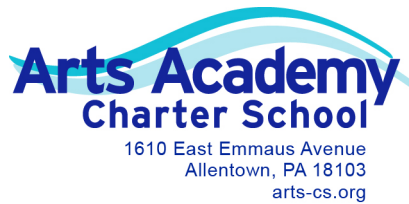


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Board Policy 2.3.3

Weapons

The Arts Academy Charter School's Board of Directors recognizes the importance of a safe school environment relative to the educational process. Possession of weapons in the school setting is a threat to the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law.

The following Weapons and Anti-Violence Policy of the Arts Academy Charter School has been adopted by the Board. Students, parent/guardians, employees and others are subject to the provisions of this policy while on school property and/or in attendance at school related functions.

Weapon – Anything readily capable of lethal use and possessed under circumstances not manifestly appropriate for lawful uses which it may have. In addition, the term includes a firearm which is not loaded or lacks a clip or other component to render it immediately operable, and components which can readily be assembled into a weapon. The term weapon, as used in this section, shall also include, but not be limited to, any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku stick, firearm, shotgun, rifle, bomb, grenade, machine gun, sawed-off shotgun, firearm specially made or specially adapted for concealment or silent discharge, any blackjack, sandbag, metal knuckles, dagger, knife, razor or cutting instrument, the blade of which is exposed in an automatic way by switch, push-button, spring mechanism, and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury. In addition, tear gas, smoke bombs, or any explosive device, including firecrackers and other pyrotechnic devices, are further construed as a weapon.

1. The Board recognizes that all students have a right to be educated in a safe environment; all employees have a right to work in a safe environment; and the community has a right to expect a safe school environment.
2. The Board recognizes that the possession of weapons, facsimiles or look-alikes, on school premises threatens the safety of our entire school community.
3. It is, therefore, Arts Academy Charter School's policy to prevent and prohibit the possession, transmission, handling, use, or storage of any weapon, facsimile or look-alike, on school property, at school sponsored events, or in any conveyance providing transportation to or from any school, school event or function, by any student, employee or other person. This policy shall apply with equal force to vehicles parked

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on school property.

4. Weapons offenses shall be reported to the Principal, and/or designee, according to administrative regulations and shall also be reported to the Salisbury Township Police Department.
5. Any person discovering possession, transmission, handling or use of a weapon, facsimile or look-alike, or a threat to use a weapon shall immediately notify the Principal or designee of the apparent violation.
6. Violations of this policy involving possession, transmission, handling or use of a weapon, will result in immediate suspension at the discretion of the School administrator(s), and may result in a recommendation for permanent expulsion from school by the Board in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and administrative regulations. Violations of this policy involving handling or use of a firearm will result in suspension for ten (10) days and will result in a recommendation for permanent expulsion. In addition, counseling may be required as a condition for readmittance to school.
7. Violations of this policy, involving possession, transmission, handling or use of a facsimile or look alike may result in immediate suspension at the discretion of the School administrator(s), and may result in a recommendation for expulsion from School by the Board, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and administrative regulations. In addition, counseling may be required as a condition for readmittance to school.
8. This policy will be implemented through the cooperative efforts of the School staff, parents/guardians, students, Salisbury Township Police Department, and community of the Arts Academy Charter School.

Anti-Violence Policy

Violence has become a social problem of epidemic proportions which is furthermore reflected in our schools. Because young people are not learning to constructively manipulate the differences they encounter on a daily basis, many see few alternatives to either fleeing from conflict or fighting.

Conflict, however, is a normal and essential part of life. Consequently, the manner with which one manages his/her conflict, and difference, often divides us and inhibits our ability to confront common problems. Students need to acquire skill and knowledge that will enable them to resolve conflict in a nonviolent manner. The continued implementation of dispute management is a means of alleviating conflict and dispelling violence. It shall therefore be the intent of the Arts Academy Board of Directors to support the implementation of peer mediation facilitated by our Guidance Counselor.