



st. croix prep

# **FAMILY HANDBOOK**

**2022-2023**

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## WELCOME LETTER

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to St. Croix Prep! We are glad to have you as a part of our school community. We are very excited to begin our 19th year of operations. We are looking forward to a year when we continue to reestablish our learning environment and the culture of our school community. We operate under the credo of establishing community, working hard, making good decisions, exhibiting character/leadership, and doing what is best for kids. The purpose of this handbook is to provide information which will make your interaction with St. Croix Prep pleasant and easy to understand.

Have a terrific year. I look forward to working with you and celebrating your many successes throughout this upcoming year!

Sincerely,

**Jon Gutierrez**

Executive Director

# 2022-2023 CALENDAR

JULY 2022				
M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4 No School Offices Closed	5 No School Offices Closed	6 No School Offices Closed	7 No School Offices Closed	8 No School Offices Closed
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

AUGUST 2022				
M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29 First Day of School	30	31		

SEPTEMBER 2022				
M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2 No School
5 No School Offices Closed	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER 2022				
M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20 No School	21 No School
24	25	26	27	28
31				

NOVEMBER 2022				
M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4 *End of Quarter
7 No School	8 No School	9	10	11
14	15	16	17 LS, MS, US 4th Grad	18 No School, LS Only 4th Grad
21	22	23 No School Offices Closed	24 No School Offices Closed	25 No School Offices Closed
28	29	30		

DECEMBER 2022				
M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22 No School Offices Closed	23 No School Offices Closed
26 No School Offices Closed	27 No School Offices Closed	28 No School Offices Closed	29 No School Offices Closed	30 No School Offices Closed

JANUARY 2023				
M	T	W	TH	F
2 No School Offices Closed	3 No School Offices Closed	4 No School Offices Closed	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16 No School	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27 *End of Quarter
30 No School	31			

\*End of 2nd Qtr (44 days)

FEBRUARY 2023				
M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10 No School, LS Only 4th Grad
13	14	15	16	17 No School
20 No School	21	22	23	24
27	28			

MARCH 2023				
M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20 No School	21 No School	22 No School	23 No School	24 No School
27	28	29	30	31

APRIL 2023				
M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6 *End of Quarter	7 No School
10 No School	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

\*End of 3rd Quarter (41 Days)

MAY 2023				
M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29 No School Offices Closed	30	31		

JUNE 2023				
M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7 *Last Day of School	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

\*End of 4th Qtr (41 days)

01/25/2022

  School Day

  No School Day

  No School Day for LS Only

  No School Day and Offices Closed

## GENERAL OVERVIEW

St. Croix Preparatory Academy is a K-12 charter school that opened in the Stillwater area in the fall of 2004. The school opened with grades K-7. The 200 students that actually enrolled surpassed the projected enrollment of 120 students. The School has experienced tremendous growth and will serve over 1,200 students in grades K-12 during the 2022-2023 school year. Located on 59 acres of land, St. Croix Preparatory Academy's educational philosophy is based on the classical methodology of grammar, logic, and rhetoric; an educational philosophy proven to achieve outstanding academic results.

### Mission

St. Croix Preparatory Academy will develop each student's academic potential, personal character, and leadership qualities through an academically rigorous and content rich educational program grounded in a classical tradition.

### Academics

The School is based on a classical model of education. A classical model focuses on providing students with the lifelong educational tools to learn and think for themselves. The classical tradition is grounded in the time-tested methodology of learning called the "Trivium", which recognizes that critical learning skills must precede critical thinking skills. The Trivium methodology is organized into the three stages of learning -- grammar, logic, and rhetoric -- which correspond to the general stages of a student's cognitive development.

### Character

Plato believed that children should be raised to fall in love with virtue. At St. Croix Preparatory Academy, the values of citizenship, courage, honesty, integrity, perseverance, respect, responsibility, compassion, self-control, and service will be identified, modeled and clearly conveyed. Administrators and faculty will encourage and promote these traits so that all students might practice and develop them. Upper School students are required to document at least 10 hours of community service during their freshman, sophomore, and junior year; and 20 hours of community service is required during a student's senior year. The community service requirement emphasizes the importance of giving to one's community.

### Leadership

John F. Kennedy said, "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." St. Croix Preparatory Academy views leadership as the ability to first think and reason, then act with integrity and responsibility. 'Leadership' is one of the most overused and least understood terms in our society, often conjuring up images of power, success, titles and possessions. By contrast, the founders of St. Croix Preparatory Academy view leadership as the product of education and character development. Real leadership entails knowledge, understanding and the ability to communicate--in conjunction with citizenship, courage, honesty, integrity, perseverance, respect, responsibility, compassion, self-control, and service. Students will examine various models and styles of leadership from American and world history. In addition, students will analyze their own unique leadership style, character attributes, and personal strengths.



## EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

The School is based on a classical model of education. A classical model focuses on providing students with the lifelong educational tools to learn and think for themselves. The classical tradition is grounded in the time-tested methodology of learning called the “Trivium”, which recognizes that critical learning skills must precede critical thinking skills. The Trivium methodology is organized into the following three stages corresponding to the general stages of a student’s cognitive development:

**Grammar:** The first phase of the Trivium is Grammar (grade level K – 4). Grammar emphasizes the facts and rules of each subject that later learning is built upon. This stage focuses on the accumulation of knowledge and the rules related to each particular subject. This mirrors the stage of development where children love to mimic, recite, chant, and memorize. The objective of this phase is to provide each student with a strong foundation of subject matter KNOWLEDGE.

**Logic:** The second phase is Logic (grade level 5 – 8). Logic focuses on a students’ ability to analyze and interact with the knowledge acquired in the Grammar stage. The Logic stage is the phase where understanding is grasped. This corresponds with the student’s curiosity and desire to ask questions. The objective of the Logic phase is UNDERSTANDING.

**Rhetoric:** The final phase is Rhetoric (grade level 9 – 12). Rhetoric teaches a student how to express and discuss a subject. Rhetoric is the communication stage, where students defend and refute opinions based on their understanding and knowledge of subject matter. This fits nicely with the students’ affinity for contradiction and argumentation. The objective of the Rhetoric phase is COMMUNICATION.

GRAMMAR				LOGIC				RHETORIC			
K/1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
KNOWLEDGE				UNDERSTANDING				COMMUNICATION			
Knowledge – Comprehension				Application – Analysis				Synthesis – Evaluation			

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

St. Croix Preparatory Academy is organized into three schools—Lower School for students in grades K - 4; Middle School for students in grades 5-8; and Upper School for students in grades 9 - 12. Overseeing the operations is an administrative staff (contact information noted below.) For answers to specific questions, please see the contact information noted below.

School Address  
St. Croix Preparatory Academy  
4260 Stagecoach Trail North  
Stillwater, MN 55082  
Phone: 651-395-5900  
Fax: 651-395-5901

### K-4 Lower School

Title	Name	Phone	Email
Principal	Joann Karetov	651-395-5921	jkaretov@stcroixprep.org
Office Manager	Christine Mehlhorn	651-395-5920	cmehlhorn@stcroixprep.org

## 5-8 Middle School

Title	Name	Phone	Email
Principal	Amy Kleinboehl	651-395-5951	akleinboehl@stcroixprep.org
Office Manager	Kelly Vossen	651-395-5950	kvossen@stcroixprep.org

## 9-12 Upper School

Title	Name	Phone	Email
Principal	Andrew Sachariason	651-395-5971	asachariason@stcroixprep.org
Office Manager	Diane Runge	651-395-5970	drunge@stcroixprep.org
College Counselor	Mathew Williams	651-395-5926	mwilliams@stcroixprep.org

## Administrative Personnel

Title	Name	Phone	Email
Medora Benson	Activities Coordinator	651-209-7375	<a href="mailto:medorabenson@stcroixprep.org">medorabenson@stcroixprep.org</a>
Bill Blotske	Facility Director	651-395-5907	bblotske@stcroixprep.org
Terri Ellingson	Special Education Office Manager	651-395-5997	tellingson@stcroixprep.org
Beth Grubisch	Senior Accountant	651-395-5706	bgrubisch@stcroixprep.org
Jon Gutierrez	Executive Director	651- 395-5905	jgutierrez@stcroixprep.org
Kelly Gutierrez	Executive Director of Finance & Operations	651-395-5902	kgutierrez@stcroixprep.org
Ellen Halverson	District Administrative Assistant	651-395-5900	receptionist@stcroixprep.org
Chad Olson	Technology Director	651-395-5926	colson@stcroixprep.org
Peggy Rosell	Director of Student Services	651-395-5707	proselll@stcroixprep.org
Susan Peterson	Communications Coordinator	651-395-5994	susanpeterson@stcroixprep.org
Keven Seim	Activities Director	651-395-5944	kseim@stcroixprep.org

Corey Shim	Technology Assistant	651-395-7370	coreyshim@stcroixprep.org
Terri Smith	Human Resources Director	651-395-5903	tsmith@stcroixprep.org
Marianne Thole	Food Service Director	651-395-5915	lunch@stcroixprep.org
Jessica Skilling	School Nurse	651-395-5906	jessicaskilling@stcroixprep.org

## Facility Rental Information

Keven Seim at 651-395-5944 or kevenseim@stcroixprep.org

## General Inquiries

### Lower School

Christine Mehlhorn at 651-395-5920 or christinemehlhorn@stcroixprep.org

### Middle School

Kelly Vossen at 651-395-5950 or kellyvossen@stcroixprep.org

### Upper School

Diane Runge at 651-395-5970 or dianerunge@stcroixprep.org

## Authorizer Information

St. Croix Preparatory Academy is authorized by Friends of Education, 11100 Wayzata Blvd; Suite 800, Minnetonka, MN 55305

# SCHOOL BOARD

The School Board provides governance to St. Croix Preparatory Academy. The Board's primary responsibilities are fiscal oversight, student achievement, and strategic direction. The Board consists of parents, faculty, and community members voted into office by the St. Croix Prep community. Members serve staggering three year terms with annual elections determining new membership.

