



LIONHEART
A C A D E M Y
O F T H E T R I A D

Parent Student Handbook 2019-2020

Lionheart Academy of the Triad
2802 St Leo's Street
Greensboro, NC 27405
336-676-6075

LIONHEART ACADEMY OF THE TRIAD PARENT AND STUDENT HANDBOOK

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MISSION

To develop diploma seeking students with Autism Spectrum Disorders into independent adults through research based education strategies designed to increase academic and social success.

WELCOME LETTER FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Lionheart Families,

As the Head of School for Lionheart Academy of the Triad, I welcome you to the start of our school year! I am eagerly anticipating a successful and rewarding year, and look forward to working with the dedicated staff, board, parents and community to provide an exceptional educational experience for Lionheart students.

The start of a new school can signal feelings of both excitement and trepidation, and I thank you for entrusting your children to the Lionheart staff. We do not take lightly our responsibility in ensuring your children experience a highly engaging educational experience in a safe and nurturing environment. We are thrilled to partner with our families as they embark on the next leg in their children's academic journey.

I am excited and honored to be a part of the Lionheart family for what I know will be an amazing school year. I look forward to seeing the academic and social growth the students will make at our school as well as developing a relationship with our parents. Your questions, concerns, and input are welcome at any time.

Working together, we can make this an incredible journey.

Sincerely,

Lorie Dietz
Head of School
ldietz@lionheartacademy.com

SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Lionheart Academy of the Triad
2802 St. Leo's Street
Greensboro, NC 27405
Phone – 336.676.6075



Lionheart Academy 2019-2020 Calendar

Date

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| August 21-27 | Teacher Work Days |
| August 26 | Open House |
| August 28 | 1st Day of School |
| September 2 | Labor Day – NO SCHOOL |
| September 20 | Teacher Work Day – NO SCHOOL |
| October 9 | Teacher Work Day – NO SCHOOL |
| October 28 | End of 1 st quarter |
| October 31- November 1 | Teacher Work Day - NO SCHOOL – Parent Conferences |
| November 11 | Veteran’s Day – NO SCHOOL |
| November 27-29 | Thanksgiving Holiday – NO SCHOOL |
| Dec. 18 | Early Release |
| Dec. 19 – Jan. 3 | Christmas Holidays – NO SCHOOL |
| January 6 | Classes Resume |
| January 17 | End of 2 nd quarter |
| January 20 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – NO SCHOOL |
| January 21-22 | Teacher Work Day – NO SCHOOL |
| February 14 and 17 | Teacher Work Day – NO SCHOOL |
| March 26 | End of 3 rd quarter |
| March 26-27 | Teacher Workday – NO SCHOOL – Parent Conferences |
| April 3 | Early Release |
| April 6-13 | Spring Break– NO SCHOOL |
| May 25 | Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL |
| June 5 | Early Release - Last Day of School - End of 4 th quarter |
| June 8-9 | Teacher Workdays |

SECTION I - ACADEMICS

Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder have different learning needs that exceed the typical school environment. Independence can be achieved post high school using programming developed to address their specific needs. Learning is a behavior. As a result, research-based strategies such as Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and Cognitive Behavior/Social Thinking will drive individualized instruction and programming used throughout their education at Lionheart Academy of the Triad.

SECTION II - STUDENT ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

- Drop off is at 7:45 A.M.
- Instruction begins at 8:00 A.M.
- All students will be dropped off using the drop off line through the school parking lot
- Pick- up will begin at 2:40 P.M.
- Pick up will be conducted the same way as drop off and school staff will be stationed at the pick-up line to assist students and parents.

Late Arrivals/Early Departures

We strongly encourage parent/guardians to be prompt and avoid early departures. If you bring your student late, walk them in and sign them in at the front desk.

Late Arrivals

- Students are required to be in their classrooms or at assemblies at 8:00 A.M.
- If you arrive after 8:00, please walk in with your student and sign them in at the front desk.

Early Departure (Check out)

- The school day ends at 2:45 P.M. for students.
- If a child needs to leave school before dismissal time, parent/guardians should send a note at the start of the school day stating the time and reason for departure.
- Parents must come into the school and sign the child out.

