SKY ISLANDS

HIGH SCHOOL

2025 – 2026

Student/Parent Handbook

"Soar with Nobility, Speed and Wisdom: Embracing Change, Guiding Transitions"

Sky Island High School
6000 E. 14th St.
Tucson, AZ 85711

Phone: 520-382-9210

Website: skyislands.org

Please review this information so that you and your family are aware of the school rules and expectations of what is appropriate during school hours, school-sponsored activities, and in the areas adjacent to the school.

School Mission

Sky Islands, established in 2008, is a vibrant teaching and learning community that provides a safe and welcoming space of mutual support, respect, and responsibility. The mission of Sky Islands is to provide a free and educationally challenging program of study that is aligned with Arizona State Standards and prepares students to go beyond the standards in multiple ways—to be creative, thoughtful, and engaged members of their communities; to know and implement the principles of environmental sustainability; and to be critical, inquiry-based thinkers.

At Sky Islands we believe that every person, if given an intellectually rich and safe place in which to thrive, is creative and capable of charting their own destiny in positive ways. We believe young people want to learn and to become part of something larger, and that adults play an essential part in that endeavor. Sky Islands is a place where the practices of inquiry and trust are continually renewed, and the educational community is a living and responsive creation.

At the center of the public philosophy of the Sky Islands is the expectation that staff and students alike take responsibility for the teaching/ learning environment that is the school. The curriculum at Sky Islands is weighted to provide students with strong habits of mutual respect, trust, and collaboration, as well as promote intellectual inquiry and critical thinking. Success at Sky Islands is a responsibility shared by students, parents, teachers, and administrators. Our norms and policies are aligned with the laws of the State of Arizona to promote an orderly, safe, and positive learning environment.

Board Members

Joseph Mais, President (joseph@skyislands.org)
Allie Silber, Member (allie@skyislands.org)
Veronica Duran, Member (veronica.duran@skyislands.org)

Administrative Team

Position	Name	Email
Head of School	Veronica Duran	Veronica.duran@skyislands.org
Student Support Coordinator	Katherine Richard	Katherine.richard@skyislands.org
Office/Register Manager	Victoria Almanza	Victoria.almanza@skyislands.org
Homeless/Mckinney-Vento Liaison	JoAnn Belvedere	Joann.belvedere@skyislands.org
Security/Facilities/Teacher	Michael Frasquillo	Michael.Frasquillo@skyislands.org

Campus Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Friday (1/2 Day for Professional Development)
8:00 am - 1:30 pm

Daily Schedule

M, T, W, TH			Friday	Schedule
1st	8:30 – 9:20		1st	8:30 – 9:08
2nd	9:23 – 10:13		**2nd**	9:11 – 9:49
3rd	10:16 – 11:06		3rd	9:52 – 10:30
4th	11:09 – 11:59		4th	10:33 – 11:11
Lunch	11:59 – 12:44		5th	11:14 – 11:52
5th	12:47 – 1:37		**6th**	11:55 – 12:33
6th	1:40 – 2:30		**Early Release**	12:33

Calendar 2025-2026

IMPORTANT DATES	DATE
First Day of Class/School (1/2 day)	July 31, 2025
Early Release – ½ day	August 1, 2025
Labor Day – holiday – NO SCHOOL	September 1, 2025
Parent/Teacher Conference (1/2 Day)	September 18, 2025
End of 1st quarter - progress reports	October 2, 2025
Teacher Planning Day/Report cards/No School	October 3, 2025
Fall Break	October 6th - 10th
Veteran's Day – No School	November 11, 2025
Thanksgiving Day – No School	November 27th – 28th
End of First Semester	**December 18, 2025**
Teacher Planning Day – No School	December 19, 2025
Winter Break	December 22nd – January 2, 2026
Martin Luther King Jr. – Holiday – No School	January 19, 2026
Parent/Teacher Conference - ½ day	February 19, 2026
End of 3rd quarter – progress reposts	March 12, 2026
Teacher Planning Day - No School	March 13, 2026
Spring Break	March 16th – 20th
Holiday – No School	April 18, 2026
Last Day of School	May 21, 2026
Last Week of School ½ days	May 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st/Graduation Day
Last Day for Teachers	May 22, 2026

Visitors

All persons, including parents, must check in at the front office to acquire a visitor's pass upon arrival. These passes should be visibly worn by all visitors while on campus, facilitating easy identification by teachers and students. Student visitors are exclusively allowed on campus for predefined purposes, such as a three-day trial, campus tours, or pre-approved events. We reserve the right to safeguard the instructional time of students and teachers by requesting that visitors refrain from interrupting classes. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will be deemed trespassing and may warrant reporting.

