



SCHOOL LEADERSHIP NEWSLETTER

ATHLOS ACADEMY

SAINT CLOUD, MN

A COMMUNITY OF CHARACTER, SCHOLARSHIP & SERVICE
August 25, 2023

Dear Athlos Family,

We are looking forward to another exciting year at Athlos Academy! We hope to see you at our Welcome Back Night on Wednesday, August 30th, 4:30pm-6:00pm!

We would like to highlight below some important information for you to be aware of. Please review the Family Handbook for full details, which can be found on our website <http://www.athlosstcloud.org>

DAILY SCHEDULE

7:15am-2:15pm

DRESS CODE/UNIFORMS

The expectation is that students will dress in a manner that reflects positively on the district at all school related activities. All students are required to be in uniform daily with the exception of free dress days and spirit days that will be noted on the school's activity calendar.

All uniforms must be purchased through the Athlos Academy website at: <https://athlosstcloud.org/parent-resources/uniforms/> Please read guidelines carefully to be sure items purchased are the acceptable styles and colors.

Exceptions to School Uniforms:

- Students are allowed to wear a uniform of a nationally recognized youth organization such as Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts on those days when that organization carries out a scheduled function.
- Students are allowed to wear attire that is required by their religion. Administration will review and approve modifications on a case-by-case basis.
- The leadership team may allow modifications to the dress code on specified days (e.g., spirit day, holiday, or another school-wide event.)
- Students may wear white, black, red, navy blue, orange or grey long-sleeved shirts underneath Athlos shirts and white, black, red, navy blue or grey leggings underneath Athlos skorts/shorts.

In the situation where a student does not wear their uniform to school, a Student Support Team

member or an Administrator will make phone calls to families for students whom are not in uniform. School staff will inquire about uniform order status' as well as reminding families to send students in solid colored shirts and black pants while their order is in the process of being shipped. Students who have orders confirmed by Athlos staff will be placed on an exception list until the order arrives. If a student is still not in uniform, school staff will follow up with the family. Additionally, at no time are students allowed to wear hats or hoods in class.

After the first five days of school, classroom teachers or a Student Support Team member will continue to contact families if students are not in uniform and to review uniform expectations.

FAMILY DROP OFF & PICK UP REMINDERS

Please make sure to call the front office staff to ensure that you are signed up for drive line. It will make your drop off and pick up of your students much more efficient!

At no time can parents park their car in the lanes on the side or front of the building on the frontage road. When cars are parked in these lanes it can block traffic or busses and become a safety issue for other families. We welcome parents to park in the parking lot and walk your students into the building via the crosswalk.

All staff, families, visitors and students are required to use the cross walks to get in and out of the building. Thank you for all your attention to these times of day, as it can be challenging to get everyone through the parking lot in a timely manner.

BUSSING

Bus routes will be sent via email by the end of August, and will be available at Welcome Back Night on August 30th.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Families are able to sign their student(s) up for the after school program. The program begins right after school ending at 5:30pm daily. The fee is \$10 per day. Registration and payments can be made by calling the front office, or in person at the school.

All students will be provided with a snack, and will participate in required homework/reading time before participating in other activities. Bus transportation is not available during this program. All students must be picked up from the front office.

SNACKS & GUM

Families are encouraged to send healthy snacks with your student to school. There is a designated snack time of 10 minutes for every class. Other than lunch and snack time, there is absolutely no eating. Absolutely no pop, Gatorade, red bull, tea, etc. in water bottles. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle so that they have access to water for the entire school day.

CELL PHONES

Personal electronic devices are not permitted during class time. Students will be expected to adhere to the school's technology rules, and continued abuse of this privilege, will result in phones being taken away. Athlos Academy is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged electronic devices.

Students using phones or electronic devices without authorization for the first time will be asked to surrender their phone to staff and can pick up the phone at the end of the day. The second time

the phone will need to be picked up by a parent/guardian in the main office. The third time there will be a meeting with administration to create a personal electronics plan/contract.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

Athlos Academy of St. Cloud of St. Cloud uses a variety of researched strategies to build classroom community and manage student behaviors. Minor infractions are violations of school rules that are usually handled by teachers in the classroom. Minor infractions will be communicated to parent/guardian(s) as needed, at the discretion of the teacher.

