



Rock ACADEMICS

STUDENT AND PARENT HANDBOOK

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I. INTRODUCTION

Learning at The Rock School

Academics at the Rock School is committed to providing a quality, college preparatory program designed for select students in the Professional Division. Chosen for their talent and potential as dancers, Academics students benefit from a supportive and flexible academic program that prepares them for ballet and post-secondary educational and career options. Academics' integrated approach to learning, combined with a nurturing residential life program, provides young artists with a supportive environment and the tools they need to meet life's challenges with confidence, self-discipline, enthusiasm, and the highest standards of personal integrity.

Since the inception of the Academics program in 2001, The Rock School has found that students perform better when provided with structure and support. In light of that, it is The School's policy that students in the Professional Division, who are in 12th grade or below, are required to be in the Academic Support provision. For this 2025-2026 school year, to accommodate the academic needs of its students, Academics offers you school choice. You are free to select any online school program that suits your needs, and provide your dancer's progress monitoring yourself.. Or, you might consider enrolling in one of the three partner programs. We partner in progress monitoring oversight with three different third-party curriculum providers: Acellus Academy, Dwight Global Online School, and the Indiana University High School Online,

Acellus Academy was established in 2013 as a private K-12 school to accommodate a rapidly growing number of students needing access to a fully matriculated distance education. They are accredited by WASC and their mission is to turn the learning process into a science, and thereby develop ways to more effectively teach and empower students to meet and exceed their goals. All courses are asynchronous, self-paced, video-based teaching, and are system-monitored.

Dwight Global Online School blends 150 years of the Dwight School's educational tradition with 21st century emerging technologies, Dwight makes it a priority to focus on and develop each child's spark of genius. Dwight kindles students' interests, developing inquisitive, knowledgeable, self-aware, and ethical citizens who will build a better world. Dwight offers a full range of Advance Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. As with Keystone and CCA, Dwight's online structure supports the individual needs of Rock School students and coincides with their dance training.

Indiana University High School Online is a 9–12 private, Cognia/AdvancEd fully-accredited school for students anywhere. IU began a High School correspondence learning program in 1925. As an online high school embedded in a public research university, IU High School has the ability and the responsibility to offer the necessary support for developing, implementing, and refining rigorous and engaging learning opportunities that help build the strategies for navigating a networked world, and offer personally meaningful educational experiences. The courses are self-paced and the content is delivered and graded by teachers. It is well suited for the unique schedule of Rock School students.

Academics also oversees an English as a Second Language (ESL) conversational program for non-native speakers to gain a grounding in spoken English so that they can participate in both the social and educational aspects of the Rock School.

For all professional division dancers enrolled with The Rock in Academic Support- we provide time, space, and support. We give individualized and small-group instruction, academic and technical support, SEL/advisory lessons, transcript review and some college advising, and several social activities for the school year.

Academics meets Monday through Friday, for three hour blocks, between the hours of 8:30am and 4:40pm. The Academic schedule has been built in tandem with the Ballet schedule. Students in need participate in remediation/Study Hall blocks. Regular attendance and punctuality is necessary and expected for students enrolled in the Rock Academics program.

II. ADMINISTRATION

The Academics Team works with the students in the Academics classroom, to support and supplement their online coursework. All academic and student files remain in secure areas within The Rock School offices at The Rock School for Dance Education.

Chief Academic and Student Life Officer

The Chief Academic and Student Life Officer is responsible for oversight of the academic progress of all enrolled students, as the Director of Academics. They also serve as the direct liaison with Partner-School curriculum providers, students, and parents to provide the optimal individualized educational experience. They maintain a current file for all students, and advise in the college application process. They assist in the coordination of student activities/schedules, orientation, Academics commencement, and other special events.

III. CLASSROOM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Attendance Expectations

Academics students must be present in the Academics classroom during designated times. Attendance is part of each student's Academics grade, which is reported every December and June. The academic schedule is subject to change. If permanent changes are made in the structure of the academic day, students and parents will be notified.

If any student is going to be absent from, late to, or dismissed early from school, the student must email absences@therockschool.org before classes begin. Students must copy their parents on all absence emails. An incident report may be issued for unexcused lateness and absences. Students who skip a part of or the entire day of school will make up time at the discretion of the Academics Team.

Students may be excused from academic sessions, at the discretion of The School Directors, generally for the following reasons: rehearsals nearing shows or competitions, dance demonstrations at local schools, or scheduled classes.

