



2026-2027

Parent/Student Handbook

Better Dayz Academy Mantra
"Every Child, Every Day, Soaring beyond their Potential"

Disclaimer

This Better Dayz Academy Family Handbook is designed to provide students and families with an overview of important policies, procedures, and expectations that support a positive and productive school experience. While this handbook offers key information, it is not an exhaustive compilation of all school rules or policies. Better Dayz Academy reserves the right to revise the academic calendar, modify curricula, adjust programming, update policies, or make other changes as necessary to serve the best interests of our students and the school community. All updates and changes will be communicated in a timely and appropriate manner.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Better Dayz Academy is committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable learning environment. We welcome students of all backgrounds who demonstrate motivation, ability, and character to thrive in our academic community. Better Dayz Academy admits students without regard to race, color, creed, disability, ethnic or national origin, and provides equal access to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally made available to students.

In keeping with this commitment, Better Dayz Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, disability, ethnic or national origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions procedures, scholarship or financial assistance programs, or in any other school-administered programs and activities.

Welcome Letter from the Director

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to our school community!

We are delighted to have you as part of our educational family. This handbook is designed to provide you with important information about our policies, procedures, and expectations. It reflects our commitment to creating a safe, nurturing, and academically enriching environment for all students.

We value our partnership with families and look forward to a successful school year together.

Warm regards,

Daryel Scott
Director

Table of Contents

1. Purpose of the Handbook
2. Attendance
 - Early Pick Up
 - Release of Students
 - Signing-In and Tardies
3. Classroom
 - Class Placements
 - Conferences
 - Homework
 - Plagiarism and Cheating
 - Standardized Testing
4. Communications
 - Communication Policy
 - Voicemail, Email, and Messages
 - Newsletter
5. Discipline/Behavioral Standards
 - Student Behavioral Expectations
 - Procedures and Consequences
 - Bullying and Harassment
 - Cell Phones and Other Electronics
 - Drugs and Alcohol
6. Family
 - Family Situations
 - Statement of Parental Support
7. Field Trips
8. Food Policy
9. Fundraising
10. Inclement Weather
11. Inspection Policy
12. Investigations
13. Library
14. Lost and Found
15. Medical
 - Wellness Policy
 - Student Health Records
 - Student Medication
 - Medical Emergency Treatment
 - Lice
 - Medical Situations
 - Health Information Sharing
16. Parking
17. Pet Policy
18. Property
19. Reporting of Child Abuse
20. Safety and Security

- Safety and Security on Campus
 - Weapons and Threats Policy
 - Personal Property
21. School Business Office Hours
22. Social Media and Social Networking Policies and Procedures
- Use at School or a School Related Event
 - Use Away from School Property
 - Student's Identity Online
 - School's Right to Inspect
23. Special Services
- Occupational Therapy Specialist
 - School Counselor
 - Speech & Language Therapy Specialist
24. Student/Adult Interaction and Communication
25. Study Lab
26. Student Disability Accommodations
- General Policy
 - Request and Documentation
 - Release for Communications with Physician
 - Assessment of Request
 - Limitations and Requests
27. Technology
- Personal Technology on Campus
 - Acceptable Use Policy
28. Student Records and Information
29. Transportation
- Morning Drop Off
 - Afternoon Pick Up
 - Booster Seat Policy
 - Inclement Weather - Afternoon Carpool
 - Late Pick Up
30. Tuition and Fees
31. Visitors
32. Uniform Policy and Dress Code
- Overview
 - Other Requirements
 - Uniform Reference Guide
 - List of Approved Clothing Items
 - Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Uniforms

1. **Purpose of the Handbook**

This section outlines the importance of the handbook as a tool for communication between the school and families. It ensures that everyone understands school policies, supports a consistent learning environment, and promotes student success.

2. **Attendance**

Regular attendance is crucial for student success. This section covers policies to ensure that students are present and punctual each day.