## 2022-2023 School Board Schedule

Note: All meetings are at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Croix Preparatory Academy Orchestra room or Performing Arts Center. The meetings are open to the public. 2022-2023 Meeting dates are noted below.

July 19, 2022	August 16, 2022	September 20, 2022	October 29, 2022
November 15, 2022	December 20, 2022	January 17, 2023	February 21, 2023
March 28, 2023	April 18, 2023	May 16, 2023	June 27, 2023

## Board Governance Model

Since its inception, St. Croix Preparatory Academy has followed the Carver governance model. This model is designed to empower boards of directors to fulfill their obligations of accountability for the organizations they govern. The model enables the board to focus on the larger issues (e.g. fiscal accountability, student achievement, and strategic initiatives), delegate operational responsibility with clarity (e.g. hiring, curriculum, student discipline, programming, etc.), to oversee management's job without meddling, and to rigorously evaluate the accomplishment of the organization. The Board of St. Croix Prep demands accomplishment of purpose and only limits the staff's means to those which do not violate the board's understood standards of prudence and ethics.

## Board Members

Name	Officer	Email Address	Affiliation
Bob Hajlo	Chair	bobhajlo@stcroixprep.org	Parent
Shane Mueller	Vice Chair	shanemueller@stcroixprep.org	Community Member
Nicole Donnay		nicoledonnay@stcroixprep.org	Faculty
Angela Galati		angelagalati@stcroixprep.org	Faculty
Deb Keyes		debkeyes@stcroixprep.org	Faculty
Kristen Denzer		kristendenzer@stcroixprep.org	Parent
Drew Melendres		drewmelendres@stcroixprep.org	Parent
Christina Norman		christinanorman@stcroixprep.org	Parent
Matt Stiles		matthewstiles@stcroixprep.org	Parent

## Advisory Board Members

Name	Role	Email Address
Jon Gutierrez	Executive Director, ex-officio member	jgutierrez@stcroixprep.org
Kelly Gutierrez	Executive Director of Finance & Operations, ex-officio member	kgutierrez@stcroixprep.org
Joann Karetov	Lower School Principal	jkaretov@stcroixprep.org
Amy Kleinboehl	Middle School Principal	akleinboehl@stcroixprep.org
Andrew Sachariason	Upper School Principal	asachariason@stcroixprep.org
Peggy Rosell	Director of Student Services	prosell@stcroixprep.org

## ACADEMIC INFORMATION

### Equal Opportunity

All students shall be afforded the right and opportunity to an equal education. No student shall be excluded, segregated or discriminated against in the school's educational environment for reasons of race, color, national origin, gender, economic status, disability, religion or religious affiliation or sexual orientation. See Board Policy #102, Equal Educational Opportunity.

### Academic Objectives

St. Croix Prep is a college prep K-12 school. By design and intention it is meant to be a more academically rigorous educational choice available to parents. This is reflected in the School's expectations, curriculum, and homework. We believe this college preparatory work begins in Lower School where it is essential that students begin to exhibit reading and math proficiency. In Middle School, the efforts continue through students' further mastery of reading and math content, as well as their transition to become a responsible student without their parents' assistance. In Upper School, we offer curriculum and extracurricular activities which allow students to pursue admission to traditional, selective, and highly selective colleges and universities.

Prior to discussing the details of homework expectations, it is important to highlight the following information. Depending on the research you read, this information may vary, but it only varies slightly.

*In 2009, the Program for International Students Assessment ranked the United States 14th in reading, 17th in science, and 25th in math. The ranking was based on the testing done in 34 countries.*

*According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, children between the ages of 8-18 spend, on average, 45 hours of screen time per week (e.g. watching TV, texting, playing video games, social media, etc.). This is more time than children spend in the classroom.*

*According to the U.S. Department of Education, as published in The Condition of Education 2011, approximately 36% of undergraduate students considered to be in their first year of study during 2007-2008 reported taking a remedial class. These remedial classes, usually in mathematics, writing, or English, provide basic knowledge and skills within a subject and develop studying and social habits related to academic success at the college level.*

*St. Croix Prep intends to offer an educational program that does not contribute to these statistics, which appear to indicate a decline in our country's educational standards. St. Croix Prep offers curriculum and extracurricular activities which allow students to pursue admission to traditional, selective, and highly selective colleges and universities. Our goal is that our graduates are not a part of the pool of students who require remedial classes upon entering their postsecondary institution. The foundational skills and habits required to achieve this goal begin developing in Kindergarten.*

## **Importance of High School Curriculum**

The course a student takes and the grades he or she receives represent the most important criteria considered by college and university admission personnel. In general, colleges prefer a traditional and classical college preparatory curriculum, including English (literature and composition courses), mathematics, science (laboratory courses), social studies, and foreign languages. Colleges also look favorably on enrichment courses that supplement a strong academic program. Colleges and universities have general requirements unique to their institution. The Upper School Curriculum Guide is posted on our website and available through the Upper School office.

## **Academic Homework**

All St. Croix Prep students, with the introduction later for Kindergarten students, should expect daily homework. St. Croix Prep intends to make homework purposeful and aligned with the goals of delivering a college preparatory education. Homework should be completed in a quiet environment, free from technology distractions.

St. Croix Prep offers a college preparatory educational program and students should expect to have nightly homework. Upper School students' homework will vary, but students hoping to receive B's and seeking admission to a traditional or selective college/university and students seeking A's and admission to a highly selective college/university can expect higher workloads.

Aside from the intellectual benefits gained through homework, students learn the benefits of hard work, discipline, failure, success, time management, organizational skills, confidence, and perseverance. These skills have lifelong benefits. For these reasons, and for the items previously noted, we respectfully disagree with literature and national campaigns that endorse a homework philosophy that differs from our mission. For detailed information on our homework philosophy, contact one of the principals or office managers. In addition, see Board Policy #513, Student Promotion and Retention.

## **Lower School (K - 4)**

### **Academic Probation Policy for Students in Grades K-4**

To be promoted to the next grade, successfully complete the required work with a passing grade of 3/C- or better, as reflected in the running grades, on assignments, and on quarter report cards. D, F 2, or 1 on more than 2 quarter report cards in the same core subject (reading/language arts, writing, math, science, and history/geography) may result in you repeating your grade. Final decisions will be made prior to the end of the year by the principal.

## **Middle School (5 - 8)**

### **Academic Probation Policy for Students in Grades 5-8**

- A student who has a D or F in any class will not be eligible to participate in St. Croix Prep co-curricular and extracurricular activities competitions and public performances until grades have improved to C- or higher in all classes.
- A student's grades, behavior and class conduct and effort, will be reviewed following the two-week probationary period to regain participation in the co-curricular or extracurricular activity. Sufficient academic progress and appropriate student conduct will need to be evident for participation to be regained. Activity coaches and advisors may have standards and consequences in addition to this academic probation policy.
- A student's conduct, participation/effort and academic grades below a C- may impact a student's participation in middle school events and activities such as field trips, Valley Fair and educational travel opportunities including Washington, D.C.
- A student who receives a "D" or an "F" in Math for two or more quarters will be required to retake the course the following year.
- A student who receives a "D" or an "F" in two or more of the core classes for two or more quarters will be required to repeat the grade level. Core classes include courses in the areas of English, Reading/Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science, and Latin/Logic.

**Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances such as extended absence from school due to illness/injury, family emergency, and/or an Individual Education Plan for a student.**

## **Upper School (9 - 12)**

### **Academic Probation Policy for Students in Grades 9-12**

A student will be placed on Academic Probation if his/her quarterly or cumulative GPA is below 1.7, or if he/she is earning a grade of an "F" at the midterm (as measured at the end of the fifth week of a quarter), or earns an "F" for the quarter or semester in one or more Core Classes. Core Classes include required courses in the areas of English, Reading/Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science, and Foreign Language. A student on probation is ineligible to participate in all co-curricular and extracurricular events and activities for at least two weeks from the date of the midterm or end date of the quarter in which the "F" was earned. At the discretion of the Activities Department, the Upper School Principal, and the Upper School faculty, students on academic probation may be able to continue practicing with their activity if such practice does not hinder the student's ability to make progress toward earning their way out of academic probation.

A student's conduct, as well as their grades, will be reviewed by the Upper School faculty and Activities Department to determine a student's eligibility to regain participation in the co-curricular or extracurricular activity following the two week probation. Eligibility will not be automatically regained at the end of the two week probationary period. Sufficient academic progress and appropriate student conduct will need to be evident for participation to be regained. Activity coaches and advisors may have standards and consequences in addition to this academic probation policy.