The Rock School does not support students leaving early for and/or returning late from vacation as this interferes with social, academic, and artistic/dance participation in school. Families whose needs make this imperative should contact the School Director, the Residence Managers, and the Director of Academics before the absence. Prior to leaving, students must also inform the Artistic Staff who would otherwise expect them in class.

Academics students are required to follow the ballet class attendance policies as stated in the 2025-2026 Professional Division Student Handbook. If behind in coursework, a student may be dismissed from dance class or rehearsals and assigned to Study Hall at the discretion of the school Directors.

Pacing of Assignments

Students are expected to make their way through the online curriculum in order. Students should not skip over assignments without permission from their online instructor and the Director of Academics. Online curriculums are designed to pace students to maintain a reasonable balance and learning.

Academics staff will assist students in managing their time wisely, help them when they get stuck or confused, and offer tutoring sessions on complex subjects. Like conventional schools, the final responsibility for completing assignments and tasks rests with the students themselves and with their parents.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is a vital aspect to the Academics program. Students should not misrepresent the truth about their progress in their classes on weekly academic updates. Doing so can result in suspension or expulsion from The Rock School.

All Academics students must sign a Statement of Academic Integrity at the start of the school year (available in Appendix). All forms of academic dishonesty – including but not limited to plagiarism and cheating – are not tolerated and could result in suspension from the academic program, suspension from dance class or rehearsals, and a 0% on the assignment in question. Repeated serious violations of any kind and at any time in the student's educational career (including but not limited to academic violations) could result in expulsion from The Rock School.

First Offense: When the Academic Integrity Violation pertains to online coursework, the third-party curriculum provider is the final arbiter for judgments regarding their academic integrity policy, and cheating on an assignment(s) may result in 0% for the assignment(s) in questions, and may result in failure for the entire course.

Second Offense: The same as the first offense, plus a meeting with the School Directors to discuss the student's dedication to dance and their future at The Rock School.

Third Offense: The School Directors will decide whether the student will be expelled from The Rock School.

Academics Grade

All students will receive a Rock Academics grade, though this grade is not included in educational transcripts. This grade is based on student attendance in each Academics session, daily behavior and cooperation, Academics activities and assignments, and workshop attendance and participation.

Academic Updates

Parents will also receive from their child, via email, a bi-weekly academic update listing their child's academic "benchmarks" and current grade in each course. The system is designed to help students stay on track and to assist them when they have difficulty with the online curriculum. Benchmarks are due each Friday.

Parents will receive Progress Updates from Academics. The Academics Progress Report summarizes student data from student course grades and progress, their academic updates, attendance, and service learning. The Rock School cannot determine or overrule any grade that third-party teachers award to students. However, Academics staff will assist students in navigating and completing all of their online courses.

Transcripts

Transcripts are generated and determined by our third-party curriculum providers; however, The Rock School assists families with most transcript-related questions when students are applying to college or transferring from The Rock School to another high school or program.

IV. CODE OF CONDUCT

It is the goal of Academics to create a safe learning environment for all students, regardless of academic or dance achievement. As such, it is imperative that all students act in a respectful manner to all members of the school community. The Rock School expects students to conduct themselves in such a way as to demonstrate proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, to know and exhibit positive behavior and good manners, to abide by school rules which have been developed to ensure the safety and accountability of all within the school community, and to accept responsibility for their own actions and the consequences of inappropriate behavior.

Bullying

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying of any sort, in any and all of its forms (including cyber-bullying), is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Academics follows a strict Zero-Tolerance policy towards bullying. Any instances of it will be brought promptly to the attention of The Rock School Directors for disciplinary action. Students experiencing or with knowledge of bullying should report it to the Director of Academics or the Academics Assistant Manager immediately.

V. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Students are expected to conduct themselves with proper decorum, be respectful to faculty, staff, and other students, and follow the rules of conduct of The Rock School and Academics. If a student fails to abide by these rules, disciplinary measures may become necessary. Discipline may include any or all of the following, depending upon the infraction and at the discretion of the Director of Academics: mandatory study hall, conference with the student, parent contact, or conference with the Directors of The Rock School.

