

# **VAIL SKI & SNOWBOARD ACADEMY**

## **Handbook and Guidelines**

**2025-2026**



**10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Highway**

**1 Academy Loop**

**P.O. Box 369**

**Minturn, CO 81645**

**970-328-2830**

**Fax 970-328-2835**

## INTRODUCTION

This handbook is intended for VSSA student-athletes and their parent(s)/guardian(s). It outlines key policies, services, and activities at the Vail Ski & Snowboard Academy. For questions regarding its contents, please contact the main office at 970-328-2830. This handbook supplements the general Eagle County Schools policies provided at enrollment.

## VAIL SKI & SNOWBOARD ACADEMY MISSION

Vail Ski & Snowboard Academy (VSSA) is a 6th - 12th grade public school that provides a rigorous secondary and college preparatory academic program while supporting the athletic and personal goals of our students. In partnership with our sports partners - Ski & Snowboard Club Vail (SSCV), VSSA Developmental Hockey, Vail Gymnastics & Ice Skating, Avon Narwhals Swim Team, and Eagle County Schools - VSSA facilitates the attainment of our students' dreams by offering challenging academics, flexible scheduling, and individualized attention.

## VAIL SKI & SNOWBOARD ACADEMY HISTORY

VSSA was born from a vision shared by Aldo Radamus (SSCV) and Michael Gass (Eagle County Schools), aiming to integrate elite athletic training with public education. In 2007, VSSA launched as a "school within a school" for grades 9–12, operating out of Minturn Middle School with just 31 students and two staff.

Despite a modest beginning, VSSA grew quickly—reaching 90 students by 2010 and earning its own school code from the Colorado Department of Education. In 2011, a dedicated campus opened, expanding to include grades 5–8 and giving younger athletes access to world-class training facilities.

Olympians like Faye Gulini (2010), Heidi Kloser, Adam Crook, Aaron Blunck (2014), Tess Johnson (2018), and Kai Owens (2022) reflect the powerful combination of opportunity and commitment that defines VSSA.

The campus now features a Nordic trail system, trampolines, pump track, skateboard half pipe, rail garden, climbing wall, and a hockey rink. The Minturn Fitness Center, built in partnership with the Town of Minturn and SSCV, enhances on-site training with expert strength and conditioning coaches.

In 2019, VSSA expanded its model to include partnerships with Vail Gymnastics, VSSA Developmental Hockey, and the Avon Narwhals Swim Team—growing enrollment to over 250 students.

Today, VSSA continues to balance rigor and flexibility, developing well-rounded student-athletes and compassionate citizens. In 2024, U.S. News & World Report ranked VSSA the 7th highest-performing public high school in Colorado. Our community remains committed to excellence in both academics and athletics.

# Vail Ski & Snowboard Academy Policies

## Academic Concerns

Excused participation in athletics is a privilege contingent on the student-athlete maintaining a minimum passing score at all times in each class. All student-athletes with scores lower than “2” in any class will be listed on the “VSSA Academic Concerns,” updated weekly. In weeks 1-3, the student, parent, teacher, and contact coach will receive an automated email from the school notifying them of the student's status on the AC list. If the student has not rectified the grade by the beginning of the third week, “red week,” then the student is not eligible to train in the mornings or miss school for athletic training or competitions until they are off the AC list.

| Academic Concerns Progression                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| <b>Week 1</b><br><b>“Green Zone”</b><br><b>Student Planning</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Week 2</b><br><b>“Yellow Zone”</b><br><b>Family Involvement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Week 3</b><br><b>“Red Zone”</b><br><b>OFF TRAINING</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Student-athletes with a grade lower than a “2” in any class will be placed in the “Week 1 Academic Concerns Green Zone”.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | At the start of the second week, student-athletes with a grade that remains lower than a “2” will be placed in the “Week 2 Academic Concerns Yellow Zone.”                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | At the start of the third week, Student-athletes with a grade that remains lower than a “2” in any class will be placed in the “Week 3 Academic Suspension Red Zone.”                                                                                                                                        |
| The student and Advisor will discuss the low grade, and the student will create a remediation plan (This includes the course teacher).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The student and Advisor will discuss the low grade, and the student will create a remediation plan which should include the teacher for the class with the low grade.</li> <li>2. The student will be responsible for emailing their parent, teacher, and advisor their plan to remove themselves from the Academic Concerns list and improve their grade.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The student is required to attend morning study hall and will be pulled from training.</li> <li>2. The student is to remain off training until the teacher has removed them from the AC list.</li> </ol> <p>*See below for additional supports based on season</p> |
| Release from Academic Concerns Restrictions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>As soon as the student-athlete grade has reached a 2, the teacher of the course in question will:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Email the primary coach to release the student-athlete to train or compete and update the “VSSA Academic Concerns” tracker.</li> <li>2. Email student-athletes if they have been released from “Academic Concerns” in their class.</li> </ol> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| Additional Seasonal “Red Zone” Expectations/Supports |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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|                                                      | Fall<br>(August-October)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Winter<br>(November-April)                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Spring<br>(April-June)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Lower School                                         | 1. Not be allowed to participate in on-snow training during school days.<br>2. No early release for sports practice for secondary sport<br>3. Report to Lunch/Recess Academic Support in room 103 at lunch until off red                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 1. Not be allowed to participate in on-snow training during school days.<br>2. Not be provided excused absences from school for training.<br>3. Must report to VSSA for a proctored study period from 10:30 am - 12:30 Tuesday through Friday.  | 1. Not be allowed to participate in on-snow training during school days.<br>2. No early release for sports practice for secondary sport<br>3. Report to Lunch/Recess Academic Support in room 103 at lunch until off red                                                                     |
| Upper School                                         | 1. Not be allowed to participate in on-snow training during school days.<br>2. Must report to all your study halls scheduled in PowerSchool AND lunchtime study hall.<br>3. No leaving campus for lunch (11th and 12th grade)<br>4. No early release for sports practice for secondary sport                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1. Not be allowed to participate in on-snow training during school days.<br>2. Not be provided excused absences from school for training..<br>3. Must report to VSSA for a proctored study period from 10:30 am - 12:30 Tuesday through Friday. | 1. Not be allowed to participate in on-snow training during school days.<br>2. Must report to all your study halls scheduled in PowerSchool AND lunchtime study hall.<br>3. No leaving campus for lunch (11th and 12th grade)<br>4. No early release for sports practice for secondary sport |
| All Students                                         | <p>***If a student is in “The Red Zone” for two consecutive weeks, regardless of the season, a meeting is required between the Principal, teacher, and parent.</p> <p><b>Additional “Academic Concerns Red Zone” Details</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The student-athlete must maintain a grade above “2” for a minimum of a week following the release from “Academic Suspension” before their academic notice status is reset to “Week 1 Academic Concerns.”</li> <li>While away from VSSA on excused athletic absences for three days or more a week, a student’s academic status will not change once they get to yellow (week 2).</li> <li>Any student who skips one Academic Concerns Study Hall day must make up the time with two days.</li> <li>If a student is 15 minutes late or more for study hall, they must make up the time with an additional day of study hall.</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