General School Policies and Procedures

Nondiscrimination Policy

Sky Islands High School fosters an atmosphere of intentional inclusiveness, guaranteeing that every individual feels safe, valued, supported, and afforded opportunities to foster meaningful connections. Celebrating the richness of embracing diversity, Sky Islands High School reaffirms its ethical and legal commitment to upholding a policy of equal opportunity and anti-discrimination, reflecting the core principles of the school's ethos.

Sky Islands High School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), national and ethnic origin (ancestry), sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, political affiliation, and age to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at Sky Islands High School, including in admission and enrollment. Sky Islands High School abides by the procedures mandated by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and will provide eligible students with disabilities a free appropriate public education (FAPE), including following Section 504 plans and Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). Suspensions and expulsions will follow all applicable laws, Governing Board policies, and provisions of the individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan.

Students are responsible for adhering to the regulations and guidelines outlined in this Code of Student Conduct. In order to protect the authority of teachers in delivering instruction and foster a learning-friendly environment for all students, student discipline will be progressive, up to and including suspension, withdrawal, or expulsion.

Parents* are responsible and accountable for the actions of their children's actions and possess the right to advocate on their behalf. Therefore, we request parents to confirm that they have had the opportunity to review and acknowledge this document.

Code of Student Conduct by signing and returning the last page.

> *The term '*parent* ' refers to either or both parents, any guardian of a student, any person in a parental relationship to a student, or any person exercising legal supervisory authority over a student in place of a parent.

Administrators are responsible for supporting, maintaining, and facilitating the educational program. The Head of School is authorized by law to hold students accountable for violation of State and Federal public-school regulations and for following the Code of Conduct.

Teachers are required by law to maintain an optimum environment for learning. The teacher has the legal authority, per A.R.S. 15-841, to remove a student from the classroom when the student interferes with the ability of other students to learn. At the time of removal, the teacher may request that the pupil not be returned to that classroom until a conference is held between the teacher, parents/guardians, and an administrator.

Address and Phone Number Changes

Please ensure that any changes to your address, email, or telephone number are promptly communicated to Victoria Almanza, our Office Manager/Registrar. This will help maintain open and updated communication channels for any school-related messages or information regarding your child, including grades, discipline, and well-being.

Bicycles

Students who ride bicycles should use heavy-duty chains and secure the bicycle to the rack provided in front of the school. The school is not responsible for theft or damage to bicycles.

Announcements/Student & Parent Communication

Any announcements, teachers will be notified to relay it to you or should there be any critical information that would be distributed in a message via email from Head of School or Behavioral Interventionist/Student Support Coordinator.

Monthly letters will also be relayed to keep students, parents, and the community informed about the latest at Sky Islands High School.

In case of emergencies, immediate communication will be sent through email. Therefore, parents and guardians, please ensure that we have your updated email addresses.

Parent Conferences

Parents may request appointments for conferences with teachers, Student Support Coordinator, administration through email or by calling the school. Parent/Teacher conferences are also scheduled on school calendar. (See School Calendar)

Medications

Students are not permitted to carry prescription or over-the-counter medication to and from school or to keep it on their person while at school or when participating in any school-related activities. The school office will accept up to a 30 day supply of medication for students to treat an existing condition. Parents/Guardians or Adult Students must complete a Medication Form with the school office prior to any medication being administered at school. The following is required for all medications stored and administered by the school office:

- Prescription medication MUST be in its original prescription container with a pharmacy label. Over-the-Counter medication MUST be in the original factory container clearly stating directions and warnings. NO medications will be accepted in any other containers, bags, envelopes, etc.
- Sample prescription medication must have a prescription by a physician attached in order to be accepted
- A medication form must be on file for any medications to be administered at school
- All medication must be dropped off and picked up by the parent/guardian or an adult on the Emergency Contact List ONLY
- Only medications needed to treat a current/existing ailment will be stored at the school
- Medications will be given in age/weight appropriate doses according to manufacturer's directions or physician's orders on file
- For administration of over-the-counter medication beyond a 3 day period, a doctor's authorization or prescription is required
- Students requiring an inhaler or EpiPen may carry and self-administer these with written parental consent on the Medication Form. Students who self-administer medication must report their use to the office so that it can be recorded.
- Sky Islands High School reserves the right to disallow the use or administration of any medication on school premises if the threat of abuse or misuse of the medicine may pose a risk to any student.

Closed Campus

Sky Islands High School maintains a closed campus policy. Unauthorized departure from campus, also known as ditching, will not be tolerated and may lead to suspension. Students who experience illness or emergencies must promptly report to the office and confer with an administrator.

For students under 18 years of age, parental consent is mandatory before leaving campus. Similarly, students aged 18 and above must obtain permission from a Sky Islands Administrator. These absences are not considered for seat time and may result in excessive absences, potentially impacting credit eligibility.