- **Early Pick Up:** Parents must notify the front office for early student pickup. A valid ID must be presented, and sign-out procedures followed. Early pick up is considered before 2:30 p.m. After 2:30 p.m. no student may be picked up through the Front Office. Parents are required to sign out their child in the Front Office, and the Receptionist will call the classroom for release of the student. Parents are not permitted to go directly to the classroom. If your child will be leaving school at a different time (e.g. for a doctor's appointment, family emergency, etc.) or will be riding home in a different carpool (e.g. with grandparents, with another student, etc.), you must send an email to buildingbridgesbehavioral@gmail.com. Students will not be released unless the school has written notification or email. Please also contact the carpool driver directly and phone the Front Office as an added precaution. If you are faced with an emergency or unavoidably changed plans, please call or email the Front Office as soon as possible.
- **Release of Students:** Students will only be released to authorized individuals listed on the student's emergency contact form. Unfamiliar people picking up students will be asked for identification. Be prepared to show identification when picking up your child or someone else's child.
- **Signing-In and Tardies:** Students arriving after the start of the school day must sign in at the front office. For the safety of the students, we require that students arriving after 8:00 a.m. MUST be accompanied into the building by an adult and signed in through the Front Office. Frequent tardiness may impact academic progress.

3. **Classroom**

This section addresses the academic environment, focusing on student placement and expectations.

- **Class Placements:** At Better Dayz Academy, class placements are made thoughtfully and intentionally, with the goal of placing each student in an environment that best supports their academic growth and success. Placement decisions are based on a combination of academic assessments, teacher recommendations, and prior performance. While we value and welcome parental input, final placement decisions are made by the school administration, ensuring that the needs of the student are aligned with our educational philosophy and classroom dynamics.
- **Conferences:** Parent-teacher conferences are an important part of our commitment to strong school-family communication. These meetings are scheduled throughout the school year to discuss academic progress, address concerns, and set personalized goals for student development. Parents are encouraged to attend and

actively participate. In addition to scheduled conferences, additional meetings may be requested by either the parent or teacher whenever needed to ensure ongoing support for the student.

- **Homework:** Homework at Better Dayz Academy is designed to reinforce classroom learning, build independent study habits, and extend educational experiences beyond the school day. Assignments vary by grade level and subject area, with developmentally appropriate expectations for time, effort, and accuracy. Teachers will clearly communicate homework guidelines, and students are expected to complete all assignments with integrity and care. Parents are encouraged to support good homework routines at home without completing the work for their child.
- **Plagiarism and Cheating:** Academic integrity is a cornerstone of learning at Better Dayz Academy. Students are expected to complete their own work and demonstrate honesty in all academic tasks. Acts of plagiarism—using someone else’s words or ideas without proper credit—or cheating of any kind are taken seriously and will result in disciplinary action. Consequences may include loss of credit, notification of parents, and additional corrective measures as determined by school leadership.
- **Standardized Testing:** Standardized testing at Better Dayz Academy serves as one of many tools used to assess student achievement, identify learning needs, and guide instructional planning. These assessments help us maintain high academic standards and ensure that students are progressing in line with grade-level expectations. All students are expected to participate fully in standardized testing sessions, and results are shared with parents as part of our collaborative approach to student growth.

4. **Communications**

Effective communication ensures transparency and cooperation between school and home.

- **Communication Policy:** At Better Dayz Academy, we believe that clear and respectful communication between families and school is essential to student success. We value open dialogue and collaboration and encourage parents to voice any questions or concerns promptly. As a first step, concerns related to classroom experiences, academic progress, or behavior should be addressed directly with the classroom teacher. Most matters can be effectively resolved through direct communication. If further support is needed, families may then reach out to school administration for additional assistance.
- **Voicemail, Email, and Messages:** Better Dayz Academy staff are committed to maintaining timely and professional communication with families. All voicemails and emails will be returned within 24 business hours during the school week. For routine questions or non-urgent matters, email is the preferred method of communication. However, for urgent issues that require immediate attention, such as changes to dismissal or emergencies, please contact the main office directly by phone to ensure a timely response.
- **Newsletter:** Our weekly school newsletter serves as a vital link between Better Dayz Academy and our families. Each issue includes important updates on upcoming events, curriculum highlights, reminders, and key dates to keep you informed and engaged in your child’s educational journey. The newsletter is typically sent via email at the end of each week and may also be available through

the school's online parent portal. We encourage families to review the newsletter regularly to stay connected and involved in school life.