## Academic Dishonesty

Cheating occurs when you gain an unfair advantage over others on an assignment or test. Such an advantage might come from looking at another student's paper; looking at your notes while a test or quiz is still out; sharing answers in written or spoken form before, during, or after a test, and using technology without permission to find answers, copying or requesting/granting an answer to a homework question is also a violation unless explicit permission to work together is granted by your teacher(s). Collaboration is when multiple students submit one product. If the assignment dictates one outcome per student, collaboration is not permitted unless dictated by the teacher in writing.

Any of these cheating infractions will be ground for disciplinary action. Consequences are based on a tiered approach that encourages learning from mistakes:

**First Offense:** All participants will receive a zero on the assessment. Student-athletes will be responsible for explaining to their parents the situation. The student will document the event with an email to parents, teachers, and the Principal. The student will serve one day of lunch detention.

**Second Offense:** The above protocol will occur. Additional disciplinary action will occur with the Principal, including a loss of athletic training. This event will be recorded as academic dishonesty in the PowerSchool incident report, and colleges may request this information for enrollment decisions.

**Third Offense:** The above protocol will occur. This could result in a week's removal from training.

**Fourth Offense:** This will result in the above disciplinary action, and the student will be required to re-apply to the program with no guarantee of acceptance.

## Academic Accelerations

To be eligible for single subject academic accelerations at the middle school level, multiple criteria must be met.

- Students must be performing above grade level in the subject
  - CMAS scores above grade level
  - STAR scores above grade level
- STAR scores in the top percentile of the current class
- Teacher recommendation
- Scheduling must work with VSSA current master schedule and class sizes

If a student is accelerated in a single subject it could cause scheduling conflicts in their future career at VSSA resulting in the need to take online courses. The cost of these online courses is the responsibility of the family. A full grade level acceleration must be applied for through the Eagle County School District Gifted and Talented Program led by Marjorie Oyler [marjorie.oyler@eagleschools.net](mailto:marjorie.oyler@eagleschools.net)

## Addressing Faculty

All students and parents are requested to address VSSA faculty members by their surnames (Example: Mr., Ms., Mrs.). This request supports an environment of respect and an attitude of academic success.

## Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

The College Board has developed a national program of college-level courses and exams for high school students. VSSA offers preparation in various AP courses. Student-athletes are responsible for the cost of the exams. Vouchers are available for students with financial needs. The exams are given on national test dates in May. Each college establishes a level it will accept for college credit, which can be viewed by visiting individual college websites. Students are required to take the AP exam in order to get the weighted AP credit on their

transcript. Contact our Counselor for more information on AP courses.

### **Attendance and Concurrent Enrollment Courses**

- Students may lose CE/AP credit for unexcused absences, especially if traveling during a Red Week.
- A coach-teacher-student plan is required if students on Red status wish to travel.
- Academic Coaches will monitor plans and attendance.
- Students on Yellow Status must attend Study Hall.

## **Seminar and Your Advisor**

Seminar provides the student-athletes with a faculty advisor who is a conduit between the student, parents, teachers, and coaches. It gives advisors a designated time to check in with each student-athlete by monitoring their academic and athletic progress through weekly goal setting, grade checks, and individual support. The seminar is also used to explore careers & post-secondary options, host speakers, host events, administer district surveys, and other programming. It provides supervised access to teachers for upper school students, where students can request extra help from a teacher. Social and community issues address students' responsibilities to be involved and active in our community through community service projects and awareness of issues that affect our local communities.

## **Athletics outside of VSSA/SSCV**

Student-Athletes can participate in athletic sports at other schools if the student-athlete Program Director approves. Please contact the other school you are interested in having your student-athlete attend for information regarding their athletic programs. Student-athletes must complete the full school day at VSSA before attending practices elsewhere.

Note: All Student-athletes also must uphold the VSSA Academic Concerns policy for playing sports outside of VSSA/SSCV. Students are not excused to leave early for practice if they are on week 2 or 3 (yellow/red) on the Academic Concerns List.