Once off-campus, re-entry is restricted unless returning from a medical appointment or addressing a family matter. Furthermore, students are not permitted to leave campus until dismissal after arriving for the day.

ELECTRONICS

Students are not permitted to have cell phones or personal electronic devices with them during school at any time. Students are required to check in their cell phones to the administrative office upon entering their first class of the day regardless of arrival time.

For example: Cell phones, electronic tablets, smart watches or any other electronic device *(including all electronic music/game devices, and bluetooth earphones)***:**

1. The **first** time a cell phone or other electronic device is found in a student's possession, it will be taken away, returned at the end of day, and the student will be given a first-time warning.
2. If the student is in possession of a cell phone or electronic device for the **second** time, the cell phone will be confiscated and held in the office. The student's parent/guardian will be notified and may

give the school staff permission to return the confiscated item to the student at the end of the school day. Otherwise, the parent/guardian can choose to pick up the cell phone or other device at the administrative office at the end of the day.

3. If a cell phone is confiscated a **third** time, the parent/ guardian will be notified that the electronic device has been confiscated again and a disciplinary meeting will be held with the student, parent/guardian and appropriate administrators to determine next steps.

Sky Islands is not liable for any electronic devices should they become lost, stolen, or damaged at school.

ADMISSIONS

Enrollment –The following are requirements for admission to Sky Islands:

1. Enrollment is open to students entering grade 9 or higher (through age twenty-one) with an eighth (8th) grade completion certificate or equivalent. Students unable to provide the eighth grade completion documentation or equivalent cannot be admitted.

2. Missing, misleading, or inaccurate information provided by parents/guardians or students on the enrollment packet will falsify the student's admission and can result in dismissal from Sky Islands.

3. All new students enter Sky Islands on a **60 day probationary period** that begins upon completion of the orientation and review of transcripts for course placement. Any student who fails to follow the guidelines provided in the Sky Islands Student Handbook during the orientation or 60 day probationary period can be asked to withdraw.

4. Additionally, a student WILL NOT be considered **enrolled** until all documentation has been received, reviewed, and approved by the Administrative Team.

5. Any new student enrolling with an IEP (Individual Education Plan) must have a current and up-to-date IEP and MET Evaluations in place prior to acceptance.

6. Sky Islands is under no legal obligation to admit any student who has been EXPELLED or is in the process of being expelled from another school.

The enrollment packet MUST contain the following:

1. PROOF OF AGE FROM ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
   (a) certified copy of birth certificate
   (b) other certifiable proof of the student's identity and age, for example, the student's baptismal certificate, an application for social security number, or original school registration records and an affidavit explaining the inability to provide a copy of the birth certificate.
2. PROOF OF IMMUNIZATIONS (shot records).

3. A CERTIFIED (OFFICIAL) COPY OF THE STUDENT'S TRANSCRIPTS FROM PREVIOUS SCHOOL ATTENDED. Eighth grade students who are transitioning to high school will need to provide a copy of their middle school certificate.
4. WITHDRAWAL FORM FROM PREVIOUS SCHOOL
5. A CURRENT COPY OF AN IEP or 504 PLAN, the most recent MET, a medical diagnosis from a physician, and other relevant evaluations (if applicable)
6. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION for the required residency form.

Homeless Children and Youth

Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.) is included in the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. The reauthorization requires that children and youths experiencing homelessness are immediately enrolled in school and have educational opportunities equal to those of their non-homeless peers.

Arizona Revised Statutes, A.R.S. §15-825(C) states:

> The current residence of a homeless pupil, who does not reside with the person having legal custody of the pupil, is considered to be the residence of the homeless pupil if the person having legal custody of the pupil is a resident of the United States. For the purposes of this subsection, 'homeless pupil' means a pupil who has a primary residence that is:
>
> - A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations.
> - An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized.
> - A public or private place not designed as regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Under this policy, Sky Islands will admit students who meet the definition of 'homeless' by:

- Not requiring birth certificate; and
- Not requiring proof of immunization until the fifth calendar day of enrollment as defined in A.R.S. §15-872(H).

➢ ACADEMIC PROGRAM/ COURSE ENROLLMENT

Full-time students shall be enrolled, according to State law, for 720 hours of instruction (over the length of 180 school days). Unless prevented by transcripts, courses required to meet Arizona's State Standards shall be started immediately upon enrollment.

Class Designation by Cohort

Class designations for purposes of mandatory standardized testing are determined by **cohort year**.

- **Cohort year** is determined by the first year the student entered high school plus (+) four (4) years.
- **Grade** is determined by cohort regardless of credit(s) completed.

Rate of Progress

Students are expected to earn at least three (3.0) credits towards graduation per semester. Students not meeting this academic requirement become academically ineligible and at risk of successful mastery leading to graduation.