Additional Academic Considerations:

- A student who has a cumulative GPA below 1.7 will not be eligible to participate in St. Croix Prep co-curricular and extracurricular activities until such time that the cumulative GPA is brought up to a level no lower than 1.8. If a student receives an “F” in one of the Core Classes for a semester grade, the student will be required to retake the course the following year or through an approved credit recovery program. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances such as extended absence from school due to illness/injury, family emergency, and/or an Individual Education Plan for a student.
- Students who fail to earn credits may fall behind their grade level and graduate at a later than expected date.

St. Croix Prep reserves the right to recommend whether a student subject to academic probation should participate in educational travel opportunities.

## **Curriculum Opt-Out Policy**

St. Croix Prep recognizes the right of students to opt-out of curriculum and/or an instructional resource when it is deemed objectionable or if the curriculum/resource prescribes or describes behavior or beliefs that contradict a sincerely held religious belief. Students electing to opt-out of assigned material must complete alternative work within the timeframe of instruction as determined by the teacher and may be held responsible for key ideas, themes or terminology integral to the classroom instruction that was missed. Please contact the School Principal for the Curriculum Opt-out Policy and Procedures.

## **Academic Integrity Policy**

St. Croix Prep is committed to providing an atmosphere which values academics, character, and leadership. St. Croix Prep intends to cultivate an academically honest environment and therefore prohibits academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty occurs when students obtain or assist others in obtaining credit for work which is not their own through acts of cheating or plagiarism.

Study or homework collaboration is not considered academic dishonesty unless prohibited or limited by expectations established by the teacher. Teachers will guide students in understanding when collaborative efforts are not appropriate. In addition, parents or tutors may dialogue with a student about an assignment, but may not do the assignment for the student.

Plagiarism is the act of taking and using as one's own work, another's published or unpublished thoughts, ideas and/or writings without appropriate reference or documentation. This definition includes computer programs, drawings, artwork, and all other types of work that are not one's own. Types of plagiarism include word-for-word, mosaic (rearrangement or rewording without documentation), and indirect (paraphrasing of a passage without documentation). Material taken from another source without adequate documentation may include, but is not limited to the following:

- Failing to cite, with quotation marks, the written words or symbols of another author;
- Failing to footnote the author and sources of materials used in a composition;
- Failing to cite research materials in a bibliography;
- Failing to name a person quoted in an oral report;



- Failing to cite an author whose works are paraphrased or summarized;
- Presenting another person's creative work or ideas as one's own in essays, poems, music, art, computer programs, or other projects; or copying or paraphrasing ideas from literary criticism or study aids without documentation.

The consequences for academic dishonesty may include, but not be limited to the following:

- The teacher will communicate the violation with the student, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), and St. Croix Prep administration;
- The teacher may request a meeting with the student, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) and St. Croix Prep administration;
- The teacher may assign an appropriate academic penalty (e.g. the student receiving no credit for the academic work or examination involved).

## **Communication Protocol**

The communication procedure for issues and concerns with teachers, homework, and classroom activities is as follows:

- Direct communication with the teacher. This shows respect for the teacher and also for the parent communicating the information.
- Direct communication with the principal if the matter remains unresolved. The Principal will coordinate a meeting between the parents, teacher, and Principal.
- Direct communication with the Executive Director if the matter remains unresolved. The Executive Director will coordinate a meeting with the appropriate parties.
- Direct communication with the Board of Directors. The Executive Director will coordinate a meeting with the appropriate parties.

The general rule is to communicate with the person closest to the situation and best able to address the issue quickly and effectively. This communication protocol has been in effect since the beginning of the school. Attempts to circumvent the communication process will be directed back to the process outlined in the protocol.

## **SPECIAL SERVICES**

### **Special Education**

St. Croix Preparatory Academy provides special education services to students who qualify through an evaluation process. Special education is a continuum of services available to eligible students with disabilities. Services are specially designed instruction based on the needs of an individual student.

St. Croix Prep follows the federal, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Minnesota Rules and Statutes. St. Croix Prep ensures that all special education students receive a free and appropriate public education. (FAPE). Services are delivered following the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) developed after a comprehensive evaluation that identifies individual student needs.

## 504 Plans

St. Croix Preparatory Academy provides 504 Plans for students eligible to receive these services. If it is determined that a student has a disability and qualifies under Section 504 (a part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973), St. Croix Prep will develop and implement the needed services and accommodations.

## English Learners (EL)

The English Learner Program at St. Croix Prep is a comprehensive program that focuses on English language development for students whose first language is not English. The program supports the growth and development of reading, writing, speaking, and listening in English. Each student's English language proficiency is assessed annually with the WIDA ACCESS test, which monitors the student's progress in acquiring English.

## ENROLLMENT

St. Croix Preparatory Academy seeks to enroll a diverse and representative student body, welcoming applicants regardless of race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, gender, special needs or English as a second language status. The enrollment and lottery procedures for charter schools are governed by Minnesota statutes. See Board Policy, Admission and Lottery Procedures; see Board Policy #302, Kindergarten Admission.

### Enrollment for the 2022-2023 School Year

St. Croix Prep currently has openings in grades 9-12.

For more information about grades 9-12, please contact Diane Runge at [drunge@stcroixprep.org](mailto:drunge@stcroixprep.org) or 651-395-5970.

### Enrollment for the 2023-2024 School Year

St. Croix Preparatory Academy will be accepting applications for the 2023-2024 school year beginning on August 29, 2022. The open enrollment period ends on January 11, 2023. All applications received by the January 11, 2023 deadline will be equally considered. For any grade level where we have more applicants than spaces available, we will conduct a lottery to determine admission for that grade. Applicants who are not chosen in the lottery will be placed on a waiting list and notified promptly if a space becomes available. Applicants will be notified as to the status of their applications as early as possible.

Students who submit applications after the January 11, 2023 deadline will be admitted if there are any remaining openings, or added to a waiting list. Applicant priority will be based on the order the applications are received. Any Minnesota child in the offered grades is eligible to enroll, but parents/guardians must complete the St. Croix Prep Enrollment Form to register their children. In addition, to accept a placement, we suggest that all families attend a welcoming orientation session and participate in informal student testing to ensure proper academic placement. We will send information about these activities to all students who are admitted.

## Sibling Preference

Siblings of currently enrolled students who submit an application by the on-time application deadline will receive preference for admission. In the event we have more sibling applicants than open spaces at any grade level, we will conduct a lottery among all of the sibling applicants who met the deadline to determine admission for that grade. Siblings who are not chosen in the lottery will be placed on a sibling waiting list and notified promptly if a space becomes available. Per Minnesota statute, each year is considered a separate enrollment year; therefore sibling waiting lists are not “rolled over” each year, but a sibling lottery is conducted in the spring of the school year.

## **Intent to Return Forms and Request for Records**

Each spring, St. Croix Prep sends out Intent to Return Forms to currently enrolled students. This form is only used for planning purposes to ensure vacant class spots are quickly filled by students who are on the waiting list.

## **Withdrawal from St. Croix Preparatory Academy**

Per Minnesota statute a student’s withdrawal from school must be done via a written request. Record requests from other schools indicate that a student has been enrolled in another school. Upon receipt of record requests from other schools, St. Croix Prep will attempt to obtain a written request of withdrawal from the parent/guardian. If a written withdrawal cannot be obtained within a reasonable timeframe, such record requests will be fulfilled and any openings created by these transfers will be promptly filled.

# **ATTENDANCE**

## **Attendance Requirements**

Minnesota state statute requires that children attend school from age 7, or upon enrollment in school, until age 18. A student is required to attend school every day and every class period, and to be on time for class. Students are not to leave campus during any part of the school day except when authorized to do so. We believe that regular class attendance increases the student’s probability for successful performance and fosters the development of punctuality, self-discipline and responsibility.

## **Excused Absences**

Excused absences include illness; medical, dental, mental health appointments; religious holidays; and family emergency/funeral. When there are excused absences, it is important for students (especially those in grades 5-12) to find out what work they have missed. For every day of excused absence a student will have one extra day to make up the work. Some curriculum, such as class discussion and experiments, cannot be replicated. When the student returns to school it is the student’s responsibility to ask the teacher when is the best time to make up a test, quiz or to get help with missed work. The teacher should ensure the student has all the necessary materials to make up the work. Any illness beyond three consecutive days may need a doctor’s note upon return in order to be excused. Multiple excused absences for illness may require a meeting to determine an attendance plan. A blank Excused Medical/Dental Absence form may be obtained from the Nurse’s Office or the School offices.

## **Unexcused Absences**

Unexcused absences include: need for rest/sleep, work, no clean uniform, did not want to go to school, babysitting, missing the bus and family vacation, and non-St. Croix Prep sponsored athletics and activities. Unexcused absences that occur during a day when St. Croix Prep is in session mean important material covered in class, discussions and labs cannot be made up. Students who are considered

unexcused (including vacation) may not earn credit for missing work, quizzes, or lectures. Families that decide to miss school for a vacation or calendar conflict should do so rarely. Any unexcused absence may be considered excused within a 24 hour period.

## **Release During School Hours**

Teachers may not release students from school at other than the regular dismissal times without prior approval of the parent and office manager. No student will be released from school to any person other than the custodial parent/guardian without the written or oral permission of the custodial parent/guardian. The parent/guardian must go to the Main Office and have the receptionist call the appropriate office manager to retrieve their student from class. If a student is 18 years of age they may leave campus without parental permission, but must check out with the Upper School office manager.