## **Athletics outside of VSSA/SSCV (continued)**

### **Athletic Eligibility for Colorado High School Athletic Association (Not SSCV Programs)**

The student-athlete must be enrolled in at least five classes each semester before and during participation, with no failing grades. Colorado High School Athletic Association (CHSAA) guidelines are as follows.

1. The student-athlete may not fail more than one class per semester, given five or more classes to participate. Eligibility is based on the grades of the previous semester of attendance until CHSAA has determined when eligibility can be regained with successful schoolwork.
2. The student-athlete may not participate in the upcoming year if they reach the age of 19 before August 1st. Students may not participate for more than four years.
3. Any student-athletes who have attended more than four years of high school are ineligible for high school athletics.
4. Student-athletes interested in playing NCAA  college sports need to contact their college counselor for eligibility information or visit [www.ncaaeligibility.com](http://www.ncaaeligibility.com)

# Attendance & Absences

VSSA student-athletes are expected to attend all scheduled classes unless they have an excused absence. Due to our highly condensed academic calendar, families are strongly encouraged to schedule vacations during designated school breaks. Our goal is to hold students accountable for attending class when they are not traveling for school-sponsored athletic events. **Students are responsible for all missed coursework during any absence.**

| ATTENDANCE AND SPORT ELIGIBILITY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| <p>Attendance is reviewed <b>every Monday</b> for the previous week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Students with any unexcused or unresolved absences or walk outs will be ineligible for 1 day training the following week.</li><li>Students may submit documentation to clear absences by <b>Friday at noon</b> to restore eligibility.</li></ul> <p>Students must provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A doctor's/PT note for medical absences</li><li>A teacher note if they were working elsewhere during class time</li></ul> |

| EXCUSED ABSENCES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | PRE-EXCUSED ABSENCES (Non Athletic)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| <p>An absence will be considered excused if it falls under one of the following categories. Students are responsible for all learning and work they missed while absent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Athletic Competitions or Training</b> (must be communicated by the primary sport coach)</li><li><b>Illness or Injury</b> (Doctor's note required if more than one day is missed. Doctor's note</li></ul> | <p>For foreseeable absences not related to athletic events with your sports club or illness:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Complete the <b>Digital Pre-Excused Absence Form</b> on the VSSA Website 5 days in advance</li><li>Students complete a <a href="#">Travel Plan</a> or <a href="#">Supported Travel Plan</a> (website or front office) approved by all teachers</li></ol> |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                |
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| <p>required for all medical/PT appointments)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Medical/Dental Appointments</b> (Doctor's note required)</li> <li>● <b>Family Emergencies</b> (with prior or immediate notice when possible)</li> <li>● <b>Pre-approved Family Travel</b></li> <li>● <b>College Visits</b> (Pre-Excused Absence Form required)</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Primary sport coaches are responsible for reporting all athletic-related absences. Parents do not need to notify the school for those.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Submit the travel plan to the front office</li> <li>4. If approved, the absence will be marked as excused</li> </ol> |
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| UNEXCUSED ABSENCES/ WALKOUTS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | TARDIES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| <p>Any absence not properly documented or approved in advance will be marked unexcused. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Missing class without notifying the school</li> <li>● Traveling during a Red week <b>without</b> an approved plan</li> <li>● Arriving more than 20 minutes late to class</li> <li>● Leaving class without permission or for over 10 minutes ("Walkout")</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students who arrive <b>up to 20 minutes late</b> will be marked <b>Tardy (Unexcused)</b>.</li> <li>● Arriving more than 20 minutes late results in an <b>unexcused absence</b>.</li> <li>● After <b>3 tardies</b>, the student meets with the Principal.</li> <li>● Continued tardiness will result in parent notification.</li> <li>● 3 unexcused tardies in a Semester =1 day of ineligibility for sport, including non SSCV sports.</li> </ul> <p><b>Important:</b> Weather and traffic are not excused absences unless extreme circumstances exist; please plan accordingly.</p> |
| LATE ARRIVALS & EARLY DEPARTURES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT / AP COURSES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Student-athletes must <b>sign in/out at the main office</b>.</li> <li>● Parents must <b>email the Attendance Secretary</b> in advance.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students may lose CE/AP credit for unexcused absences, especially if traveling during a Red Week.</li> <li>● A coach-teacher-student plan is required if students on Red status wish to travel.</li> <li>● Academic Coaches will monitor plans and attendance.</li> <li>● Students on Yellow Status must attend Study Hall.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |



## Traveling for Sport

Every time a student misses school for their sport, they are encouraged to complete a [Travel Plan](#).

TO best support our students this plan is accessible in multiple avenues:

- [Digital Travel Plan](#) - on VSSA Website
- [Printed travel plan](#) - available in the front office
- [Supported Travel Plan](#) - available online or in the front office

**Before each trip, the Student should take the following steps:**

1. **Check Powerschool:** Record your Current grade. Check for any missing assignments or work that needs revision.
  - a. If you are on Red - you MUST meet with the school admin to determine your eligibility for travel.
2. **Check Schoology:** Thoroughly review Schoology for each class to identify all upcoming assignments, due dates, and assessments.
3. **Prioritize:** Determine which assignments are most urgent, what can be done when you travel and what should be done at VSSA.
4. **Plan Ahead:** Use the sections below to create a detailed plan for what you will accomplish before, during, and after your trip.
5. **Teacher Approval:** Share your plan with your teachers, make any edits to plan
  - a. **Schedule Missed Assessments:** If you will miss any quizzes, tests, or presentations, schedule a make-up time with your teacher using Google Calendar before you leave.
6. **Office:** Show your teacher-approved plan on your chromebook to the VSSA front office staff to get your absence excused.