Progress Reports and Transcripts

The school administrator will ensure that parents receive a progress report every mid-quarter, enabling students to remain on track with their high school credits and providing them with the opportunity to enhance their grades throughout the academic year.

- Up-to-date transcripts will be provided at the end of each semester or upon student withdrawal.

Transfer Credits—Transcripts from students transferring to Sky Islands from another school will be evaluated, and equivalent academic credit will be given in increments of one-quarter (0.25) credits.

1. Three semester hours of credit, with a grade of C or higher, from Arizona colleges and universities will generally be accepted as equivalent to one-half (0.50) credit, with approval of the Head of School.
2. Home school or correspondence credits must also be approved by the Head of School. Credit given under these circumstances may be limited to four (4) total credits, with a maximum of one (1) credit awarded in each of the following subject areas: English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.
3. If a student who was previously enrolled at Sky Islands enrolls in a public school in Arizona, the public school shall accept credits earned by the pupil in courses or instructional programs at Sky Islands in a uniform and consistent manner and according to the same criteria that are used to accept academic credits from other public schools.
4. Students may transfer in **up to** 1.0 credits from courses taken during the summer.
5. Credits earned through correspondence courses, from an accredited institution as defined in A.A.C. R7-2-601, to meet minimum graduation requirements shall be limited to four (4), and only one (1) credit may be earned in each of the following areas: English, Social Studies, Mathematics, and Science.

Course Offerings and Requirements for Graduation

Graduation Requirements	
Course/Subject	**Number of Credits Needed For Graduation**
English	4
Math	4
Science	3
Social Studies	3
Fine Arts/Career Exploration	1
Electives	7
Total	22

Graduation/Competency Test: To obtain a high school diploma from Sky Islands High School, students are required to achieve a final grade of 70% or higher in all 22 credits specified. Students who have an IEP will be accommodated. Additionally, as per the directive of the Arizona Department of Education

since the class of 2017, all students must successfully pass a Civics test based on the 100 questions from the Naturalization Study Guide. This test can be taken multiple times, if necessary, but passing it is essential for graduation; there is no provision for opting out. While it is not a State Assessment, it is an obligatory graduation requirement.

Dual Enrollment

Dual enrollment allows high school students to take college-level courses at their high school through partnerships between Sky Islands High School and Pima Community College (PCC). Students earn both high school and college credit by passing the class. Courses offered with Pima are free to students. All college level courses are weighted at 1.0 on the GPA scale. Students will only receive dual credit for "C" and above grades. If a student enrolled in dual credit and receives a "D" grade, they will only receive high school credit.

Dual Enrollment Classes and Eligibility

Students can earn dual enrollment credits by meeting the program qualifications, which include certain elective classes, social studies, and select science courses. However, for specific content area classes such as Math, Writing 101, and Chemistry, students will need to pass an assessment to be eligible for dual enrollment credit.

Adult Student

Sky Islands High School classifies an adult student as an individual who is at least 18 years old and resides independently. To attain adult student status, students must provide documentation to the school administration. Upon approval of adult student status, Sky Islands High School will acknowledge the student as their own guardian. Adult students are required to adhere to all policies of Sky Islands High School.

Early Release/Signing Out

To release/sign out a student for an appointment, a parent/guardian must call the office in advance to have the student released. Students are not allowed to leave our school campus without the permission of the parent/guardian and without the front office staff being notified beforehand. An adult student (see definition above) may bypass this process but has to communicate directly with an administrator before leaving campus. The student will be responsible for making up seat time missed due to the early release/signing out. Students who are habitually signed out early and miss instructional/class time that exceeds the Sky Islands attendance policy will not meet Arizona State Law Seat Time requirements and risk not earning credit (NC) in their class(es).

Sky Islands High School Tardy Policy

Tardy Policy:

There are two categories of tardiness concerning school attendance: arriving late to school overall and arriving late to individual classes throughout the day. It's important to note that tardiness to school or class could impact your credit hours, so it's crucial to consider the consequences.

Tardy to School:

- Students are expected to arrive on time for the beginning of the school day. The official start time for the school day will be communicated to all students and parents/guardians at the beginning of each academic year.
- Any student who arrives after the designated start time for the school day will be considered tardy. Tardy students must report to the main office upon arrival to receive a tardy pass before proceeding to class.
- If a student arrives more than 25 minutes late to the beginning of the school day, they will be marked as absent for that period but will still be permitted to attend class.
- Tardiness to school will be recorded and tracked in the school's attendance system. Excessive tardiness to school may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to parent conferences, tardy contract, loss of privileges or at the discretion of the administrator.

