



TO: Dr. Graff, Superintendent
Members of the Board

FROM: Jana Sykora

DATE: August 6, 2026

RE: 26-27 OLA Student-Parent Handbook

Attached is the 2026-2027 OLA Student-Parent Handbook.

The contents of the handbook are reviewed each spring and summer by the OLA Building Leadership Team. This year's review resulted in the following changes:

Program staff directory added

- Families now have a list of key staff members and roles at the front of the handbook.

Section 4: Guidelines and Procedures

Off-campus walks clarified

- A new section explains that students may participate in supervised off-campus walks during the school day as part of instruction or recreation, with school staff (and when appropriate, Leo A. Hoffmann Center staff) supervising. This makes this practice more transparent for families. Replaces the former field trip section.

Flexible Learning Day expectations added

- The handbook now explains what happens during weather-related Flexible Learning Days, including:
 - Learning packets available through the unit.
 - Teacher availability by email.
 - Flexible assignment deadlines.

Birthday treats clarified

- Homemade treats are not permitted.
- Treats must be commercially packaged.
- Teachers should be notified in advance.

Volunteer expectations clarified

- Volunteers are welcomed, but annual background checks are required.

Address/contact updates

- Families are directed to update contact information through Infinite Campus rather than simply notifying the school.

Section 5: Health and Medication

Expanded illness guidance

- Instead of a brief health section, the handbook now includes detailed guidance about:
 - When students should stay home (MDH document)
 - Return-to-school criteria for common illnesses (flu, RSV, norovirus, ringworm, strep throat, vomiting, etc.).