## Community Code of Conduct and Honor:

"As a contributing member of the VSSA community, I will make choices that demonstrate the values of character, courage, commitment, and compassion in everything that I do."

The VSSA community code of conduct and honor is guided by the 4 C's. These codes help instill integrity in all that we do and support the development of solid and upstanding community members.

### The 4C' s as defined by the VSSA Community:

- **Character:** to be an individual who contributes to the integrity of my school, community, and sport by being honest, engaged, and speaking out against bullying, cheating, and disrespect of individuals and property.
- **Courage:** To stand up for all members of my community, speak out against bullying, and do my part to ensure all community members of VSSA feel safe and valued both in school and on the hill.
- **Commitment:** Dedication to academics through perseverance and integrity. Dedication to my community through advocacy for others and the common good and commitment to excellence in my sport through discipline and passion.
- **Compassion:** to choose kindness first, to set an example of helping others without being asked, and to set a standard of acceptance, inclusion, and gratitude for others in our community, both in school and on my team.

**We expect our students to uphold the 4C's, which include not engaging in the following behaviors:**

- **Bullying** can include but is not limited to pushing, shoving, hitting, and spitting, as well as name-calling, picking on, making fun of, laughing at, and excluding someone. Bullying causes pain and stress to victims and is never justified or excusable. Everybody should enjoy our school equally and feel safe, secure, and accepted regardless of color, race, gender identification, popularity, athletic ability, intelligence, religion, nationality, or sexual orientation.
- **Lying** involves intentionally misleading a classmate, teacher, or staff member with false statements, actions, or objects.
- **Cheating** occurs when you gain an unfair advantage over others on an assignment or test. Such an advantage might come from looking at another student's paper; looking at your notes while a test or quiz is still out; sharing answers in written or spoken form before, during, or after a test, and using technology without permission to find answers, copying or requesting/granting an answer to a homework question is also a violation unless explicit permission to work together is granted by your teacher(s). Collaboration is when multiple students submit one product. If the assignment dictates one outcome per student, collaboration is not permitted unless dictated by the teacher in writing.
- **Stealing** involves the intention to take and keep property belonging to someone else without permission or payment.
- **Plagiarism** is when someone takes credit for another's words or ideas, intentionally or unintentionally using direct work from another source without placing material in quotes and citing it.
- **Vandalism** includes not respecting others' property. It is also the deliberate damage of an individual or property. Some acts are very clear (drawing or writing on a desk or wall, throwing a classmate's calculator on the floor, and others may not be, such as those resulting from horseplay.).

### ***Behavioral Support***

#### **Philosophy**

As an educational institution, we believe that behavior interventions should be aligned to the development of the whole person. While it is essential that we maintain a safe school environment that promotes learning for all, we must also honor the fact that we are forming future citizens. In this way, we acknowledge that we must balance safety, citizenship, and learning in the formation of our young adults. Therefore, it is the responsibility as a school and staff to work together to:

- Establish positive relationships & connections with students
- Establish clear, consistent & attainable expectations and procedures
- Utilize multiple strategies to proactively promote positive student behavior
- Individualize rewards and consequences
- Ensure that consequences are fair and proportional
- Ensure that, whenever possible, we provide students the opportunity to grow from their choices

We believe that students' behavior strongly relates to their sense of belonging to the school community and the quality of the relationships with adults within that community. We believe that it is essential that staff foster positive relationships and a sense of belonging for all students.

#### **Discipline**

Respectful behavior is essential to a safe environment conducive to learning. When students make choices that go against our community values, our goal is to make sure we address that behavior and repair any harm done to the community. To achieve this goal students, families, teachers, counselors, and administrators must work together. We believe in consistent and equitable practices.

## The Restorative Approach

The restorative approach provides a highly supportive environment that combines both opportunities for reflection and addresses the harm that was caused. The restorative approach is characterized by growing with people, rather than simply determining a consequence for an action. This means we focus on:

- Repairing harm rather than punishing the offender
- Including the student voice in the process
- Integrating a whole-school community approach
- Incorporating practices and strategies to build students' social/emotional skills
- Creating a Sense of Belonging & Culture of Care

Administration follows a progressive discipline process and utilizes Restorative Practice techniques when applicable.

**Restorative Practices is not a replacement for school discipline.** If a student's misconduct is repeated, or significantly egregious, disciplinary consequences will increase. Additionally, school administration has the responsibility to enforce the ECSD discipline code and apply appropriate consequences as deemed necessary for the infraction. There may be times when, due to severity of the infraction, starting with restorative practices is not possible. In these situations, school administration will always strive to respect the dignity and humanity of the student while determining the appropriate disciplinary action. In these situations, rather than starting with a restorative approach, school leadership will engage in a restorative re-entry process to help integrate the student back into their normal school routines.

| Level 1 Green Behaviors<br>(Initially Handled in the Classroom)                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Disruptive</b> Behavior</li><li>● Disrespect to others</li><li>● Refusal to Obey Instructions</li><li>● Swearing</li></ul> |                                                                                                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Off-task with technology<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Mis-use of technology</li><li>○ Gaming</li></ul></li></ul>  |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Level 1 Green Behavior Consequences                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 1st Offense                                                                                                                                                           | 2nd Offense                                                                                                                               | 3rd Offense                                                                                                                                                         | 4th + Offense                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Verbal warning/quick redirect<br><br>removal of cell phone                                                                                                            | Teacher has a quick talk with the student to make a plan to be successful.<br><br>This may include moving seats, shutting computer etc... | Teacher enters the incident into “ <b>Educator Handbook</b> ” and student serves <b>lunch detention</b> the next detention session.<br><br>*Admin manages detention | <b>If student is not disrupting class:</b><br>Schedule a meeting with the Teacher and AP within 2 days.<br><br><b>If student is disrupting the whole class:</b><br>Call Admin<br>Send student to AP’s Office |

| Level 2 Yellow Behaviors                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aggressively</b> disrespecting others including property</li> <li>• Disrespecting school property</li> </ul> | <i>Frequent violations</i> Managed by Teacher /Administration and entered into "Educator Handbook" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Dress Code Violation</i></li> <li>• <i>Eating in Unauthorized Area</i></li> <li>• Habitual Tardiness</li> </ul> |
| Level 2 Yellow Behavior Consequence                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

Teacher/Admin enters into “**Educator Handbook**” and student serves **lunch detention** the next detention period.