Tardy to Class:

- Students are expected to arrive on time for each class throughout the school day. The official start time for each class period will be clearly communicated by teachers and posted in classrooms.
- Any student who arrives after the designated start time for a class period will be considered tardy. Tardy students must go to the office to get a tardy pass to enter the classroom.
- If a student arrives more than 25 minutes late to a class period, they will be marked as absent for that period but may still be permitted to attend class.
- Tardiness to class will be recorded and tracked by individual teachers.

Consequences for tardiness to school:

- 1st tardy = verbal warning
- 2nd tardy = Parent/guardians will be notified of their child's tardiness to school or class via the school's attendance system.
- 3rd tardy = Administrative Team will schedule a conference with parent/guardian to discuss appropriate disciplinary action.

Consequences for tardiness to class from teachers: (lunch detention?)

- 1st tardy = verbal warning
- 2nd tardy = communicate with parent via email or phone call.
- 3rd tardy = lunch detention will be assigned
- 4th tardy = report tardies to administrative team for further appropriate disciplinary action.

Parent/Guardian Notification:

- It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that their child arrives at school on time and attends all scheduled classes punctually.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to communicate with school personnel if there are any extenuating circumstances that may impact their child's punctuality.

Attendance Policy

Sky Islands High School is implementing a 100% attendance policy. This policy is being put in place to help teach our students to understand the expectations of the workplace and learn valuable employment skills. If a student is absent on any day of the week, he or she is required to make-up the missed assignments within one week (3 Days) of returning to school.

Arizona state law requires sixty-one and a half hours of "class time" to receive one-half credit. Accumulating more than 18 absences (excused or unexcused) may result in a student not meeting the law required sixty-one and half hours to earn one-half credit. Therefore, a student will risk not earning credit or failing classes. Parental communication is essential in supporting the student's academic success and more than 4 absences will lead to an in-person parent/student meeting with the administrative team. **Note**: Students who exceed the permitted number of absences (excessive tardies are also included) risk losing course credit and/or becoming ineligible to participate in graduation.

Additionally, If the teacher determines that the student needs additional support because the student has earned a "D" or "F", the student is responsible in making arrangements with the teacher for afterschool tutoring on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. This must continue until the grade has been raised to a "C" or higher.

Excused absences are identified by the Department of Education as an absence due to illness, doctor appointment, mental or behavioral health, homelessness, bereavement, family emergencies, time necessary to process for the armed forces, and out-of-school suspensions. (A.R.S. § 15-901(A)(1)) Absences will only be excused at Sky Islands High School for the following reasons: school related functions, documented illness, proof of doctor's appointment, bereavement, family emergencies, religious holidays, documented work interviews and any unforeseen circumstances SIHS is responsible for. Unexcused absences will result in attendance warnings, students not being allowed to make up the work, parental contact and may lead to disciplinary action.

Students that accrue 10 consecutive unexcused absences will be withdrawn from school. (A.R.S.§15-901(A)(2)). Students must re-enroll if they wish to return to Sky Islands High School. Students who wish to re-enroll must re-complete the admission process, including the enrollment packet. If immediate enrollment is not available, the student will be considered for enrollment as soon as an opportunity becomes available.

If an illness or emergency occurs that keeps the student from attending school, the parent/guardian must contact the school at 520-382-9210 and explain the reason for the absence. Under extreme circumstances (and with proper documentation), a "chronic illness" plan may be approved and implemented by SIHS administration. Additionally, if a student encounters an urgent medical situation,

bereavement (death in the family), or other serious emergency, the immediate family is to notify SIHS administration in order to implement a plan for success.

Exam/Project/Presentation: Unless there is proof of an urgent medical situation, bereavement(death of immediate family), or other serious emergency, the teacher reserves the right to NOT extend a deadline for students who miss final exams, projects, presentation deadlines. Any student with an unexcused/excused absence on the day of a final exam will not be allowed to make up the final exam without administration approval and will risk not earning credit or failing the class.

Dress Code

Sky Islands Mission aims to create an educational setting that motivates, instructs, and uplifts students to achieve excellence in all aspects. The dress code serves to foster an understanding of the social, cultural, and aesthetic influences within the school community. As such, the following attire is prohibited throughout the school day:

Purpose

The dress code at Sky Islands invites students to celebrate and express their personal style in ways that do not disrupt the learning environment. The Dress Code is designed to promote a positive and respectful school culture that ensures the safety and well-being of all students. By adhering to this dress code, students contribute to a school spirit that values responsibility, self-expression, and academic success.

It is within the discretion of the administration to determine whether the dress attire meets the standards for school.