## **Habitual Truant**

A student who is absent without lawful excuse for one or more class periods on seven or more days during the school year is legally considered to be a “habitual truant.” When a child is habitually truant, court action may result. Schools are required to report students to the County Attorney’s Office after the student has been absent without lawful excuse for one or more class periods on ten or more days.

## **Absence Procedures**

On the day of the absence the parent/guardian should leave a message on the attendance line of the specific division office (Lower School Attendance Line is 651-395-5991; Middle School Attendance Line is 651-395-5992; Upper School Attendance Line is 651-395-5993) or e-mail the specific division office manager by 9:00 a.m. This message should include: student’s name, grade and homeroom teacher (if applicable); the specific reason for the absence including symptoms if the student is ill; and if the absence is only a partial day, the expected time of the student’s arrival at school. If the absence is for an illness that is communicable (strep, lice, influenza, etc.) please contact the health office at 651-395-5906 or nurse@stcroixprep.org.

## **Tardy Procedures**

K-8 students who arrive tardy must be brought to the Main Office by a parent/guardian for sign in procedures. Upper school students do not need to be checked in by their parent/guardian. They will go directly to the Upper School office to check themselves in. Upper School students must have a note, a phone call or e-mail to the Upper School office (651-395-5970) from their parents explaining the reason for their tardiness.

## **Physical Education Attendance**

Any student needing to miss PE for more than three consecutive days must have a written note signed by a health care provider indicating the reason for excuse and expected return to participation date. Depending on the reason, a signed statement for return to participation by the healthcare provider may be required. All notes should be given to the school nurse who will keep them in the student’s health care file and will provide copies to necessary staff.

## **Inclement Weather and School Closing**

Because St. Croix Prep is dependent upon ISD 834 for bus transportation, St. Croix Prep will close or delay the start of school when the Stillwater School District closes or delays the start of their schools. St. Croix Prep (and Stillwater) currently provide WCCO-4, KSTP-5 and KARE-11 with their school closing information. We recommend tuning to these TV stations and their websites ([www.wcco.com](http://www.wcco.com);

[www.kstp.com](http://www.kstp.com); [www.kare11.com](http://www.kare11.com)) for school alert information. Remember the basic rule –St. Croix Prep follows Stillwater’s decisions in these matters.

## **E-Learning Days**

“E-Learning days” means a school day where a school offers full access to online instruction provided by a students’ individual teachers due to inclement weather. St. Croix Prep has approved three e-learning days for the 2022-2023 school year. St. Croix Prep will notify parents and students at least two hours prior to the normal school start time that students need to follow the e-learning day plan for that day.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Any transportation during school hours, not authorized by St. Croix Prep, must be coordinated by the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the student. Examples of this transportation include but are not limited to taxis, Uber, other family members, etc. Upper school students may sign themselves out of the building; Lower and Middle School students cannot. Therefore, parent(s) or guardian(s) utilizing non-authorized transportation need to coordinate student release with the appropriate division. Use of these transportation services releases St. Croix Prep from any liability.

### **Bus Transportation**

Bus transportation registration is required for all students. Please submit these registration forms online. Failure to submit a transportation form constitutes voluntary waiver of the right to transportation and students will not be assigned to a bus. For questions about transportation policies, please call Stillwater School District Transportation Department at 651-351-8377. The Transportation Policies and Procedures may also be viewed at [www.stillwater.k12.mn.us](http://www.stillwater.k12.mn.us). See Board Policy #709, Student Transportation Safety.

### **Bus Conduct**

Disobedience or misconduct providing grounds for suspension from riding the school bus include:

- student conduct as defined in the Student Discipline section;
- willful injury or threat of injury to a bus driver or to another rider;
- willful and/or repeated defacement of the bus; repeated use of profanity;
- repeated willful disobedience of the bus driver’s directives and such other behavior as the administration deems to threaten the safe operation of the bus and/or its occupants.

In addition to contacting St. Croix Prep, MN Central School Bus, (ph. 651-430-3311) will be able to address concerns about specific bus incidents.

### **Student Drivers**

Students may drive personal vehicles to and from school each day. No students are allowed to be in vehicles during the noon hour or at any other time during the school day without appropriate permission from the Upper School Principal.

On school days, students must have parental permission to drive themselves from school to St. Croix Prep-sanctioned events or activities in which they are registered participants. On school days, students

may not transport other students from school to St. Croix Prep-sanctioned events or activities, unless the other students are siblings and have parental permission.

## **HEALTH SERVICES**

### **Health and Dental Examinations**

It is strongly recommended that children have a complete physical exam before entering kindergarten and grade 7. A dental exam is recommended at least once a year. Students participating in athletics must have had a physical exam within three years.

### **Immunizations**

Students must have immunizations completed, a notarized conscientious objection or a signed medical exemption as specified by the Minnesota Immunization law. Should vaccine shortages occur, the Minnesota Department of Public Health requires a written note from the healthcare provider stating that the “vaccine is deferred” until the supply is again available. (Please use the Student Immunization Form found on our website; a print out of immunizations from your clinic is acceptable.)

St. Croix Prep’s policy requires that health records including immunizations be provided prior to the first day of school to assure that all students are adequately protected from preventable communicable diseases. Minnesota law states that students who are not in compliance with these health requirements must be excluded from school. New students entering school in September should provide the records by August 1. All students, including transfer students, must provide such health records prior to attending classes. Please bring the completed Student Immunization form to the Main Office or have your clinic fax the immunization record to the Health Office at 651-395-5901.

### **Conscientious or Medical Objection to Health Examination/Immunization**

If a student’s parent/guardian objects to any or all of the health examination, or to immunizations, the parent must present a signed and notarized Student Immunization form. If a student is exempted from the health examination or immunizations on medical grounds, the examining healthcare provider shall provide written documentation regarding the contraindication and a section for this is provided on the Student Immunization form.

### **Ill or Injured Students**

Students exhibiting any signs of illness (fever, vomiting, fatigue, cough, etc.) must be cared for at home to enhance their own recovery and to prevent the spread of illness to other students. Students who become ill or injured at school will not be sent home without prior contact with a family member or authorized adult. While Health Services provides interim care, the responsibility for the treatment and care of the student rests with the family once notification has been provided. Please work with your family, employer, and close contacts to assure your student who is ill can be picked up within 30 minutes of Health Services notifying you.

### **Health Standards When Your Child Is Ill**

We will continue to follow guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health in regards to Infectious Disease, whether COVID or some other disease. If advised by a Governor’s Executive Order or guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health or Minnesota Department of Education we adjust our illness protocols accordingly.

We hope that your child never has to miss school because of illness or disease. The best protection from disease is prevention. You can help prevent many illnesses by making sure your child washes his or her hands often, receives immunizations, has a healthy diet and gets plenty of sleep.

Questions to Consider When Your Child is Ill:

1. Does your child's illness keep him/her from comfortably taking part in all activities, including recess and PE?
2. Does your ill child need more care than the staff can give without affecting the health and safety of other children?
3. Could other children get sick from being near your child?
4. If the answer to any of these questions is "Yes," please keep your child out of school.

What about minor illnesses? Minor illnesses such as common colds, runny nose, "pink" eye without fever, and or ear infections (otitis) do not need to be excluded if they feel well enough to participate. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your doctor, clinic, or school health office.

A student with a temperature of 100.4 F or higher and no other illness symptoms must stay home until no fever without medication for a full 24 hours, unless a health care provider provides a written statement allowing the student to return to school earlier.

A student must stay at home and remain there until symptom free for 24-48 hours, without medication, if any of these symptoms are present:

- Has vomited or has diarrhea
- Has a rash that is unidentified (Please contact your family healthcare provider)
- Has an open or draining sore (Please contact your family healthcare provider)

When deemed necessary by school health staff, local paramedics will be called in case of a medical emergency.

## **Procedure for Ill Student Going Home**

For the health and safety of all involved, students who feel ill must visit the health office. Health office staff will contact parents when appropriate, or if a child requests parent contact. If the parent decides, or the health office staff determines, that the student should go home the student will wait in the appropriate designated area based on their current symptoms, which may include a supervised isolation room. Students who contact their parents directly should be directed to come to the health office by their parent as the school does not want ill students remaining in undesignated areas for the health of all staff and students. Parents, or their designee, should make every effort to arrive within 30 minutes of being notified of an ill student. Parent/designee will need to come to the Main Office and sign the student out. Health office staff will escort the student to the Main Office upon parent/designee arrival. If this procedure is not followed (student leaves ill without going through the health office) the absence may be unexcused.

Parents are not allowed in the Health Office directly for confidentiality reasons, unless Health Office staff determine it is necessary and safe to do so.

## **Special Health Concerns**

A student with a special health concern (e.g., asthma, allergies, concussion, diabetes, migraines, depression/anxiety, personal problems, brain health/mental health issues, seizure disorders, or on daily

medications) should be known to school Health Services prior to the student entering school. To provide for safe daily care and emergency procedures, such health information gathered from the family and health records, will be sensitively shared with faculty and staff members with whom the student has contact. Health forms for certain special health concerns can be found on the St. Croix Prep website under About Us/Health Services and look for the link to your student's specific concern.