5. Discipline/Behavioral Standards

Students are expected to always act respectfully and responsibly.

- **Student Behavioral Expectations:** At Better Dayz Academy, students are expected to demonstrate behavior that reflects our core values of respect, responsibility, integrity, and compassion. Students should contribute to a learning environment that is safe, orderly, and academically focused. This includes treating peers, staff, and school property with respect, following directions, and engaging positively in class activities. In alignment with Florida Statute §1006.07, our code of student conduct is designed to promote the successful academic and social development of each student while maintaining a respectful and secure school community.
- **Procedures and Consequences:** Disciplinary matters at Better Dayz Academy are addressed through a progressive discipline model, which aims to correct behavior while supporting the student's growth and accountability. The process typically begins with redirection or a verbal warning and may progress to parent conferences, loss of privileges, detention, suspension, or expulsion based on the severity and frequency of the misconduct. Each case is handled with fairness, consistency, and consideration of the student's age and intent, following the guidelines set forth in Florida Statute §1006.09, which outlines procedures for student discipline in private and public schools.
- **Bullying and Harassment:** Better Dayz Academy maintains a zero-tolerance policy for bullying and harassment in any form—whether verbal, physical, or cyber. All allegations of bullying are taken seriously and investigated promptly. Corrective actions, support for the victim, and consequences for the offender are applied as appropriate. In accordance with Florida Statute §1006.147 – “The Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for All Students Act”, our school prohibits bullying and harassment of any student or employee and outlines clear procedures for reporting, investigating, and addressing such behavior.
- **Cell Phones and Other Electronics:** To maintain a focused academic environment, cell phones and personal electronic devices **are** not permitted for use during school hours unless specifically authorized by a teacher or school administrator for educational purposes. All devices must remain powered off and stored in backpacks during instructional time. Unauthorized use may result in the device being confiscated and returned only to a parent or guardian. This policy aligns with best practices for minimizing classroom distractions and fostering student engagement.
- **Drugs and Alcohol:** The possession, use, distribution, or influence of drugs, alcohol, or any controlled substances on school grounds, during school events, or while representing the school is strictly prohibited and will result in immediate disciplinary action, which may include suspension, expulsion, and notification of law enforcement. This policy applies to all students and is consistent with Florida Statute §893.13, which addresses the unlawful possession and distribution of

controlled substances, and the school's responsibility to maintain a drug-free environment as supported by Florida Statute §1006.09(8).

6. **Family**

This section emphasizes family involvement and support.

- **Family Situations:** At Better Dayz Academy, we understand that family circumstances may change due to a variety of reasons, including divorce, separation, custody modifications, or other significant events. To best support the emotional and academic well-being of our students, it is essential that parents or legal guardians inform the school promptly of any changes in custody arrangements, living situations, or family dynamics. All information shared with the school is handled with discretion and used solely to ensure safety, security, and appropriate support for the child. Legal documents (e.g., custody orders or restraining orders) must be submitted to the front office so we can honor parental rights and responsibilities accordingly. This proactive communication helps us provide a consistent and supportive environment for your child.
- **Statement of Parental Support:** Better Dayz Academy believes that parents and guardians are essential partners in the educational process. The success of our students is greatly enhanced when there is mutual trust, respect, and collaboration between the school and home. By enrolling your child at Better Dayz Academy, you agree to support the school's mission, policies, faculty, and decisions. This includes maintaining open communication, reinforcing school expectations at home, and upholding the values of respect, accountability, and integrity. Constructive dialogue is always encouraged; however, public criticism, divisiveness, or undermining of staff or policies can disrupt the learning environment and is not aligned with the partnership we seek to build with families. Together, we can ensure each child soars to their potential.