Academic Probation

Rock Academics maintains high expectations for all students in order to maximize their academic potential. Students are to complete all assignments, participate in class, and demonstrate an overall sense of responsibility for their success. The Academics Director may place a student on official Academic Probation and Remediation if the student receives a C-minus or below in any subject/course, does not complete courses in a timely manner, or if his or her overall academic performance is judged unsuitable. Students on Academic Probation lose their sign-out privileges and may be dismissed from dance class or rehearsals and assigned to study halls, at the discretion of the School Directors and Director of Academics. Students who remain on official Academic Probation for two or more consecutive semesters may be dismissed from Academics and/or The Rock School (at the discretion of the School Directors).

Academic Probation is a change in status that serves as a necessary reminder that work in one or more classes is tardy and must be completed. It is not part of a student's permanent record at The Rock School and no mention of Academic Probation is ever reported to any other school, agency, or college. Students remain on Academic Probation until they have caught up with all their overdue coursework.

VI. ACADEMIC PARTNER SCHOOL-PROVIDER POLICIES

It is the responsibility of the student and parents to know and adhere to all academic policies and schedules delineated by the educational provider.

VII. OTHER CHOICE SCHOOL POLICIES

It is the responsibility of the student and parents to know and adhere to all academic policies and schedules delineated by the educational provider of choice.

VIII. ADVISING

All Academics students are advised on both career and college preparatory paths, and their academic schedules are determined accordingly. All Academics students are encouraged to apply to college, even if they have their sights set firmly on a company or on another endeavor. This experience will prepare them to take courses in the off-season and/or to transition to a new career after their dance career.

The purpose of college advising is to support the plans of each individual student and family in their college and career planning. The Academics Director will help students navigate CommonApp accounts and coordinate materials. Provider schools guidance counselors provide the required school data and content in the applications. Partner Schools IUHS and Dwight offer college planning courses and their academic advisors ensure that students have all necessary information and meet all requirements for the college application process and matriculation into college.

IX. STANDARDIZED TESTING

We provide accompaniment to three SAT testing dates in Philadelphia, over the course of the school year, for no additional fee.. We coordinate, with a local cooperative school, to facilitate most AP Exams, at a fee.

No Test Prep courses are provided by The Rock Academics. Students, parents, schools, and Academics will work together to ensure site locations are secured when needed. Parental communication to the Academics Director is key to successful test arrangements. *What follows is a typical testing calendar for high school.*

Tenth Grade:	Spring	(PSAT/NMSQT) Advanced Placement (AP) Tests for some students SAT Subject Test for some students
Eleventh Grade:	October - June	PSAT/NMSQT SAT, SAT Subject Test, or ACT Advanced Placement (AP) Tests for some students
Twelfth Grade:	September - May	SAT, SAT Subject Test, or ACT Advanced Placement (AP) Tests for some students

Students may take the SAT (tests critical reading, math, and writing ability) and SAT Subject Tests as many times as they choose. The dates recommended above correspond with the level of preparation for eleventh and twelfth grade students in the Academics program.

X. WITHDRAWING FROM ACADEMICS

Academics at the Rock School is a nine-month program (September to June) and a student enrolled in Academics is expected to maintain enrollment for the entirety and duration of the academic year. Withdrawal from Academics is governed by the Rock School's Tuition Agreement and Tuition Refund Insurance Plan (as described in the Scholarships, Tuition, and Payment Information of the *Student and Parent Handbook for the Rock School for Dance Education*).

Policy Regarding Readmission into Academics

If a student withdraws from Academics for any reason, they are eligible to audition for readmission to The Rock School the following year. When a student leaves because of academic or discipline problems, The Rock School wants to accord him/her an opportunity to return, provided that exceptional progress has been made in the interim. In reviewing a student's eligibility for readmission, the School Directors and the Director of Academics consider the following:

The student's overall record at The Rock School and the reasons for his/her withdrawal or dismissal; and

The student's achievement at his/her new school, including his/her academic, extracurricular, and disciplinary record.

The School Directors have sole discretion to decide whether or not it is appropriate for a student to be readmitted to any program at The Rock School.

XII. TECHNOLOGY - STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The Rock School Academics program recognizes that access to technology in school is necessary to give students opportunities to learn and earn credits, communicate, and develop life skills. We are committed to helping them understand and use technology acceptably and honestly.

This Student Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) provides guidelines and behaviors that students are expected to follow when using school technologies or when using personally-owned devices on the school campus.