## **Allergies**

We are an "allergy aware" building, not allergy free. Every effort is made to make your student with allergies safe at school. Pets and latex products are rarely allowed in the building. Notify the Health Office if your student has any allergies, even if they are not life threatening.

## **Healthy Food Initiative**

St. Croix Prep does not allow student use of pop, coffee or energy drinks in the school building during regular school hours. Gum and candy are also not allowed during the school day in the building. Please do not send your child with these items. Exceptions may be granted for special school events. Please communicate with your child's teacher or the division office for approval.

## **School Medication Policy**

It is not the responsibility of the school or its employees to prescribe drugs, medications or home remedies. Medications should be administered at home under the supervision of the parent/guardian when possible. However, some students require administration of medications to be performed during the regular school day. In those situations, the following procedure will be followed:

- Parent/Guardian should bring the medication to school; if this is not possible, the parent/guardian must communicate to the health office the name, dose and amount of medication being sent with the student, preferably via email to [nurse@stcroixprep.org](mailto:nurse@stcroixprep.org).
- A current school year written healthcare provider order and written parent/guardian permission ("Consent for Administration of Medication" form) must be on file with the Health Office. This form must be Prep's designated form, forms from other schools/districts cannot be accepted. This includes permission for both over-the-counter/non-prescription medications AND prescription medications. There are separate authorizations for those who qualify for self-carry of specific medications.
- Prescription medications must be provided in an original pharmacy container with a current label. Questions regarding dosage and administration will be directed to the prescribing healthcare provider and/or the parent/guardian if the parent has signed a Release of Information form. Medications will be administered after questions have been resolved.
- Nonprescription medications must be provided in the original LABELED container and will only be administered to a student according to the label directions, unless contrary written directions from a healthcare provider are provided.
- Medications, prescription or over-the-counter, will not be given past the expiration date.
- New medication orders are required at the start of each school year AND when changes are made from the original orders (medication, dosage or frequency). Parent/guardian is responsible for notifying the health office immediately of any change in medication.
- Students may not share prescription or over-the-counter medications with other students.
- Prescription asthma medications can be self-carried/administered by a student when 1) the health office has received a completed Asthma Action Plan from the healthcare provider and a parent signed "Self-Carry/Administration of Asthma Medication Authorization" 2) inhaler is properly labeled



for that student, and 3) the Licensed School Nurse has assessed and documented the student's knowledge and skills to safely possess and use an asthma inhaler in a school setting

- For the health and safety of health services staff, and other students in the building, Prep Health Services will not administer nebulized medication. Health Services staff will help families work with their provider to assure care of student's asthma using a MDI (metered dose inhaler) and spacer.
- Secondary students, grades 7-12, may possess and use nonprescription pain relief in a manner consistent with the labeling, if the health office has received written authorization from the parent/guardian. This privilege may be revoked if the school determines that the student is abusing the privilege. This provision does not apply to the possession or use of any drug or product containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine as its sole active ingredient or as one of its active ingredients.
- A student who is prescribed a non-syringe injector of epinephrine may possess such medication once 1) the health office has received a completed Anaphylactic Action Plan from the health care provider and a parent signed "Self-Carry/Administration of Emergency Anaphylactic Medication" authorization 2) medication is properly labeled for that student and 3) the Licensed School Nurse has assessed and documented the student's knowledge and skills to safely possess and use a non-syringe injector of epinephrine in a school setting
- Self-carry/administration of other non-pain relief or emergency medications will be handled on a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of the licensed school nurse. For the safety of all students the majority of medications will be safely and properly stored in the health office.
- Legally, a parent/guardian may refuse to sign any medication form. If you refuse, it may affect our ability to provide the services.
- The information provided will be shared only with staff in the school whose jobs require access to this information to ensure the child's safety and school success.
- A photocopy/fax of any medication consent form which has not been altered will be treated in the same manner as the original.
- Health records received by the school district may no longer be protected by HIPPA, but they will become education records protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- When use of medication has ceased, or is no longer needed by the student, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to retrieve unused medications from the school. Currently abandoned medications cannot be disposed of by the school, so every effort will be made to have the parent pick up the medication. Arrangements with local law enforcement will be made to dispose of any abandoned medication that is a controlled substance. No medications are kept in the health office over the summer.

## **DRESS CODE**

The Dress Code and uniforms of St. Croix Preparatory Academy (St. Croix Prep) build community and diminish the importance of external factors related to clothing. St. Croix Prep students are expected to dress in a way that aligns with our mission of maintaining a learning environment that focuses on the development of each student's academic potential, personal character and leadership qualities.

All St. Croix Prep students are expected to be in school uniform each day, except for the designated non-uniform days or spirit wear days. Neatness, cleanliness, and modesty should be observed at all times. Please see the modesty guidelines detailed below. St. Croix Prep reserves the right to determine appropriateness of attire. Questions related to the appropriateness of a student's dress will be determined by the administration of St. Croix Prep.

## Uniform Provider

Uniform clothing must be ordered through Tommy Hilfiger School Uniform or Donald's Uniform (with the exception of shoes, socks, coats and other accessories).

## Uniform Ordering

Tommy Hilfiger School Uniform – Online Only

Website: <https://www.globalschoolwear.com/>  
School Code: STCR01  
Phone: 1-877-825-2860 (Customer Service)

Donald's Uniform – Online & Retail Storefront

Address: 972 Payne Ave St. Paul, MN 55130  
Website: <https://www.donaldsuniform.com>  
School Code: STCR01  
Phone: 651-776-2723

## Modesty Guidelines

*These guidelines apply to all school dress*

Modesty is defined as the reserve in dress to prevent unintentional exposure of the body. It is recognized that there are varied opinions as to what constitutes modesty, therefore the following guidelines help define the expectations for St. Croix Prep students. Violations of these guidelines will be treated as a uniform violation.

- No underwear showing, bottoms are to be worn at the natural waist.
- No bra straps, or cleavage may be showing.
- No midriff may be showing.
- Outfits, both uniform or non-uniform, that are too tight and/or too revealing, including leggings, jeggings and other tight fitting spandex pants are not to be worn.
- The latest fashion or fad may not fit the dress code.
  - Biker shorts, or leggings, or tights **MUST BE WORN** under skirts (all grades K-12).
  - K-4 any colored/patterned leggings.
  - Grades 5-12: solid colors only in navy, black, gray or white.

## School Uniform Guidelines

### Shirts

- All shirts must be buttoned modestly at all times. Only top button may be undone.
- Uniform shirts do not need to be tucked in. Uniform shirts may hang out under the uniform sweatshirt, sweater or fleece jacket and vests.
- No long-sleeve shirts may be worn underneath short-sleeve shirts.
- Undershirts under uniform collared shirts must be white.
  - Undershirts may not hang below the uniform shirt.
  - No print, lace or frayed shirts.
  - Peter Pan Shirt - No ruffles on collar.
- All shirts must have a St. Croix Prep logo.
- Any top layered clothing item must have a St. Croix Prep logo.

### **Sweatshirts**

- Current dress code sweatshirts/polar fleece only – no ST. CROIX PREP hooded sweatshirt or spirit wear.
- Must have uniform shirt underneath sweatshirt if sweatshirt is removed during school hours.

### **Jumpers / Skirts**

- Length, no shorter than 2" above the knees. Skirts may not be rolled.
- Bike shorts, leggings or tights **MUST BE WORN** under skirts in grades K-12.
- Skorts are not allowed in grades 5-12. Skorts are defined as:
  - A skirt with a pair of integral shorts hidden underneath.
- 5th-12th grade only can wear the plaid skirt.
- Uniform shirts must be worn under the jumper.
- Leg Coverings (tights, socks, leggings)
  - Lower School - any color & print.
  - Middle and Upper School - Solid colors only: navy, black, gray or white.
  - Tights (footed or footless).
  - Capri leggings.
  - Must be opaque.
  - No fishnets or full-lace tights/leggings.
  - No pajama pants under jumpers/skirts..

### **Pants / Shorts**

- All K-8th grade pants and shorts must be purchased through Tommy Hilfiger or Donald's School Uniform.
- K-8th grade pants and shorts must be navy and have no more than 4 pockets.
- 9th-12th grade pants may be purchased from any vendor but must be navy or khaki and have no more than 4 pockets.
- Banded bottom cargo pants ("Joggers") are not allowed. All 9th-12th grade pants must be similar in style, color and fabric to Tommy Hilfiger or Donald's uniform options.
- Inseams on shorts must be between 8"-10".
- No skin or underwear showing.
- No rolling/cuffing.

### **Shoes**

- Shoes should be neat, modest and not draw undue attention to the student.
- No flip-flops, sports sandals or slides.
- No heel height restrictions have been made, but the school reserves the right to make restrictions.

### **Additional Notes:**

- Only Grades 9th -12th can wear navy shirts & khaki bottom.
- Only Grades 5th -12th can wear plaid skirts.
- Worn, damaged, faded or outgrown uniforms should be repaired and/or replaced.
- No letter jackets are to be worn in the classrooms except on spirit wear days.
- Hats and sunglasses are not allowed to be worn in school except for special event days that specifically allow for these to be worn.
- All clothing, jewelry, make-up, hairstyles and accessories should be neat, modest and not draw undue attention to the student. Students may be asked to remove inappropriate accessories.