7. **Field Trips**

At Better Dayz Academy, field trips are designed to enrich classroom learning by providing real-world experiences aligned with academic standards and curriculum objectives. These trips are considered an extension of the school day, and all school rules and expectations remain in effect. Participation requires a signed permission form from a parent or legal guardian prior to the event. Chaperones may be invited to attend, subject to background checks and school approval. Transportation and safety protocols are followed to ensure a secure and meaningful experience for all students.

8. **Food Policy**

Better Dayz Academy encourages healthy eating habits to support student well-being and learning. Students should bring nutritious lunches and snacks that include items such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and proteins. Sugary beverages and candy are strongly discouraged. Food sharing is not permitted due to the risk of severe food allergies and dietary restrictions. If a student forgets their lunch, the school will contact a parent or guardian to provide one. Special treats for birthdays or class celebrations must be pre-approved by the teacher and comply with school guidelines.

9. Fundraising

Fundraising at Better Dayz Academy plays an essential role in supporting extracurricular programs, classroom resources, and school-wide initiatives. Throughout the year, the school will host various fundraising opportunities, such as walk-a-thons, book fairs, or benefit events. Family involvement is highly encouraged, and all proceeds go directly toward enhancing the student experience. We ask that students and parents represent the school respectfully and responsibly during all fundraising efforts.

10. Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement or severe weather, Better Dayz Academy will communicate school closures, delayed openings, or early dismissals through email, text message alerts, and local media outlets. Parents are advised to keep their contact information current in the school system to receive timely updates. Safety is our top priority, and decisions are made in accordance with local emergency management recommendations. Missed instructional time due to weather may be made up through scheduled makeup days.

11. Inspection Policy

To maintain a safe and respectful learning environment, Better Dayz Academy reserves the right to inspect lockers, backpacks, desks, electronic devices, or any personal belongings on school property if there is reasonable suspicion that a school rule or policy has been violated. These inspections may be conducted without prior notice and are designed to ensure the safety, security, and well-being of all students and staff. Any items found that violate school policy may be confiscated, and disciplinary action may follow.

12. Investigations

When behavioral concerns or incidents arise, Better Dayz Academy conducts thorough and impartial investigations to determine the facts and ensure a fair outcome. This process may include interviewing students, staff, and others involved; reviewing evidence; and consulting with administration. Parents will be notified when appropriate, and all investigations are handled with discretion and commitment to due process. Outcomes may result in disciplinary action or restorative measures depending on the situation.

13. Library

The Better Dayz Academy Library is a resource-rich environment that fosters a love for reading and independent learning. Students are encouraged to visit the library regularly to check out books, conduct research, and develop literacy skills. Books must be returned on time and in good condition. Lost or damaged items may result in a replacement fee. Library etiquette—including quiet voices, care for materials, and respectful conduct—is always expected.

14. Lost and Found

Items that are misplaced during the school days such as clothing, water bottles, lunch containers, and books—are placed in the Lost and Found bin, located in a designated area of the school. To help prevent loss, we encourage families to label all personal items with the student's name. Unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity at the end of each academic quarter. Students and parents are encouraged to check Lost and Found regularly.

15. Medical

This section ensures the health and safety of all students.

- **Wellness Policy**

To protect the health of all students and staff, students who are sick should remain at home until they are symptom-free for a full 24 hours without the aid of medication. This includes, but is not limited to, fever, vomiting, diarrhea, persistent cough, or contagious conditions such as strep throat or pink eye. Students who show signs of illness during the school day will be sent home. Prompt pick-up by a parent or guardian is required. This policy helps reduce the spread of illness within the school community.

- **Student Health Records**

Florida law (F.S. 1003.22) requires that all students attending school present proof of current immunizations and a physical exam. Parents must submit an up-to-date Florida Certificate of Immunization (Form DH 680) and a School Entry Health Exam (Form DH 3040) before enrollment. Records must remain current throughout the academic year. Any changes in health status should be reported to the school office promptly.

