sign out prior to departing campus in the attendance office. The nurse may sign out in behalf of the student if conditions make it difficult for the student to do so.

- Authorized Appointments – While the School discourages parents from making appointments during the school day, there may be circumstances that make such scheduling difficult. Appointments or events that occur on occasion during the school day include medical appointments, visits to the DMV, funerals and college visits. Parents must notify the School if their child will be going off campus for an authorized appointment. The notice should include the time the student may leave, the reason for the departure and whether the student will be returning to school after the appointment. The student must sign out prior to departing and upon their return. Failure to provide written confirmation may result in lunch detention and or removal of participation in the Program. Appointments should not be used and should not result in an extension of off campus lunch.

### **School Parking Lots**

The School is not responsible for damage that may occur to cars parked on campus. The School's parking lots are not security gated and security is not posted at the parking lots. While faculty and staff at times circulate through parking areas this occurs as part of their daily routines. While they are encouraged to report behaviors or concerns observed on the parking lot to their building administrators, faculty and staff are not responsible for ensuring the safety of cars parked on campus. Students are expected to use good judgment and should not leave valuables of any kind in cars parked on campus.

Student drivers must park only in designated parking lots and only in spaces designated for student drivers. Student drivers must adhere to this requirement at all times regardless of weather conditions or the student's time of arrival. Other than when departing school for illness or authorized appointments, students are not permitted to go to the parking lots or their cars during the school day without permission from the Principal, Dean of Students or their Class Dean. School parking lots are considered part of the campus.

### **Additional Driving Rules**

What follows are rules that must be adhered to in order to maintain driving privileges. Students that violate these rules may have their privileges suspended or rescinded.

- Student drivers must drive responsibly. Reports of reckless driving on or off campus may result in privileges being suspended or rescinded.
- Student drivers may not use a cell phone or any other electronic device while driving on or off campus. Driving and using a cell phone to receive or make calls, or read or write a text is both against the law as well as a violation of school rules.
- Student drivers may not exceed the speed limit of 3-5 mph while driving on campus including parking lots.
- Student drivers must follow directional markings and traffic signs on campus.
- Student drivers must wear a seatbelt while driving on campus and must make certain that passengers are wearing their seatbelt.
- Senior drivers **may not** use cars to go off campus for lunch or during the day other than for authorized appointments or illness.
- Students may not extend a departure from school for an authorized appointment during the day to include a stop for lunch or to extend the time they are off campus for lunch.

### **Walking off Campus for Lunch**

In addition to student driving and passenger privileges, the Program offers seniors the ability to "walk" off campus for lunch. Students are expected to act in a manner that represents the School, their families and themselves in a positive way while they are off campus. Seniors are strongly encouraged to be accompanied by at least one other senior when walking off campus. The lunch privilege is limited to the stated times and restricted to only walking to food stores in Locust Valley. Seniors cannot walk to their own home or a friend's house for lunch.

As condition for participation in off campus lunch privilege a student must be in good academic and citizenship standing, have less than 10 unauthorized late arrivals, and have less than two grades of C- or below or two or more detentions. After the School receives a Senior Privilege Program permission form signed by the parent/guardian and the student requesting permission to walk off campus for lunch, the School will confirm that all conditions of participation

have been met. Students granted permission to walk off campus for lunch will receive a confirmation email. Students who walk off campus for lunch prior to receiving the email granting permission will be denied privileges.

In addition to the rules otherwise described in this policy, students must also comply with the rules listed below. Failure to meet any of these conditions shall result in suspension or revocation of the privilege of leaving campus for lunch.

- Sign themselves out prior to departure and in upon return to campus on the “Senior Lunch Sheet” at the attendance office.
- Not leave campus before 11:45am.
- Arrive back on campus by 1:40pm.
- Have a free block before or after the lunch block in order to walk to lunch.
- Not use or get into a car (friends’ car, parents’ car, taxi, etc.), for any reason when leaving or off campus for lunch.

### **Loss of Senior Privileges**

Violations or failure to comply with the rules, policy, protocols or expectations associated with the Senior Privilege Program will result in suspension or loss of privileges and may lead to disciplinary actions up to and including removal.