- Specifically excluded accessories include: arm warmers, bandanas, or clothing ornamentation such as scarves and pins.
- Belts are acceptable only with bottoms that have belt loops and belts must be worn through the belt loops.
- No tying shirts in the back.
- No gloves or mittens may be worn during school hours except for recess. No coats and non-St. Croix Prep sweaters/sweatshirts may be worn during school hours except for recess.
- No writing on arms, legs, faces or uniforms.
- Families who are eligible for educational benefits are eligible to receive benefits for school uniforms. Please contact the main office.

### Physical Education Guidelines

Students in 5th-12th are required to wear a ST. CROIX PREP gym uniform. The uniform consists of a t-shirt and mesh shorts. The gym uniform is available at Tommy Hilfiger only. Donald's Uniform does not carry our gym uniforms. Students are required to have tennis shoes for class in all grade levels.

### Concert Attire Guidelines

- **Lower School:** Dress-up attire is suggested. No jeans, t-shirts or short skirts. For safety purposes, flat shoes should be worn.
- **Middle School:**
  - Black top, black dress slacks or skirt (black dress is acceptable), and black shoes (NO jeans or leggings).
  - Shirts/tops must have sleeves or be worn with a sweater/jacket.
  - Boys must wear a collared shirt (polos are acceptable, but no t-shirts).
  - Girls' skirts must be longer than the knees while sitting or wear solid opaque black or white leggings or tights under skirts/dresses.
- **Upper School:** Concert Attire measured for and purchased at the start of each school year.
  - Women must provide their own black tights and close-toed shoes. Minimal jewelry and hair accessories. Dress Price: approximately \$60.
  - Men must provide their own black socks and dress shoes. Tuxedo Price: approximately \$100 (includes jacket, shirt, pants, tie, and cummerbund).
- Financial Assistance for Concert Attire: If concert attire is a financial hardship or if you have any questions, please contact your child's music director directly.

### Dress Code Violations

Students and parents/guardians will be informed of dress code violations. Dress code violations will result in disciplinary actions, which vary by division (Lower, Middle or Upper School). Specific dress code violation consequences are listed in your student's annual school planner (3rd-12th grades) or division level handbook (Lower School and Middle School). Handbooks are posted on the school website ([www.stcroixprep.org](http://www.stcroixprep.org)) (K-8th grades).

Students and parents/guardians will be informed of dress code violations. Dress code violations will result in disciplinary actions, which may include but may not be limited to or in any particular order:

- Parents may be contacted to bring an appropriate uniform.
- Student may be sent home for the day.

- Reoccurring uniform violations may result in further disciplinary actions.

### Opt-Out Provision

Parents or guardians may apply to the Division Principal for full or partial exemption from the dress code in the following situations:

- A student's disability or medical condition which would substantially interfere with a student's ability to comply with the dress code.
- A student's religious observation which would be substantially hindered by compliance with the dress code.

### Non-Uniform & Spirit Wear Days

Non-Uniform days will be scheduled throughout the course of the year. Students must demonstrate neatness, cleanliness, and modesty in their appearance on non-uniform days. Clothing on a non-uniform day should not be a distraction to teaching and learning. St. Croix Prep reserves the right to determine appropriateness of attire. Questions related to the appropriateness of a student's dress will be determined by the administration of St. Croix Prep

### Non-Uniform Guidelines

- Shirts must have sleeves or have another shirt over the top and must be modestly buttoned. Only the top button may be undone. No tank tops or spaghetti straps. No underwear, bra straps, cleavage or midriff may be showing.
- Skirts, shorts, dresses must be no shorter than 2" above the knees (shorts must have 8"-10" inseam which include bermuda shorts, trouser shorts, and athletic/basketball shorts.).
- Jeans, sweats, joggers/athletic pants (no holes or fraying). No spandex pants or shorts of any kind - i.e. yoga pants, leggings, and/or biker shorts.
- All other general ST. CROIX PREP dress code guidelines should be followed.

### Non-Uniform Days are as Follows:

Tuesday, November 22*	Friday, January 27	Thursday, February 16*
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\*Coupons obtained during Go-Green collections must be presented upon arrival in non-uniform or a violation will occur. Uniforms must be worn if you do not have a coupon.

### Spirit Wear Guidelines

To enhance school spirit and build a closer community, St. Croix Prep will have days when students may wear spirit wear in lieu of their uniform. Spirit wear days will be scheduled throughout the year. The following guidelines apply:

- All previously issued St. Croix Prep spirit wear attire, athletic participation shirts and event clothing may be worn. This includes St. Croix Prep branded or issued athletic uniform shorts and warm-up pants.
- Jeans (solid blue or black) may be worn otherwise uniform pants, shorts, or skirts are to accompany the Spirit Wear attire.

Thursday, September 1	Friday, September 30	Wednesday, December 21
Friday, March 17	Friday, April 14	Friday, May 19
Wednesday, June 7		

For all spirit wear days, students must wear uniform bottoms or blue/black denim jeans.

\*Marathon Day/Field Day ONLY

For Marathon Day/Field Day, appropriate athletic bottoms may be worn (sweats, basketball shorts, etc.).

## STUDENT DISCIPLINE

### Delegation of Authority

Each teacher and school personnel are authorized to impose any disciplinary measure, other than suspension, expulsion, or in-school suspension, which is appropriate and in accordance with the policies and rules on student discipline. Teachers may use reasonable force as needed to maintain safety for other students and remove students from a classroom for disruptive behavior. The Principal is authorized to impose the same disciplinary measures as teachers and may suspend students from school (including all school functions) and from riding the school bus, up to 10 consecutive school days, provided the appropriate procedures are followed. The Board may expel students guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct for the remainder of the school term or for a shorter period.

### Prohibited Student Conduct

Disciplinary action may be taken against any student guilty of disobedience or misconduct, including, but not limited to:

- using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling explosives, firearms, knives, or any other object that can reasonably be considered a weapon or a replica of such an object;
- involvement in gangs or gang-related activities, including the display of gang symbols and paraphernalia;
- engaging in any activity that constitutes an interference with school purposes or an educational function or is disruptive;
- engaging in unsportsmanlike conduct.

These grounds for disciplinary action apply whenever the student's conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, including, but not limited to:

- on school grounds before, during, or after school hours and at any other time when the school is being used by a school group;
- off school grounds at a school activity, function, or event traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event; or anywhere, if the conduct may reasonably be considered to be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member, or an interference with school purposes or an education function.

### Tennessen Warning

A Tennessean warning will be issued by individuals collecting private or confidential data related to potential disciplinary situations, unless applicable law provides an exception to the need to provide this warning.

## **Disciplinary Measures**

Disciplinary measures include:

- Character Notice;
- Golden Rule form;
- personal counseling;
- withholding of privileges;
- seizure of contraband;
- removal from classroom;
- in-school suspension;
- detention
- suspension from school and all school-sponsored events for up to 10 school days;
- suspension of bus riding privileges;
- expulsion from school and all school-sponsored events
- notification of juvenile authorities whenever the conduct involves illegal drugs (controlled substances), look alike drugs, alcohol, or weapons.

## **Substance Abuse**

The use of alcohol and other non-prescribed drugs is illegal. Prohibited substances include unlawful drugs, prescription drugs not used or intended to be used in accordance with the prescription and over-the-counter drugs not used or intended to be used as directed. Students are prohibited from possessing, using, being under the influence of or distributing alcohol or other prohibited drug related substances in school buildings, on school grounds, in school vehicles or at any school event or activity. Possession or distribution of look-alike drugs or drug paraphernalia in these locations is also prohibited. In addition to instituting disciplinary proceedings, school officials will also deny attendance at any school program or function to students who appear to be under the influence of, or who are in possession of, alcohol or other prohibited substances. A student who violates this policy will normally be suspended for a period of 7 to 10 days, with the School then initiating expulsion procedures. Parents/guardians and law enforcement authorities shall be notified promptly of such misconduct.

The use or possession of tobacco by students is strictly prohibited in school buildings, on school buses or on any school property when that property is being used for any school purpose. The term “school purpose” shall include, but is not limited to, all interscholastic or extracurricular, social, athletic, academic or other events sponsored by St. Croix Prep. The term “tobacco” shall include cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars and tobacco in any other form, including smokeless tobacco which is loose, cut, shredded, ground, powdered, compressed and leaf tobacco that is intended to be placed in the mouth without being smoked. See Board Policy #419, Tobacco Free Environment.

Use or possession as a first offense will mean suspension (1-3 days) and a parent conference. Further incidents or selling or giving tobacco to another student will lead to expulsion.

## **Work Missed During Suspension**

A suspended student is not entitled to extra time for work missed;

- All work must be completed in compliance with the teachers' expectations. It is the student's (parent/guardian) responsibility to be in contact with his or her teachers by phone or e-mail;
- All tests and quizzes must be scheduled in compliance with teachers' expectations;
- A suspended student is not entitled to extra supervision or aid;
- Students missing labs of any kind are not entitled to make-up labs;
- Students missing field trips or in-class activities are not entitled to earn credit for these activities;
- Students missing field trips due to a suspension are not entitled to refunds of field trip fees.
- Usually, before a student returns to school following a suspension, a re-entrance meeting will be held with the school principal.