Inclement Weather

Weather conditions may make it necessary to close the school or change the time schedule. When inclement weather occurs, Lionheart Academy will email all families as well as post our Delay/Closing/Early Dismissal on: **WFMY News2, Fox 8 News, and WXII News**. If you do not get these news channels, you can download their app and monitor closings from the News app on your phone.

SECTION III – STUDENT CONDUCT

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

The children will learn vocabulary consistent with the Social Thinking Program (Michelle Garcia Winner). This vocabulary and the accompanying strategies will be used throughout the school day to help students with internalization of social skills, acceptable behavior and self-regulation. Verbal prompting will be used to remind students of social thinking concepts and expected behavior in the classroom as well as the general school environment. Students are expected to adhere to the following:

- Students will follow directions given by all school staff including Head of School, teachers, assistant teachers, substitute teachers and other authorized school personnel.
- Students will be respectful of others and understand expected (acceptable) behavior as it is outlined in the Social Thinking Program (Michelle Garcia Winner).
- Students will not present a danger to school personnel or fellow students.
- Students will not violate any Federal, State or local law including possession and/or discharge of fireworks, discharge of fire alarm, obscene or indecent acts, libelous or slanderous acts toward school staff or other students.
- Students will not willfully or maliciously mark, damage, deface or destroy personal property of another student or staff member or school property.
- Students will not be involved in any form of harassment or bullying. Harassment or bullying including cyber bullying shall be promptly reported to the Head of School. Teachers may be notified to maintain classroom discipline.
- Students will not possess, use, distribute, sell, possess with intent to sell or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, anabolic steroid, other controlled substance, any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, wine, liquor, drug paraphernalia, unauthorized prescription drug or any other chemicals with the intention of altering the students' mood or behavior.

WEAPONS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Please refer to North Carolina General Statute 14-269.2 and any other Federal or State law dealing with weapons on school property. All students shall comply with State and Federal laws governing student conduct and behavior. Weapons of any type are not allowed on educational property including the school building, campus, grounds, or recreational area. Types of weapons include guns, BB guns, rifles, pistols, air rifles, explosives, blackjacks, knives, sling shots, brass knuckles, etc. The Head of School will report any violators to the appropriate law enforcement agency. If a student brings a weapon on school property, they can be suspended for the rest of the year. Possession of a firearm on school campus is a felony. Any "look alike" weapon is a violation of North Carolina Law.

DRESS CODE

All students are required to wear khaki pants, shorts or skirts and a navy/burgundy Lionheart t-shirt. Jeans are not allowed except on designated jean/dress-down days. All students are required to wear shoes. Closed toe shoes will be required in physical education class. Shorts, skirts and skorts must be longer than the longest finger of the hand when arms are at the side while standing. Dress that is deemed by the Head of School or staff as distracting or inappropriate for the school environment will

not be allowed. The Head of School and staff have complete discretion in what is deemed to be acceptable attire. If the Head of School or school staff makes a determination that any attire is unacceptable, disruptive, or inappropriate, to the extent possible the student will be asked to modify their attire so as to minimize any distraction created by the inappropriate attire. If it is not possible to modify the attire as described, then the Head of School or staff reserves the right to remove the student from the educational environment until such time as a parent or guardian can come to the school to modify the inappropriate attire.

PERSONAL PROPERTY/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Any disruptive or potentially dangerous items are not allowed on school grounds or at school events. All materials brought to school should be for educational purposes only. Items such as cameras, expensive jewelry or large sums of money are not the responsibility of the school. Students are not allowed to use cell phones or personal entertainment devices. Additionally, toys, cards and games or other items that in the discretion of the school staff are deemed disruptive, are not allowed. If a device or item is confiscated due to violation of this policy, then a parent is required to pick up the item at the school.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

Lionheart Academy of the Triad Head of School is experienced with Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) and will perform functional behavior analysis for intervention when needed. A behavior intervention plan will be added to the student's school day. If behavior intervention plan is already in existence, it will be revised. Quarterly meetings will be held to review the behavior intervention plan unless otherwise indicated. If problem behavior extends beyond what usually exists with children with ASD, the following discipline procedures will be executed.