General Guidelines

Appropriateness: All clothing and accessories must be appropriate for a school setting and should not disrupt the learning environment or cause distraction.
Safety: Clothing and footwear must be safe for participation in all school activities.
Cleanliness: Students are expected to wear clean and well-maintained clothing to school each day.
Respect: Clothing, accessories, and hairstyles should demonstrate respect for oneself and others, as well as respect for the diverse cultures and backgrounds within our school community.

Specific Dress Code Guidelines

Tops

- Tops must fully cover the chest, abdomen, and back at all times.
- Tank tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, and crop tops are not permitted.
- T-shirts with offensive language, images, or symbols are prohibited. For example: drug-related symbols or images.
- Sheer or see-through tops must be worn with an appropriate undershirt.

Bottoms

- Shorts, skirts, and dresses must be of appropriate length, no shorter than mid-thigh.
- Pants must be worn at the waistline and should not sag or expose undergarments.
- Clothing with rips or tears above mid-thigh is not permitted.

Accessories

- Hats, caps, bandanas, and other head coverings are not to be worn indoors, except for religious or medical reasons. Hoodies are acceptable but all hoods must be down unless you are outside.
- Sunglasses are not permitted indoors unless prescribed by a medical professional.
- Chains, spikes, and other accessories that could pose a safety hazard are prohibited.

Special Events

- On certain occasions, such as spirit days or themed events, students may be permitted to dress outside of the standard dress code. However, all clothing and accessories must still comply with the guidelines of appropriateness, safety, cleanliness, and respect.

Enforcement

- Students found in violation of the dress code will be asked to change into appropriate attire or provided with alternative clothing if necessary that must be returned.
- Repeat offenses may result in disciplinary action at the discretion of school administration.

Parent/Guardian Responsibility

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to review the dress code with their child and ensure compliance with the guidelines outlined above.

If there are any concerns or questions regarding the dress code, parents/guardians are welcome to contact the school administration for clarification.

Review and Amendments

- The dress code policy will be reviewed periodically by school administration and may be amended as necessary to reflect changes in school culture, fashion trends, or community feedback.

By adhering to the dress code policy, students contribute to a positive and respectful school environment that supports academic excellence and personal growth.

Student Code of Conduct

2025 -2026

Sky Islands High School Student Code of Conduct plays a vital role in shaping the behavior, attitudes, and overall school culture, helping to create an environment where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Sky Islands High School Student Code of Conduct serves several important purposes:

1. **Establishing Expectations**: It sets clear expectations for student behavior, outlining what is considered acceptable and unacceptable conduct within the school community. This helps create a safe and conducive learning environment for all students.
2. **Promoting Safety**: The code of conduct typically includes rules related to safety, such as guidelines for physical altercations, substance abuse, and bullying prevention. By adhering to these rules, students contribute to a safer school environment for themselves and their peers.
3. **Fostering Respect and Responsibility**: It promotes values such as respect, responsibility, and accountability. Students learn to respect the rights and dignity of others, as well as take responsibility for their actions and their impact on the school community.
4. **Supporting Academic Integrity**: The code of conduct often includes policies related to academic integrity, such as guidelines for plagiarism and cheating. Upholding academic honesty is crucial for maintaining the integrity of the educational process and ensuring fair evaluation of students' work.
5. **Preparing for Citizenship**: By adhering to the code of conduct, students develop skills and habits that are important for responsible citizenship, both within the school community and in society at large. These may include conflict resolution, ethical decision-making, and understanding the consequences of one's actions.
6. **Creating a Positive School Culture**: When students follow the code of conduct, it contributes to a positive school culture characterized by mutual respect, cooperation, and a sense of belonging. This, in turn, enhances the overall school experience for everyone involved.
7. **Legal Compliance and Liability Management**: Schools have legal obligations to provide a safe and conducive learning environment. The student code of conduct helps schools fulfill these obligations by providing a framework for addressing disciplinary issues and ensuring compliance with relevant laws and regulations.

Note: **Students who repeatedly violate school or classroom rules, or fail to adhere to the Student Code of Conduct, may be placed on a Behavioral Contract.**
Each contract will be tailored to the individual student's situation and must be signed by the student, their parent or guardian, and a school administrator. Refusal to sign the Behavioral Contract may result in further disciplinary action.