## **Expulsion**

The St. Croix Prep Board is authorized to expel students guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct. During expulsion proceedings, the student and/or parents/guardians shall be afforded the following procedural protections:

- Prior to expulsion, the student shall be provided with notice of the charges and the time and place of a hearing to be conducted by the Board or a Board appointed hearing officer.
- The Board or its designee shall provide written notice by registered or certified mail to the parents/guardians of the time, place and purpose of the hearing and shall request the appearance of the parents/guardians at the expulsion hearing.
- During the expulsion hearing, the student and parents/guardians may be represented by counsel, present witnesses and other evidence, and cross-examine any witnesses presented by the St. Croix Prep. If the Board conducts the expulsion hearing, it shall be a bifurcated proceeding. First, the Board shall hear evidence on the issue of whether the student is guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct as charged. After presentation of the evidence, the Board shall decide the issue of guilt. If the Board finds the student guilty of the gross disobedience or misconduct as charged, it shall then hear evidence on the appropriate level of discipline to be meted out. After presentation of the evidence, the Board shall decide whether expulsion or some lesser form of discipline shall be imposed upon the student. If a hearing officer conducts the hearing, the hearing officer shall summarize the evidence regarding guilt and level of discipline separately and present them to the Board, which will consider them separately and take such further action as it deems appropriate.

## **USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

### **Student Use of School Technology**

See Board Policy #524, Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy.

In order to expand and facilitate teaching and learning, St. Croix Preparatory Academy (St. Croix Prep) supports the use of school-provided technology assets and services, including but not limited to computers, mobile labs, laptops as well as access to the Internet and other electronic information, programs, textbooks, services, and networks (collectively, the "St. Croix Prep Technology Assets and Services"). St. Croix Prep's goals in providing the St. Croix Prep Technology Assets and Services to students are to stimulate creativity and innovation; encourage communication and collaboration; promote research and information fluency; support critical thinking, problem solving and decision-making; and teach digital citizenship.



Access to the St. Croix Prep Technology Assets and Services is a privilege and not a right. In making decisions regarding student access to the St. Croix Prep Technology Assets and Services, St. Croix Prep will consider its educational mission, goals and objectives. Any inappropriate, unauthorized or illegal use of the St. Croix Prep Technology Assets and Services may result in cancellation of some or all privileges and will result in appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion and possible referral to law enforcement.

## **Access to the SCPA Technology Assets and Services**

At school, students utilizing St. Croix Prep Technology Assets and Services must first have the permission of and be supervised by St. Croix Prep's professional staff. Students utilizing St. Croix Prep Technology Assets and Services are responsible for appropriate behavior, just as they are in a classroom or any other area of the school.

## **Student Use of Personal Technology**

### **Cellular Phones, iPods & Other Technology Devices**

St. Croix Prep allows students to have cell phones, smartwatches, and other technology devices, but they are not to be visible, turned on, or in use during regular school hours. Students may use their phones/devices before/after regular school hours. We understand that on occasion a student may need to communicate transportation needs with a parent or family member. This communication should go through the Office Manager. The use of headphones is prohibited unless authorized by St. Croix Prep faculty. Students who violate the above restrictions shall be deemed to have created a disruption to the instructional environment and are subject to confiscation of their phones/devices. St. Croix Prep shall not assume responsibility for theft, loss, damage or unauthorized use of a cell phone or other technology devices. Use of camera and recording features on cell phones and other devices is prohibited without administrative approval.

#### **First Offense**

The cell phone or other technology device being used without permission will be confiscated and turned into the Principal's office. The student must come in person at the end of the day in order to retrieve the phone.

#### **Second Offense**

The cell phone or other technology device being used without permission will be confiscated and turned into the Principal's office. The student must come in person at the end of the day in order to retrieve the phone. In addition, a detention will be issued to the student.

#### **Third Offense**

On a third offense the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) will meet with the School Principal. Appropriate consequences will be determined.

## **SCHOOL SECURITY**

### **Visitors at St. Croix Prep**

St. Croix Prep receives many visitors throughout the school day. These visitors include, but are not limited to, parents, special guests, vendors, and sales people. Although St. Croix Prep embraces our parent volunteers and visitors, we need to ensure the safety of our students. For this reason all visitors to our school must sign in and out at the front office. Visitors are also required to visibly wear a VOLUNTEER/VISITOR badge at all times. Students should not bring student guests to school without prior permission from the division principal.

## **Search and Seizure**

The Board recognizes its responsibility to maintain order and security in St. Croix Prep. Accordingly, administrators or their designees are authorized to conduct searches of students and their personal effects, as well as the property of the St. Croix Prep, in accordance with this policy. See Board Policy #502, Search of Student Policy.

## **School Property**

School property, including but not limited to desks and lockers, is owned and controlled by St. Croix Prep and students should have no expectation of privacy in them or in any personal effects left in such areas. St. Croix Prep may make reasonable regulations regarding the use of such areas and may search them or any personal effects of students found in those areas without prior notice to students and without consent.

## **Students and Their Personal Effects**

Administrators or their designees may search a student and/or the student's personal effects (e.g., purses, wallets, backpacks, book bags, lunch boxes, etc.) when they are being carried by the student when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will produce evidence the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school. In addition, the reasonable grounds must be accompanied by specific suspicion with respect to the individual to be searched. The search itself must be conducted in a manner that is reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and gender of the student and the nature of the infraction. When feasible, the search should be conducted outside the view of others, including students; in the presence of a school administrator or adult witness; and by a certified employee or administrator of the same gender. If any improper items are found, immediately following the search of a student, the school authority that conducted the search shall take appropriate measures.

## **Patrols, Inspections and Searches**

It is the position of the school that a fair and equitable student motor vehicle policy will contribute to the quality of the student's education experience, will maintain order and discipline in the schools, and will protect the health, safety and welfare of students and school personnel. School officials may conduct routine patrols of school locations and routine inspections of exteriors of the motor vehicles of students. In addition, the interiors of motor vehicles of students in school locations may be searched when school officials have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law and/or school policy or rule.

"Reasonable suspicion" means that a school official has grounds to believe that the search will result in evidence of a violation of school policy, rules and/ or law. Reasonable suspicion may be based on a school official's personal observation, a report from a student, parent or staff member, a student's suspicious behavior, a student's age and past history or record of conduct both in and out of the school context or other reliable sources of information.

“School property” is owned, rented, leased or borrowed by the school for school purposes as well as property immediately adjacent to such property that may be sued for parking or gaining access to such property. A school location also shall include off school property at any school-sponsored or school-approved activity, event or function, such as a field trip or athletic event where students are under the jurisdiction of the school.

## **HARASSMENT, BULLYING & HAZING**

### **Minnesota Safe and Supportive Schools Act**

On April 9, 2014, Governor Dayton signed the Minnesota Safe and Supportive Schools Act. The law provides schools, educators, parents, and students with tools and resources for bullying prevention and intervention. St. Croix Prep's Anti-Bullying Policy, in accordance with the Minnesota Safe and Supportive Schools Act. See Board Policy, Student Bullying Prohibition Policy. Please contact one of the Principals or Office Managers for additional information.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

### **Activities Department**

St. Croix Prep offers 19 athletic programs and over 12 co-curricular programs within its club and competitive leagues. These programs offer a well-rounded educational experience to all of our students and provide them practical experience in their character and leadership development. If you have questions, contact Activities Director, Keven Seim at [kevenseim@stcroixprep.org](mailto:kevenseim@stcroixprep.org) or 651-395-5944.

### **Additional Parent Resources**

On the each of the School's Homepages (Lower School - <https://www.stcroixprep.org/lower-school>; Middle School - <https://www.stcroixprep.org/middle-school>; and Upper School - <https://www.stcroixprep.org/upper-school>; there are links to additional Parent Resources. These include but are not limited to information related to School Supply Lists, Background Check Procedures, Calendars, Before & After school care, Dress Code, Field Trip Procedures, Health Services, Hot Lunch Program, Parent Pick-Up Procedures, Synergy (Student Information System) Instructions, Spirit Wear and the On-line Store.

### **Development Department**

St. Croix Prep hosts three annual events that provide families the opportunity to financially support school programming. These events are a great way to cultivate friendships and business relationships while raising money for school programs.

**St. Croix Prep Marathon.** The date of the St. Croix Prep Marathon will be determined and announced at a future date. The Event raises funds for Academics. Students will raise donated funds in the weeks leading up to the event. On event day, students will participate in opening ceremonies, run in the school marathon, play indoor and outdoor games, enjoy a picnic lunch and end the day with a pep fest. Sponsorships are available.

**Prep Gala.** The date of the Prep Gala will be determined and announced at a future date. The event raises funds for the Arts & Athletics programs. The evening will include savory hors d'oeuvres, delicious sweets, fine wines and beer, live entertainment, silent and live auctions, raffles, and a fund-a-need appeal. Parents and community members are welcome to attend. Sponsorships are available.

**Prep Open.** The Prep Open will be held on Wednesday, August 17, 2022. The event raises funds for the Arts & Athletics department. The day includes a golf tournament, wine and food pairing, dinner, silent and live auctions and a fund-a-need appeal. Sponsorships are available. If you would like more information regarding these events, please contact Medora Benson, Activities Department & Events Coordinator at 651-209-7375 or [medorabenson@stcroixprep.org](mailto:medorabenson@stcroixprep.org)

## **Parent Group**

The St. Croix Prep Parent Group promotes communication and educational opportunities throughout the school, building community and strengthening relationships between families, administration, and faculty through events and initiatives. To view a schedule of meeting dates and events please view the website at <http://stcroixprep.org/parent-group/>.