- ❖ Frequent referrals can result in conference with Parent, Admin, Coaches and removal from practice

### Level 3 Red Behaviors

- |                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Threatening</b> behavior</li><li>• Physical Altercations</li><li>• Bullying</li><li>• Stealing</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cheating</li><li>• Plagiarism</li><li>• Vandalism</li></ul> |
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### Level 3 Red Behavior Consequences

Incident submitted in “**Educator Handbook**”

If threatening, student is removed from class.

Red behaviors can result in conference with Parent, Admin, Coaches and removal from practice.

## Dress Code

Vail Ski & Snowboard Academy is an academic community that subscribes to a dress code. VSSA expects that clothing fits appropriately and is neat, clean, and modest. The Principal and the faculty will determine what is considered appropriate. Noncompliance will result in disciplinary consequences.

All Student's everyday expectations:

- No undergarments showing, and no wearing undergarments as outerwear.
- Shorts, dresses, and skirts must be at least a 3” inseam.
- Shirts and tops must have sleeves or wide straps that secure the garment over the shoulders. Tube tops, spaghetti straps, "no-back" or backless shirts are not permitted.
- Garments with inappropriate graphics or texts, including but not limited to sexual connotations, violence, swearing, or drugs/alcohol/tobacco, are not allowed.

### NONCOMPLIANCE

1. First offense: A warning will be given, and the student-athlete will be asked to report to the main office to change immediately. The Principal will be available to meet with the student-athlete to discuss the code and questions they may have.
2. Second offense: The student-athlete will be asked to report to the main office to change immediately. Parents will be notified, and expectations will be conveyed.
3. Third offense: Parents will be notified, and students will be sent home and marked unexcused.

\*\*\*VSSA supports & accepts a gender-neutral dress code. All students should be permitted to wear the clothing they choose, regardless of whether it conforms to traditional gender stereotypes, provided that such clothing does not violate the school’s dress code. Students may dress in accordance with their gender identity and gender expression.

## Driving/Parking Lot

All student-athletes with licenses must adhere to posted speed limits and Colorado law, and drive with care on campus. Faculty parking is in the west parking lot. **Student-athletes should park in the east lot, always on the pavement, and never drive over the grass.** Student-athletes must have insurance and registration for the vehicle they bring to VSSA and need a parking pass in order to park on campus. Students obtain a parking pass from the front office.

## **Concurrent Enrollment (CE) Courses (Previously Dual Enrollment)**

Concurrent Enrollment courses are specific courses at VSSA that earn high school and college credit. VSSA covers the cost of tuition for all students, and Colorado Mountain College generates a college transcript and grades for the student. Parents are required to purchase books, and parents must reimburse Eagle County Schools for any grade lower than a 2. Each year we strive to offer several CE courses for students. With successful course completion, many of our CE courses are guaranteed transfer courses, and the credit will transfer to any in-state public (CO) institution. Contact the College Counselor for more information on CE courses.

## **Early Graduation**

Seniors who will have completed their graduation requirements before the spring term of their senior year and wish to graduate early must complete the following.

1. A written request and accompanying letter to the principal stating the reasons for wanting to graduate early, signed by the student-athlete and their parent(s). This form must be presented to the principal two weeks before the beginning of the term they wish to finish.
2. Upon receipt of the written request, the principal will review the student's academic standing with a college counselor and respond accordingly. If approved, diplomas will be awarded during commencement ceremonies that spring. Only those students who have earned their required credits may participate in the graduation exercise. All outside credits must be submitted and approved ten days before graduation.

## **Enrollment at VSSA**

Enrollment at VSSA requires full-time participation with one of our approved sports partners and enrollment in at least five classes per semester. Enrollment must be confirmed with your sport partner at the beginning of the year. If a student stops participating in their sport full time, they must transfer to another school at the end of the academic year. Please notify the office promptly if you discontinue your sport and share your academic plans for the following school year.

### **Enrollment in online classes outside of VSSA**

Students can opt to take 1 class online if there is a schedule conflict or if they want to pursue a class we do not currently offer. Students must be a full time student ( 5 classes) at VSSA in order to enroll in online classes. Classes required by VSSA but in conflicting scheduled times will be reimbursed up to \$300. If Edgenuity is not an option through the district. The principal must approve any student choosing an online class.

## **Fees at VSSA**

VSSA requires a fee of \$575 for every student. This fee goes towards the following: transportation, books and curriculum materials, field trips and wilderness, social events/dances, classroom supplies, and lab renewables. The fees are bundled and can be paid in full, or a payment plan may be arranged with the Office Manager. **Transcripts and diplomas will be held until fees are paid.**

**Academic Coach Fee:** All families are asked to pay an Academic Coach fee to Ski and Snowboard Club Vail. This fee covers the additional cost of having 4 Academic Coaches for all our students. This fee is \$1000 for middle school students and \$1,200 for high school students.