Minor infractions that become chronic or severe may be escalated to Major infractions; in such cases a referral to school administration may be made. Major infractions are severe violations of school rules that are usually immediately escalated to the level of designated administration. A list of Major infractions can be found in the school's *Discipline Policy 5502*. Serious Major infractions may involve law enforcement, at the discretion of School Leadership and/or School Official. These infractions may include inappropriate language, physical contact with another student, disorderly conduct, stealing, walking out of the classroom or building, being in an unassigned area, etc.

Consequences of Minor Infractions:

- Depending on the age of the student and the number of times an infraction has occurred, the school leadership team may implement a plan that would allow the student to remain in school to serve an in-school suspension from 1 hour to an entire school day.
- If the student is having relationship-based challenges with other students, they may be referred to a Student Support Office as deemed appropriate by School Officials. Students will be allowed to work with trained members of our student support team or administrators to participate in peer mediation.

Consequences of Major Infractions:

- In cases of Major infractions, consequences may include in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, and in serious cases, expulsion, as determined by school administration.
- Law enforcement may become involved at the discretion of an administrator.
- Athlos Academy of St. Cloud shall notify parent/guardian(s) at all developments (*Student Policy 5507*).
- At all times Athlos Academy of St. Cloud shall follow the state regulations concerning student discipline according to the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act.

STUDENT AMBASSADOR APPLICATIONS

The Athlos Student Ambassador program is designed to encourage students to become leaders within the school and our local community. An ambassador is a leader who serves as a liaison, spokesperson, and advocate. Third through fifth grade students who are interested in applying must be of strong interpersonal skills, have a positive attitude, be a role model and have a commitment to integrity. They must also be highly motivated and energetic, display effective decision-making skills, have the ability to motivate and inspire others and have a willingness to work on a team.

Being involved in the Ambassador program is a way to meet new friends, develop character traits and be a leader to all ages. Ambassadors are students who uphold the vision and goals

associated with our school's mission and fulfill their academic and behavior obligations. The program allows students opportunities to participate in various activities around the building that may include:

- Office runners
- K – 2nd grade volunteers
- School recycling
- Safety Patrol
- Special event set up
- Special projects for the school leadership team
- Reading and math tutors for other students
- Community service projects

BUS BEHAVIOR REMINDERS

Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. Student behavior rules are in effect for all students on school buses. Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will be imposed in accordance with the school's Positive Behavior Support Plan. In addition, all school bus and bus stop misconduct will be reported to the Principal. Serious misconduct may be reported to local law enforcement.

School Bus and Bus Stop Rules:

School bus safety rules posted on every bus. If these rules are broken, the school's discipline procedures are to be followed. Consequences are progressive and may include suspension of bus privileges.

Rules on the Bus:

- Immediately follow the directions of the driver.
- Sit in seat facing forward.
- Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
- Keep all body parts inside the bus.
- Keep arms, legs and belongings to yourself.
- No fighting, harassment, intimidation or horseplay
- Do not throw any object.
- No use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.
- Do not bring any weapons or dangerous objects on the school bus.
- Do not damage the school bus.
- No movement from seat to seat or standing while the bus is in motion.

Rules at the Bus Stop:

- Get to the bus stop five minutes before the scheduled pick up time. The school bus driver will not wait for late students.
- Respect the property of others while waiting at the bus stop.
- Keep arms, legs and belongings to yourself.
- Use appropriate language (no swearing or use of negative language).
- Stay away from the street, road or highway when waiting for the bus.
- Wait until the bus stops before approaching the bus.
- After getting off the bus, move away from the bus.

- If crossing the street, always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see.
- Wait for the driver to signal to before crossing the street.
- No fighting, harassment, intimidation, horseplay, bullying, or hazing
- No use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs.

Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will apply to all regular and late routes. Decisions regarding a student's ability to ride the bus in connection with co-curricular and extracurricular events (ex. field trips) will be in the sole discretion of the school. Guardians will be notified of any suspension of bus privileges.

SICK STUDENT

Students should not be in school if they have a temperature of 100 degrees or above. In addition, students who have a contagious illness or are experiencing a sore throat, a cough, runny nose, vomiting, diarrhea or other symptoms of illness that may prohibit active participation in school routines should not be in school until appropriate treatment is secured. Students should be free of elevated temperature, vomiting, and diarrhea symptoms for 24 hours without the use of Tylenol or Motrin prior to their return to school.

STUDENT OF CHARACTER AWARDS

As always, we will continue to develop and foster a school environment that values and demonstrates high levels of character amongst all adults and students within our school community. During the school year, we will focus on all 12-character traits in classrooms, during morning meetings and instruction. Please reflect on how as a family you can reinforce character development at home by engaging in conversations about what the 12 traits look like in your family's home. The character trait development that we teach in school will have deeper meaning if our message is consistent at both school and home.

Each month, twelve students from each grade level will be chosen based on the month's chosen Athlos Character Trait. If awarded this honor, a student's picture will be placed in the main hallway for the month and they will receive a letter and certificate from school leadership.

The Athlos Character traits include; integrity, initiative, focus & self-control, courage, humility, social intelligence, grit, leadership, creativity, energy & zest, curiosity and optimism.

FREE FOOD PROGRAM – EVERY MEAL PROGRAM

Athlos partners with Every Meal Program, a non-profit organization that coordinates and runs weekend food programs in Minnesota schools. Our partnership with this organization will enable students who sign up to receive a free bag of food to take home at the end of scheduled weeks. It's completely free and your family's privacy is protected-you just need to sign up! Sign-ups will take place the third week of school through your student's homeroom teacher. Each bag typically contains a fruit, vegetable, protein, rice/pasta and a soup or boxed meal.

Questions and requests to join the program can be made to Rachel Mushel at rmushel@athlosstcloud.org.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

For any questions or concerns in regard to Special Education services, please reach out to our Special Education Coordinator (Chloe Smith- csmith@athlosstcloud.org). Special Education Advisory Council meetings will take place on October 5th, 2023 @ 5:00 PM and February 29th, 2024 @ 5:00 PM.

UNITY DAY

Unity Day on Wednesday, October 18th. **Unity Day** is designed to bring our community together in support of kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. **To show unity, students and all staff are encouraged to accessorize with orange items such as socks, shoes, leggings, long-sleeved shirts under uniforms, head coverings, headbands, etc. on October 18th. Students are expected to be in uniform on this day, but, let's show our creativity!**

HOMEWORK

Homework is an extension of what is taught in the classroom and an opportunity for students to apply skills and concepts learned. We ask parents to stress that homework is the students' responsibility. Homework will be given on a regular basis. The amount and type of homework varies with the age of the student and the requirements of each teacher. Contact the classroom teacher if you have any questions or concerns about your student's homework. When family emergencies prevent your student from completing assignments or if your student has questions about the concepts on their homework, please connect with the classroom teacher so that you and the teacher can partner in ensuring student success.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sept. 5	First Day of School!
Sept. 15	No School – Staff Development
Sept. 27	Picture Day
Oct. 4-5	Evening Conferences
Oct. 13	Dollar Dress Day
Oct. 18	Unity Day
Oct. 19-20	No School – MEA
Oct. 23-27	Fall Book Fair
Oct. 31	Free Dress Day

Please know that the Athlos Academy faculty, staff and School Board will work tirelessly to ensure that families know their student(s) are safe and achieving great things at Athlos no matter what our challenges may be.

Have a wonderful weekend with your loved ones.

Warmly,
Your School Leadership Team

Jennifer Geraghty, Executive Director
Kate Hill, Assistant Executive Director
Chloe Smith, Special Education Coordinator
Angela Godfrey, Director of Academics
Stephanie LaFave, Director of Academics
Krista Swenson, Dean of Student Development