If you would like more information regarding Parent group, please contact Parent Group at [parentgroup@stcroixprep.org](mailto:parentgroup@stcroixprep.org).

## **Extended Day Program**

St. Croix Prep partners with YMCA of Greater St. Paul to offer on-site extended day programming for students in grades kindergarten through sixth. The program is operated through the YMCA. Program information, including registration, programming, rates, and hours are available at [www.twincities.org](http://www.twincities.org) or contact Jon Spry, YMCA Child Care District Supervisor, at 651-490-4886 or [jon.spry@YMCAtwincities.org](mailto:jon.spry@YMCAtwincities.org)

## **Media in the Classroom**

The following guidelines will be used for viewing of movies: Parental permission must be received before showing any movies with the rating of PG [lower school], and PG-13 [middle school], and R [Upper School]. We will provide alternative learning experiences for the students who have not received parental permission.

## **Picture Day**

Student pictures will be taken on Tuesday, September 13, 2022. Picture retake day will be held on Tuesday, October 4, 2022. All students are required to wear their student uniform for the pictures.

## **Food Service**

St. Croix Prep offers hot lunch, milk and supplemental a la carte offerings daily. Current prices and menus are posted on the school website at: <https://www.stcroixprep.org/food-service/> The school participates in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs and offers free and reduced breakfast and lunch according to federal guidelines. Additional information including free and reduced meal applications are located at:

<https://stcroixprep.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2019-20-Application-for-Educational-Benefits-Packet.pdf> Please direct questions regarding the free and reduced breakfast and lunch program to St. Croix Prep's Food Service Director, Marianne Thole at [mthole@stcroixprep.org](mailto:mthole@stcroixprep.org).

To purchase breakfast, lunch, milk or a la carte offerings, a student must have a sufficient balance in his/her lunch account. St. Croix Prep's Negative Lunch Balance Policy is as follows:

#### **Hot Lunch and Breakfast**

- All students will be served a reimbursable lunch or breakfast regardless of fund availability. Negative balances that are incurred are the responsibility of the student's parent/guardian, and are expected to be paid in full by the end of the school year.
- If parents DO NOT want their child to purchase items during morning a la carte or breakfast, please email [mthole@stcroixprep.org](mailto:mthole@stcroixprep.org) to request a block on their account.

#### **A La Carte**

- Lower, Middle, or Upper School students will not be allowed to purchase items from the a la carte line, including milk, if they have a negative lunch account balance.

Parents should check their student's lunch account balance frequently. Parents will be notified by School Messenger when their student's meal balance falls below an established limit. This limit is defaulted to \$0.00 by the school business office; however, parents may adjust the balance alert level to accommodate their needs in SchoolPay.

Deposits to student's lunch accounts may be made online via SchoolPay. Deposits made online will be credited to the student's lunch account within 72 hours. Deposits may also be made via cash or check and delivered to the school business office, either directly or via the student's classroom teacher. Cash or check deposits will be posted to the student's account within 24 hours of the business office's receipt of the deposit. Credit card payments are accepted in the main office and posted to the lunch account(s) immediately.

### **Snacks**

Snacks served during the school day or in YMCA care will make a positive contribution to children's diets and health, with an emphasis on fruits and vegetables as the primary snacks and water as the primary beverage. St. Croix Prep will assess if and when to offer snacks based on timing of school meals, children's nutritional needs, children's ages and other considerations.

### **Rewards**

St. Croix Prep will not use foods or beverages, especially those that do not meet the nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold individually, as rewards for academic performance or good behavior, and will not withhold food or beverages (including food served through school meals) as a punishment.

### **Celebrations**

St. Croix Prep will limit celebrations that involve food during the school day to no more than one party per class per month. Each party should include no more than one food or beverage that does not meet nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold individually.

## **School Hours**

Classes operate from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. School doors will open at 9:00 am. Students will be allowed to enter the building at that time. Earlier arrivals will need to sign in and will need permission from their teacher or organization leader to access hallways prior to this time. Lower School students arriving prior to 9:00 am must attend the before school programming area, and parents will be assessed appropriate fees; students may not be unattended in the atrium. Unless students have after school activities, they will not be allowed in the building after 4:30 pm. Each division may have additional procedures that enhance their effectiveness.

## **Teacher Request and Classroom Assignment**

At St. Croix Prep, scheduling students into classes is a complicated and time-consuming process that involves both computer and hand scheduling. Many factors are taken into consideration when balancing class enrollment, including class size, gender, academics, and social composition. We believe our faculty are skilled educators and, additionally, that students need to learn the important life skill of working with many different types of teachers and students. In the Lower School, if a parent feels his/her student has a particular learning concern which needs to be considered, please fill out a parent input form that is sent out in the spring with the Intent to Return form and return to the office manager. Parents may not request a teacher. Our goal is to create the best possible learning environment for all students.

## **Statewide Assessments**

Each year, St. Croix Preparatory Academy administers state assessments to measure a student's proficiency in math, reading, and science. These assessments are just one measure of a student's achievement, as well as benefiting the school in evaluating curriculum, alignment with state standards, resources and support, and potentially reducing Minnesota State College and University requirements. On our website, a two-page guide to Statewide Testing is listed under the Additional Resources link.

Parents/guardians have a right to not have their student participate in state-required standardized assessments. The Statewide Assessment Opt-Out Form is located on the following page: it is also included on the website with the Parent/Guardian Guide to Statewide Testing.

Need new Form inserted

The 2022-2023 Family Handbook was approved by the St. Croix Preparatory Academy School Board June 28, 2022.



# STATEWIDE TESTING OPT-OUT FORM



## Statewide Assessments: Parent/Guardian Participation Guide and Refusal Information

Your student's participation in statewide assessments is important as it allows your school and district to ensure all students have access to a high-quality education. In the past, students with disabilities and English learners were often excluded from statewide assessments. By requiring that all students take statewide assessments, schools and teachers have more information to see how all students are doing. This helps schools to continuously improve the education they provide and to identify groups, grades, or subjects that may need additional support.

### Assessments Connect to Standards

Statewide assessments are based on the [Minnesota Academic Standards](#) or the [WIDA English Language Development Standards](#). These standards define the knowledge and skills students should be learning in K–12 public and charter schools. Minnesota prioritizes high-quality education, and statewide assessments gives educators and leaders an opportunity to evaluate student and school success.

### Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) and Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS)

MCA and MTAS are the annual assessments in reading, mathematics and science that measure a snapshot of student learning of the Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards.

### ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for English Learners

The ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS are the annual assessments for English learners that provide information about their progress in learning academic English based on the WIDA English Language Development Standards.

### Statewide Assessments Help Families and Students

Participating in statewide assessments helps families see a snapshot of their student's learning so they can advocate for their success in school. High school students can use MCA results:

- For course placement at a Minnesota State college or university. If students receive a college-ready score, they may not need to take a remedial, noncredit course for that subject.
- For Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) and College in the Schools programs.

English learners who take the ACCESS or Alternate ACCESS and meet certain requirements have the opportunity to exit from English learner programs.

### Taking Statewide Assessments Helps Your Student's School

Statewide assessments provide information to your school and district about how all students are engaging with the content they learn in school. This information helps:

- Educators evaluate their instructional materials.
- Schools and districts identify inequities between groups, explore root causes and implement supports.
- School and district leaders make decisions about how to use money and resources to support all students.

### Student Participation in Statewide Assessments

Student participation in state and locally required assessments is a parent/guardian choice. If you choose to have your student not participate in a statewide assessment, please provide a reason for your decision on the form. Contact your student's school to learn more about locally required assessments.

## Consequences of Not Participating in Statewide Assessments

- The student will not receive an individual score. For ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS, the student would not have the opportunity to exit their English learner program.
- School and district assessment results will be incomplete, making it more difficult to have an accurate picture of student learning.
- Since all eligible students are included in some calculations even when they do not participate, school and district accountability results are impacted. This may affect the school's ability to be identified for support or recognized for success.

Check with your local school or district to see if there are any other consequences for not participating.

Explore  
the Statewide  
Testing page  
for more  
information

(education.mn.gov >  
Students and Families >  
Programs and Initiatives >  
Statewide Testing)

### Additional Information

- On average, students spend less than 1 percent of instructional time taking statewide assessments each year.
- Minnesota statutes limit the total amount of time students can spend taking other district- or school-wide assessments to 11 hours or less each school year, depending on the grade.
- School districts and charter schools are required to publish an assessment calendar on their website by the beginning of each school year. Refer to your district or charter school's website for more information on assessments.

(Note: This form is only applicable for the 20\_\_ to 20\_\_ school year.)



### Statewide Assessment: Parent/Guardian Decision Not to Participate

By completing this form, you are acknowledging that your student will not participate in statewide assessments and will not receive individual assessment results. This form must be returned to your student's school before the applicable test administration.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Refusal:

Please indicate the statewide assessment(s) you are opting the student out of this school year:

- ☐ MCA/MTAS Reading
- ☐ MCA/MTAS Science
- ☐ MCA/MTAS Mathematics
- ☐ ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS

Contact your school or district for more information on how to opt out of local assessments.

Updated April 2022 - Page 2 of 2