## Study Hall

All students are required to attend the Study Hall listed in PowerSchool. **Juniors and seniors** with an additional free period may leave campus, provided they are in good academic standing. This privilege will be revoked, if they are placed on the Academic Concerns List (Yellow or Red) or if they have been assigned consequences for poor behavior.

**If non-Juniors or Seniors leave the property with a Junior or Senior, they will receive lunch detention and a parent call home. The Junior or Senior taking underclassmen off campus will lose their privilege to leave school for lunch for two weeks. A second offense may result in a loss of on-campus driving privileges.**

Students cannot leave a class without a hall pass during Study Halls. Study Halls are not gym time.

## Grading Policy - VSSA and Eagle County Schools

### Vision

Grading in Eagle County School District dignifies our students by telling them exactly where they are academically and what they need to be successful. Our practices promote the most aspirational thinking of what our students are capable of as learners, regardless of their race, first language, family income, or previous educational experiences.

### Core Beliefs

Traditional grading practices perpetuate our achievement and opportunity gaps. In contrast, equitable grading practices promote the objective assessment of academic mastery, transparent expectations, growth mindsets, a focus on learning instead of points, and student agency - all key ingredients to serve diverse learners and create culturally responsive classrooms.

1. Equitable grading and assessment practices strengthen student-teacher relationships through building trust and shared understanding. In this environment, all students know where they are academically and what they need to be successful.
2. Students are active collaborators in their learning, partnering with teachers to ensure understanding of learning standards transparently and responsively.
3. By fostering a culture of revision, grades inspire a growth mindset, where achievement is not fixed but rather a learning process through a consistent recalibration of perceived ability.
4. Gradebooks communicate essential and valid information for students, families, and future teachers. Grades represent a student's proficiency at the end of the learning period and honor the principles of a growth mindset.

**Grades Based on Academic Proficiency:** Grades reflect proficiency in knowledge, understanding, and skills (standards) as measured by summative assessments or a body of evidence. Formative assessment of academic skills will be recorded in the grade book to monitor progress but will not be included in the course's final score.

### A Culture of Revision

All students can succeed in achieving proficiency in academic content. Building a culture of revision in our schools challenges students to continue learning until they exceed proficiency. All staff will complete their grading of student assessments within 72 hours (maximum) of receiving them.

### Due Date Extensions

When student-athletes recognize that they cannot meet assignment dates, they may request an extension. The student-athlete request may not always result in an extension. Extensions are reserved for extenuating circumstances and typically involve athletic competitions of an extraordinary nature or medical situation. Each quarter the Upper School teachers have an established make-up testing date. This is not negotiable.

### Forgiveness Policy (course retakes)

Student-athletes who earn a low grade in a course may seek approval from the Counselor to retake the course. The new grade will be binding, and the previous grade **will remain on the transcript to indicate that the course was repeated but will not count towards GPA or credit when the new course and grade are added.** Students need pre-approval when retaking a course.

### Graduation Requirements (Upper School)

The Eagle County School Board sets VSSA Academic Graduation Requirements. Close attention is given to NCAA requirements when a VSSA student-athlete is interested in competing athletically at the college level. Please note that 25 credits are required to graduate. Guidelines for the standard diploma and College Prep Diploma requirements/types are listed in the following table.

| Diploma Types    |                                                                             |                      |                                                                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Standard Diploma |                                                                             | College Prep Diploma |                                                                             |
| <u>Credits</u>   | <u>Subject Area</u>                                                         | <u>Credits</u>       | <u>Subject Area</u>                                                         |
| 4.0              | English                                                                     | 4.0                  | English                                                                     |
| 3.0              | Mathematics                                                                 | 4.0                  | Mathematics                                                                 |
| 3.0              | Science                                                                     | 4.0                  | Science                                                                     |
| 3.5              | Social Studies                                                              | 4.0                  | Social Studies                                                              |
|                  | (0.5 must be Civics/Government and<br>0.5 must be Economics)                |                      | (0.5 must be Government and<br>0.5 must be Economics)                       |
| 1.5              | Physical Education (SSCV)                                                   | 1.5                  | Physical Education (SSCV)                                                   |
| 0.5              | Health                                                                      | 0.5                  | Health                                                                      |
| 1.0              | Practical Skills (CTE, Arts, Internship,<br>Community Service, Sr. Project) | 2.0                  | Foreign Language                                                            |
| 8.5              | Electives (0.5 Credit must be Senior                                        | 1.0                  | Practical Skills (CTE, Arts, Internship,<br>Community Service, Sr. Project) |

|                                   |                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Project to graduate at VSSA).     | 4.0 Electives (0.5 Credit must be Senior Project to graduate at VSSA). |
| <b>STANDARD TOTAL: 25 Credits</b> | <b>COLLEGE PREP TOTAL: 25 Credits</b>                                  |

## Hallways

No bags are allowed to be stored in the hallways to keep the community space clear. Students need a hall pass if in the hallways during class periods- including study halls.

## Internet Use

Student-athletes are expected to use the Internet for educational purposes related to classroom activities. Users are expected to abide by the ECS Technology Agreement. These include but are not limited to avoiding web pages or emails containing abusive, bullying, obscene, vulgar, defamatory, confidential, or threatening information.

## Lunch

Lower school students (6-8) are required to be in the cafeteria for lunch.

High school students can eat lunch at the outside table and in the think tank. Parents understand there will not always be supervision at these times should they choose to be outside the cafeteria and Think Tank.