- Technology and the network are intended for educational purposes.
- All activity over the network or using school technologies may be monitored and retained.
- Students are expected to follow the same rules for good behavior and respectful conduct online as offline.
- Engaging in dishonorable content will not be tolerated.
- Misuse of school resources may result in disciplinary action.
- Through student network DNA filters, we make a reasonable effort to ensure students' safety and security online, but will not be held accountable for any harm or damages that result from misuse of school technologies.

Examples of Acceptable Use

Students will:

- Use school technologies for school-related activities and research.
- Follow the same guidelines for respectful, responsible behavior online that I am expected to follow offline.
- Treat school resources carefully, and alert staff if there is any problem with their operation.
- Encourage positive, constructive discussion if allowed to use communicative or collaborative technologies.
- Alert a teacher or other staff member if I see threatening/bullying, inappropriate, or harmful content (images, messages, posts) online.
- Use school technologies at appropriate times, in approved places, for educational pursuits only.
- Cite sources when using online sites and resources for research; ensure there is no copyright infringement.
- Recognize that use of school technologies is a privilege and treat it as such.
- Be cautious to protect the safety of myself and others.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Reasonable, good judgment is expected when using school technologies.

Users of the network or other technologies are expected to alert IT staff immediately of any concern for safety or security.

Technologies Covered:

The Rock School may provide internet access, loaner laptop computers, or devices, videoconferencing capabilities, online collaboration capabilities, message boards, email and more. Personal devices which are brought to school and used on campus include laptops or similar devices, phones, gaming devices and more.

APPENDIX A: ACADEMICS STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The Academics community and the larger Rock School community are founded on the belief that young students are building skills for life in an environment where honesty, integrity, and responsibility are taken seriously. The purpose of this statement is to clarify the expectation that all students will demonstrate academic integrity for the duration of the school year.

I affirm that the work in all aspects of my courses, including the work on my assignments and exams, is mine alone, and that any and all submissions for grades, great or small, do not contain copied or plagiarized material from any unauthorized source, including text-generator technology, answer-share sites, or the work of past students, peers, friends, or parents.

Furthermore, when I receive my graded exams or projects back from Acellus Academy, IU High School, or Dwight Global Online School, or the school I am enrolled in, I affirm that I will not share them with other students. I understand that submitting plagiarized answers—or sharing exam or project answers with others—is a violation of School rules and may result in a 0% for the work in question and suspension or expulsion from Academics and The Rock School.

I affirm that my regular Academic Updates will be accurate and up-to-date. I understand that any inaccuracies, great or small, on my Weekly Academic Update may be construed as an Academic Integrity Violation.

I am aware that Academic Integrity Violations of any kind are unacceptable and may result in immediate detention, suspension, loss of scholarship, or expulsion from Academics and The Rock School.

I am aware that if I am found responsible for an Academic Integrity Violation that The Rock School may declare the violation to parents and Acellus Academy, IU High School, Dwight Global Online School, or to any school I attend, as well as to colleges and universities, if asked.

I affirm that academic honesty is both a matter of personal integrity and community accountability.

I recognize that The Rock School has a vested interest in creating and maintaining a positive learning environment for all students.

I recognize that I am encouraged to report Academic Integrity Violations to one of my teachers, either anonymously or in person with the knowledge that The Rock School will shield the identity of witnesses and investigate all alleged violations.

APPENDIX B: ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Rock School Academic Handbook 2025-2026 Acknowledgement

Student Name: _____

Student Section

I acknowledge I reviewed The Rock School's Academics Handbook including Appendix A: Statement of Academic Integrity. I agree to adhere to the Statement of Academic Integrity and all policies and norms contained in the handbook. I understand that if I violate the rules I may face disciplinary actions.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent or Guardian Section

I acknowledge I reviewed The Rock School's Academics Handbook including Appendix A: Statement of Academic Integrity. I hereby release the school, its personnel, and any institutions with which it is affiliated, from any and all claims and damages of any nature arising from my child's use of, or inability to use, the Rock School's electronic network, including, but not limited to claims that may arise from the unauthorized use of the network to purchase products or services. I will review with my child *The Rock Academics Student and Parent Handbook 2025-2026* Section XII. Technology Student Acceptable Use Policy. I will emphasize to my child the importance of following the rules for personal safety. I give permission to issue a Network account for my child and certify that the information contained in this form is correct.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (please print): _____

Date: _____