Violation	Definition	Consequences
Alcohol	Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on school premises	Detention, suspension, parental notification, referral to authorities
Arson of a structure or property	Deliberate setting of fire to school or personal property	Expulsion, legal action, restitution, referral to authorities
Assault	Physical attack on another person	Suspension, legal action, counseling, referral to authorities
Attendance violations	Unexcused absences, excessive tardiness	Parental notification, detention, academic penalties
Bullying	Repeated aggressive behavior intended to harm others	Counseling, suspension, parental notification, depending on severity may refer to authorities
Cheating	Deceptive or dishonest behavior to gain an unfair advantage in academics	Academic penalties, parental notification, counseling
Combustible	Possession of flammable materials	Detention, confiscation, counseling
Computer or network violations	Unauthorized access, hacking, cyberbullying	Loss of computer privileges, suspension, parental notification
Contraband	Possession of prohibited items	Confiscation, detention, parental notification
Dangerous items	Possession of items that pose a threat to safety	Confiscation, detention, suspension, parental notification
Defiance and disrespect	Disobedience or disrespect towards school rules or staff	Detention, counseling, parent conference, suspension
Defiance and disrespect toward authority	Disobedience or disrespect towards authority figures	Suspension, parent conference, may be referred to authorities
Dress code violation	Violation of school dress code policies	Warning, detention, parental notification, suspension
Drugs	Possession or use of illegal substances	Suspension, parental notification, referral to authorities

Violation	Definition	Consequences
Endangerment	Putting others at risk of harm through reckless behavior	Detention, Suspension, parental notification, referral to authorities
Fighting	Physical altercation between students	Detention, Suspension, parental notification, referral to authorities
Firearms	Possession or use of firearms on school premises	Expulsion, legal action, referral to authorities
Fire alarm misuse	False activation of fire alarm system	Detention, suspension, fine, referral to authorities
Hazing	Initiation rituals involving harassment or humiliation	Suspension, parental notification, referral to authorities
Harassment	Intimidating or hostile behavior towards others. This includes but is not limited to racial slurs, inappropriate sexual comments, etc.	Counseling, suspension, parental notification, referral to authorities
Illicit drug	Possession or use of illegal narcotics	Suspension, parental notification, referral to authorities
Inappropriate language	Use of vulgar or offensive language	Warning, detention, parental notification
Inappropriate use of prescription drugs	Misuse or abuse of prescription medications	Counseling, suspension, parental notification
Leaving school ground without permission	Exiting school premises without authorization	Detention, parental notification, referral to authorities
Lying	Deliberate fabrication of falsehoods	Parental notification, counseling, detention, academic penalties
Minor aggressive act	Non-serious physical or verbal confrontation	Counseling, detention, parental notification
Plagiarism	Copying or using another's work without proper citation	Academic penalties, parental notification, counseling
Possession of drug paraphernalia	Possession of items associated with drug use (e.g., pipes, needles)	Confiscation, counseling, parental notification
Possession of drugs	Possession of illegal substances	Suspension, parental notification, referral to authorities

Violation	Definition	Consequences
Public display of affection	Excessive physical affection between students	Warning, detention, parental notification
Recklessness	Careless or heedless behavior that may cause harm	Counseling, detention, parental notification
School threat	Verbal or written threat towards school safety or individuals	Suspension, police involvement, parental notification
Sexual assault or rape	Non-consensual sexual contact or intercourse	Expulsion, legal action, counseling, referral to authorities
Sexual harassment	Unwanted sexual advances, comments, or behavior	Counseling, suspension, detention, parental notification, referral to authorities
Sexual harassment with contact	Unwanted sexual advances or behavior involving physical contact	Suspension, parental notification, referral to authorities
Tardiness	Late arrival to school or class	Detention, academic penalties, parental notification
Theft of school property or non-school property	Stealing or unlawfully taking school or personal belongings	Restitution, suspension, parental notification, referral to authorities
Threat or intimidation	Verbal or non-verbal expressions of harm or coercion	Counseling, detention, parental notification
Threat or intimidation towards staff	Threatening behavior directed towards school staff	Suspension, legal action, parental notification, referral to authorities
Trespassing	Unauthorized entry onto school property	Warning, detention, parental notification
Unexcused absence	Absence from school without valid explanation	Parental notification, detention, academic penalties
Vandalism of personal and/or school property	Deliberate destruction or defacement of property	Restitution, suspension, parental notification, referral to authorities
Other weapons	Possession or use of weapons other than firearms	Expulsion, legal action, referral to authorities

Due Process for Students with an IEP or 504 Plan

Students with disabilities under Section 504 or IDEA (and students suspected of having a disability may be disciplined in the same manner as any other student and may be suspended for up to 10 cumulative days of school per school year.

If a suspension beyond 10 cumulative days is contemplated, special procedures must be followed**. A manifestation determination conference must be held by the 10th day of suspension, but should happen as soon as possible based on parent/guardian/staff availability.**

If the manifestation determination concludes that the student's behavior is a manifestation of the student's disability, then no further disciplinary action can be taken. The 504 or IEP team should convene to develop an appropriate behavior plan for the student. If the manifestation determination conference concludes that the student's behavior is not a manifestation of the student's disability, a hearing officer may impose whatever long-term suspension or expulsion policy allows. The School has no obligation to continue to provide educational services to a 504 student pursuant to the 504 accommodation plan during the period of a long-term suspension or expulsion. However, the School must continue to provide educational services for students eligible under IDEA. A student with a disability under IDEA may be referred to an interim Alternative Educational Setting in circumstances involving the use or possession of drugs, weapons, or serious bodily injury.