Classroom:

1. Student/Teacher Conference
2. Phone conference with parent
3. Parent/Teacher Conference
4. Referral to Head of School to discuss behavior plan

In the event that a child's behavior escalates to the point where the school must entertain a suspension or expulsion, Lionheart Academy will follow the policies and procedures as set forth in North Carolina General Statutes §§ 115C-390 through 115C-392.

SECTION IV - PARENT INVOLVEMENT

PTO – Parent Teacher Organization

The PTO promotes a working partnership among parents, the board, school staff and the community. Parents are an integral part of Lionheart Academy and are necessary for school success. The following committees need volunteers:

- a. Events and Socials – This committee will help with special events in the classroom throughout the year.
- b. Fundraising – This committee will develop and run fundraising campaigns to provide working capital and supplemental operating funds.

Volunteering – Recommended Volunteer Hours

Each parent or guardian of a child who attends Lionheart Academy is encouraged to contribute a minimum of 10 volunteer hours per school year. Volunteer hour records shall be maintained by the school office.

CHECK IN FOR PARENTS/VOLUNTEERS

All visitors/volunteers must enter the school through the front door and report to the office.

SECTION V – ATTENDANCE

North Carolina maintains state compulsory attendance laws as outlined in North Carolina General Statute § 115C-378. Lionheart Academy of the Triad will follow the policies and procedures as outlined in said statute in the event a student misses more than the statutorily allowed days without intervention.

SECTION VI - STUDENT HEALTH & WELLNESS

GARRETT'S LAW

Senate Bill 444, Garrett's Law, mandates that schools provide parents and guardians with information about meningococcal meningitis, influenza and their vaccines. Information about Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and the vaccine will also be provided. This vaccine is available for females and may prevent certain pathologies. Copies of all this information will be available in the school office. Additional information can be found at www.cdc.gov and www.immunizationinfo.org.

HEAD LICE PROCEDURES

No student will be allowed to stay in school if they have head lice. A parent or guardian will be notified if head lice are found on their child. The parent will be given written treatment instructions. If only nits are detected then the student may remain in school and written treatment instructions will be sent home. Three excused absences will be granted per incident. If student has repeated infestations, the Head of School may notify social services.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Immunization records are required to be on file at Lionheart Academy of the Triad before the start of school. If we have not received your child's completed immunization record within 30 days of enrollment, your child will not be allowed to attend school until the records are provided.

MEDICATIONS

Written authorization signed by a parent/guardian is required before prescription and over-the-counter medicine can be administered to a student. Forms will be available from your child's teacher. All medicine must be labeled with the child's name and instructions on how and when to administer the medication. Medicine changes need to be updated in school records so that in an emergency, correct medicine and doses can be given to medical professionals.

SICK CHILDREN

Please keep your child home if he/she is not feeling well or has a temperature. Children should not be at school until they have gone 24 hours without vomiting or fever. If your child becomes sick at school, you will be contacted immediately to pick him/her up. If you can't be reached, your emergency contact person will be called.

SCHOOL LUNCH

Hot lunches will be available at Lionheart Academy cafeteria. Hot lunches need to be purchased in advance through www.boonli.com.

SMOKING AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS

All tobacco products are prohibited on school property including vehicles on campus. Students, parents, staff and visitors may not use any kind of tobacco products including smokeless tobacco, electric cigarettes or other vapor devices.

SECTION VII - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SNACKS AND SCHOOL PARTIES

If you bring snacks or treats to the classroom, please be mindful of any food allergies or special diets of all students.

COURT ORDERS

Parent/guardians with legal documents about custody, visitation, name changes, etc should submit a copy to The Head of School.

CHANGE IN STUDENT PERSONAL INFORMATION

If there are any changes to your contact information (i.e. job change, address change) please notify the school office. It is very important that we have correct contact information in the event of sickness, emergencies or inclement weather situations.

LOST AND FOUND

It is recommended that all loose items be labeled for quick identification. Items not identified will be placed in "Lost and Found". Unclaimed lost and found items will be donated to charity two weeks after the end of the school year.