### Off-Campus Lunch

Juniors and seniors may leave campus for lunch. They are not allowed to bring younger grade students with them. Juniors and seniors transporting 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> graders during school hours will lose their off-campus privileges for lunch & study halls for two weeks. Students in 6th-10th who leave campus without a parent will receive lunch detention, and parents will be notified.

## Parent Conferences and Student-Led Conferences

Parent conferences allow parents and teachers to share information about students' progress, strengths, and weaknesses. Parents and teachers are also encouraged to meet periodically throughout the year as needed. Parents and teachers are strongly encouraged to view themselves as teammates with common objectives; the education and growth of their child.

## Phones: ECSD Cell Phone Policy

ECSD recognizes the importance of communication and collaboration, and provides devices for students to be productive in the classroom. To keep the focus on academics and to reduce unnecessary distractions, the District has a no cell phone policy with all electronic devices other than the student's Chromebook.

### Academic Settings:

- Cell phones and electronic devices, including smart watches and tablets, shall be TURNED OFF when class begins and phones will be stored in the cell phone lockers until the end of the day.
- If a student needs to make an emergency call during the day, they are to go to the office or use a classroom phone with teacher permission.



- Students may not use AirPods or headphones during class unless approved by the teacher.
- Students may not use Smart Watches to message or communicate with others during the day.
- While on school transportation students may use their cell phones and other electronic devices in “silent mode” provided the use of the device, as determined by the supervising staff member or bus driver, in no way disrupts, poses a safety concern or otherwise violates the School District’s Code of Conduct for Students or other parts of this policy.

Action steps for violation of the above policy:

**1st Offense:** Teacher confiscates device, gives it to the office as soon as possible and the student can retrieve it at the end of the day. The teacher and the student have a conversation to help prevent further violations.

**2nd Offense:** Teacher confiscates device, gives it to the office as soon as possible and a parent must retrieve the phone/give verbal permission to release the phone. Students will be required to have a restorative conversation about their device usage with administration.

**3rd Offense:** Administrator will contact parents and inform them that the student is no longer allowed to have the phone on school property.

\*Parents may call the school office during school hours if they need to get a message to their child. If a parent needs to speak with their child, we will arrange for the student to call the parent back using an office phone. ECS is not responsible for any lost or stolen electronic devices. Students are encouraged to leave these items at home, but if a student chooses to bring these items to school they are responsible for storing them in the designated location.

## Physical Education

All student-athletes participating at SSCV in their discipline’s full-time program will receive 1.0 credits of PE per year towards their required credits for graduation.

## PowerSchool (PS)

PowerSchool is the database system that ECS uses to allow parents and student-athletes to access grades and attendance online. PowerSchool can be accessed from the Eagle County Schools website.

## PTO: Parent Teacher Organization

VSSA has an active PTO in which all parents, teachers, and staff are invited to participate. Our goals are:

1. To develop and maintain open communication between parents, teachers, student/athletes, school administration, and coaches
2. To promote a cooperative effort in educating and providing athletic opportunities for the student/athletes
3. To provide support for each entity to create a positive environment among the VSSA community

## Re-application to VSSA

Any VSSA student-athlete who is repeatedly on the *Academic Concerns List* or cannot adhere to athlete expectations or Codes of Conduct at VSSA or our participating sports clubs may be asked to reapply for the upcoming school year.

## School Color and Mascot

School colors are royal blue, white, and black. The school mascot is Lloyd the Yeti.

## Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is unacceptable, whether between students and students or adults and students. Any behavior that is unwanted or that makes another person uncomfortable can constitute harassment. Student-athletes should immediately report this type of behavior to the Principal or Counselor.

## Student Printing

Students' Chromebooks are not set to print. All printing should be done outside of VSSA, or all assignments can be emailed and/or uploaded to Schoology. The teacher has the discretion to specify the format of all assignments.

## Study Hall

Upper School Student-athletes will be assigned a designated classroom while scheduled in a Study Hall. Study Halls are an opportunity to avoid extra homework by completing assignments. Study Halls will be run with an expectation of **"library-like quiet."**

## Student Recourse Communication Model

When a student-athlete does not understand or disagrees with an assignment, a grade, or a teacher's decision or policy, the following steps should be taken.

### Step 1: Direct Communication

- **Student:** The student should first discuss the issue directly with the teacher.
- **Parent:** If the concern is not resolved, or if the student isn't comfortable speaking directly with the teacher, the parent should initiate a discussion with the teacher. This direct communication is the most effective way to address most issues.

### Step 2: Involving an Advisor

- If the issue remains unresolved after a direct discussion with the teacher, the student and/or parent should initiate a discussion with the student's advisor. The advisor will act as a coach or mediator to help facilitate a solution with the teacher.

### Step 3: Escalation to School Leadership

- If the concern is not resolved at the advisor level, the student and/or parent should schedule a meeting with the Principal. The Principal's decision is considered final at the school level.

### Step 4: Final Appeal

- If a parent disagrees with the Principal's final decision, they may file a formal appeal. The appeal should be submitted in writing to the Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services for Eagle County Schools, whose contact information can be found on the district's website. The decision of the Assistant Superintendent is final.

# Teacher Lounge

Under any circumstances, students will not be permitted to enter the teacher’s lounge. This is a FERPA violation as sensitive student documents are printed on the machine in that room.