PARENT/STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Student/Parent Handbook and Code of Student Conduct

OVERVIEW OF SAFETY RULES

Students have the **right** to a safe and orderly school and the **responsibility** to treat school property and the property of others with respect. Students are expected to act in a way that does not interfere with the rights, health, and safety of others—students are held individually responsible for good behavior on campus and at all school-sponsored activities and events, regardless of location, and for following **ALL** school and school safety rules:

1. Students are responsible for staying within the assigned school area during school hours (8:30 am to 2:30 pm) and for not loitering around school when school is closed.
2. Students are responsible for being in school and maintaining good attendance throughout the year.
3. Sky Islands is a **Smoke Free/Drug Free Zone**—smoking, including e-cigarettes, is illegal for students who are minors and is not permitted by anyone anywhere on school grounds or within the perimeter of the street entrance. Smoking paraphernalia, including, but not limited to, matches, lighter fluids, or any drug or alcohol paraphernalia, is strictly prohibited on or within 1000 yards of the campus or at any school sponsored activity— illegal property will be confiscated, and the student will face further disciplinary action.

4. Students are prohibited from possessing or using over-the-counter medications on or around campus, or during any school-sponsored activity, unless properly dispensed by an administrator from a prescription bottle for that student.
5. Cell phones and all other electronic devices are not permitted in the classrooms at any time. Failure to comply results in confiscation of electronic devices and disciplinary action for the student.
6. Students are prohibited from conducting or participating in gang activities on campus, using gang-related or cult-related signs, or creating graffiti anywhere in or on the school building or on any adjacent building.
7. Unauthorized presence on school property by persons who are not **current** students or members of the staff is illegal. Visitors, including parents, must check in at the office before entering any instructional area.

Parents need to be involved in the education of their children and have the responsibility to:

1. Provide the school with the names and phone numbers of current emergency contacts and of any changes that may occur during the school year.
2. Notify the school of anything that may affect their children's ability to learn, to attend school regularly, or to take part in school activities.
3. Be aware that parents have rights with regard to the privacy and confidentiality of student records that are maintained by schools.
4. Recognize that they are responsible for their student's behavior on the way to and from school property, at SunTran bus stops, and in the neighborhood areas adjacent to the school. This includes but is not limited to behavior related to bicycles, skateboards, and motor vehicles.
5. Be aware that employees of the school will not be held liable for items that are prohibited and are lost, stolen, or for wireless communication devices (e.g., cell phones, laptops, smart watches) or other personal technologies that are lost or stolen.
6. Be aware that confiscated items that are not claimed by the end of the school year will be donated to local charities.
7. Ensure that their children demonstrate legal and responsible use of technology.
8. See that their students are appropriately dressed according to the school dress code.

By signing below, you confirm that you have received and understood the Sky Islands High School guidelines outlined in the student and parent handbook. Your signature signifies your dedication to comply with these guidelines. **Please return this form to the school within three days of receiving the Student Code of Conduct.**

Changes and additions:

- Wednesdays will be full days and Fridays well change to a half day schedule with students attending all six periods. We will no longer have an A/B schedule on the half day, students will attend all classes.
- All new students will be on a 60 day probationary period instead of a 30 day probationary period.

- Any new student enrolling with an IEP (Individual Education Plan) must have a current and up-to-date IEP and MET Evaluations in place prior to acceptance.
- Students who exceed the permitted number of absences (excessive tardies are also included) risk losing course credit and/or becoming ineligible to participate in graduation.
- Students who repeatedly violate school or classroom rules, or fail to adhere to the Student Code of Conduct, may be placed on a Behavioral Contract.
  Each contract will be tailored to the individual student's situation and must be signed by the student, their parent or guardian, and a school administrator. Refusal to sign the Behavioral Contract may result in further disciplinary action.

  Confirmation that we (student/parent/guardian) understand the Sky Islands High School guidelines outlined in the student and parent handbook. Your signature signifies your dedication to comply with these guidelines.

Student Name (PRINT) _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Board Approved: May 27, 2025

Need Some Help?

<u>Suicide Prevention & Support</u>
Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
Call or Text 988
Chat 988-lifeline.org
Pima County Mental Health Crisis Line
Call 520-622-6000 or 1-866-495-6735
Text TALK to 741741
Hope Non-Emergency Warm Talk Line
Call 520-770-9909 or 844-733-9912
Crisis Response Center-24/7
Call 520-622-6000 or 911
2802 E. District Street (Ajo/Country Club)