# Technology & Computers

All students will be provided a Chromebook and are expected to have their Chromebook charged and ready to go daily. Students 6-9th grade MUST use the school assigned device during school hours, not a personal device. The goal is to expand this policy to include all students 6-12 over the next 3 years.

| School Year | Grade Levels for Mandatory ECSD device Use |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 2025-2026   | 6th -9th grades                            |
| 2026-2027   | 6-10th grades                              |
| 2027-2028   | 6-11th grades                              |
| 2028-2029   | 6-12th grades                              |

Students must abide by the Eagle County Schools Technology Policy. The student is financially responsible for their Chromebook. Sharing of laptops is discouraged unless academically necessary. VSSA is an academic environment; movies and video games are not to be watched on campus unless part of an academic assignment. Virtual private networks (VPNs) and proxy servers give users anonymity when browsing the internet as well as provide a way around firewalls and blocked sites. When students use VPNs or proxies to get around the ECSD network filters, however, they put both themselves and others at risk. Ultimately, this is a behavior situation where students are intentionally skirting district filters, which is in violation of the Student Technology Agreement as well as district policy. Our school will treat this like any other behavioral issue (cheating, vandalism, bullying, etc), which first entails a discussion between the teacher and student. If this does not resolve the issue, then parent contact and escalation to school admin will be the next step. Our aim is to keep students safe in the digital and online world. We look forward to working in partnership with families and students in this continuous effort.

## Guiding Principles for AI Use in ECSD

The following principles guide the appropriate and safe use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) in Eagle County School District. We commit to adopting processes, procedures, and agreements to uphold each principle.

**We use AI as a tool to help all students reach their educational goals.**

AI has the potential to help us reach our district’s goals, including improving student learning, teacher effectiveness, and school operations. We aim to make AI tools universally accessible.

**We value AI Literacy.**

Students and staff will build their AI Literacy skills in order to utilize AI tools responsibly and ethically. Critical evaluation of AI responses, paying special attention to inaccuracies, persuasive tone, and bias is essential when using AI tools.

**We reaffirm adherence to existing policies and regulations.**

AI use will align with policies and procedures around protecting student safety, data privacy, and accessibility.

**We maintain human oversight when using AI.**

When partnering with AI, we maintain human oversight throughout the entire process (Human In → Human Out). AI tools can serve as a thought partner but do not replace the critical thinking responsibilities of students, teachers, or administrators.

**We use AI with integrity and honesty.**

Students will be truthful in giving credit to AI sources and tools when submitting work that reflects their learning.

**We strive to monitor, review, and evaluate our district's use of AI.**

Understanding that AI and technologies are evolving rapidly, we strive to monitor, review, and evaluate our district's use of AI to adjust our procedures, practices, and agreements accordingly.

### **ECSD Student AI Agreements**

The agreement statements below align with Guiding Principles of AI Use in ECSD and provide guidelines of acceptable use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) by students in ECSD.

1. Students will use AI tools responsibly, ethically, and in alignment with school rules and district policies. Creating or sharing harmful, misleading, or inappropriate content violates district policies.
2. Students will not enter personal, sensitive, or confidential data into any AI tool, including any student identifiable data related to education records.
3. Students will critically evaluate AI-generated content for potential inaccuracies, persuasive tone, and bias. It is vital to understand the limitations of AI and the importance of cross-referencing with factual sources.
4. Students will follow staff instructions on when and how to use AI on an assignment and will check with the instructor when unsure.
5. Students will follow staff instructions for appropriately disclosing and/or citing AI-generated content. AI is not a substitute for original thought, and students will not claim AI-generated content as their own work.

### **ECSD Staff AI Agreements**

The agreement statements below align with Guiding Principles of AI Use in ECSD and provide guidelines of acceptable use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) by staff members of ECSD.

1. Staff will use AI tools responsibly, ethically, and in alignment with school rules and district policies. Creating or sharing harmful, misleading, or inappropriate content violates district policies.
2. Staff will not enter personal, sensitive, or confidential data into any AI tool, including any student identifiable data related to education records.

3. Staff will critically evaluate AI-generated content for potential inaccuracies, persuasive tone, and bias. It is vital to understand the limitations of AI and the importance of cross-referencing with factual sources.
4. Technologies that claim to detect AI-generated content are not sufficiently reliable in determining cheating and plagiarism. While some staff may use such tools, it is required that they also have a dialogue with the student in cases where plagiarism is suspected.

## Think Tank

The Think Tank is what VSSA has dubbed the library. One Academic Coach is available each hour of the day in the Think Tank, and students are encouraged to make appointments with available coaches and must be approved by the teacher of the class to go see an Academic Coach.

## Website

Our main page can be found at <http://www.eagleschools.net/schools/vail-ski-and-snowboard-academy>

## Withdraw/Fail Upper School

Student-athletes can withdraw from a course with the College Counselor. Please refer to the calendar for drop dates. After those dates, any changes need to be teacher-initiated. Otherwise, a W/F (withdraw/fail) will be placed on the permanent transcript. Exceptions are made only with the Head of School.

## Yeti Times Newsletter

A regular email newsletter outlining events, issues, and upcoming calendar activities is available by sending an email request to the Office Manager. Please email pictures from competitions, news about athletic and academic events, and information that would be helpful for our school community to know. In addition to being an information resource, we want it to be a place to celebrate and highlight our student-athletes.



## Acknowledgment of VSSA Handbook

Please turn it in to your Seminar teacher or complete the Digital Acknowledgement.

**Student-Athlete Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sport:** \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ Academic Concerns Policy
- \_\_\_\_\_ Academic Dishonesty
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attendance & Eligibility
- \_\_\_\_\_ On and Off Campus Lunch

- \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phones
- \_\_\_\_\_ Code of Conduct
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dress Code
- \_\_\_\_\_ Standards Based Grading
- \_\_\_\_\_ Re-application to VSSA
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student Recourse Communication Model
- \_\_\_\_\_ AI Policy
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chromebook Responsibility

I have read, understand, and agree to uphold the policies listed above.

**Student-Athlete Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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