- **Student Medication**

For the safety of all students, medications may only be administered by designated school personnel with the proper documentation. A parent or guardian must complete a Medication Authorization Form for each medication, whether prescription or over the counter. All medications must be brought to the school in their original labeled containers by an adult. Students are not permitted to carry medication on their person unless approved under a care plan (e.g., asthma inhaler or EpiPen with a doctor's note).

- **Medical Emergency Treatment**

Better Dayz Academy staff members are trained in basic first aid and CPR and will respond quickly and appropriately in the event of a medical emergency. If a student becomes seriously ill or injured, emergency medical services (EMS) will be contacted, and parents/guardians will be notified immediately. It is essential that families keep emergency contact information current, at all times. Parents are responsible for any costs incurred in the event of an emergency requiring professional medical care.

- **Lice Policy**

In keeping with public health guidelines, students who are found to have live head lice must be sent home for treatment. Parents will receive guidance on appropriate treatment methods, and students may return to school only after being cleared through a re-check by school personnel. While Better Dayz Academy does not perform routine lice checks, parents are encouraged to inspect their child's hair regularly, especially following known outbreaks.

- **Medical Situations**

Parents must notify the school of any chronic medical conditions or serious health concerns, such as asthma, epilepsy, severe allergies, diabetes, or any other issue that may affect a student's well-being. A care plan or action plan should be submitted in collaboration with the student's healthcare provider and the school nurse. This ensures that

the school can respond effectively to any medical needs and provide proper accommodation or emergency response if necessary.

- **Health Information Sharing**

Better Dayz Academy respects the privacy and confidentiality of all student health information. In compliance with state and federal laws, including FERPA and HIPAA, health-related information will be shared only with staff members who need to know to protect the student's safety and welfare or as required by law. Parents are encouraged to communicate openly with the school about their child's health needs while understanding that appropriate discretion is always maintained.

16. Parking

For the safety and efficiency of all students and families, Better Dayz Academy requires all drivers to follow posted parking signs and adhere to directions from school staff during arrival and dismissal times. Designated drop-off and pick-up zones must be respected to ensure a smooth traffic flow. Parking in fire lanes, restricted zones, or unmarked areas is strictly prohibited. Families are encouraged to model patience and courtesy during high-traffic periods to maintain a safe school environment.

17. Pet Policy

To maintain a safe and allergy-conscious campus, pets are not permitted on school grounds unless they are certified service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or have received prior written approval from the administration for educational purposes (e.g., classroom presentations). Service animals must always remain under control. Unauthorized pets brought on campus may result in a request to leave the premises.

18. Property

All students are expected to treat school property, including classrooms, textbooks, furniture, and playground equipment, with care and respect. Intentional damage, defacement, or misuse of school facilities or materials may result in disciplinary action and financial liability for repair or replacement costs. Students should also be mindful of respecting the property of others, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and community.

19. Reporting of Child Abuse

In compliance with Florida Statute § 39.201, all Better Dayz Academy staff are mandated reporters and are legally required to report any suspected cases of child abuse, neglect, or abandonment to the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). Reports must be made immediately upon suspicion and do not require proof. The safety and well-being of each child is a top priority, and all concerns will be handled with the utmost seriousness, confidentiality, and in accordance with the law.

20. Safety and Security

At Better Dayz Academy, the safety and well-being of every student, staff member, and visitor is a top priority. We are committed to maintaining a secure, structured, and welcoming environment conducive to learning and growth. Our safety procedures are regularly reviewed and updated in alignment with best practices and applicable laws.

Campus Safety and Security Protocols

To protect our campus community, Better Dayz Academy enforces a range of security measures:

- All visitors must check in at the front office, present valid identification, and wear a visitor badge while on school property.
- Security cameras monitor key areas of the campus for safety and accountability.
- Emergency drills (fire, lockdown, weather-related) are conducted regularly throughout the school year to ensure that students and staff are well-prepared for potential emergencies.
- Faculty and staff are trained in safety procedures and are vigilant in monitoring student activity.

Weapons and Threats Policy

In accordance with Florida Statute § 790.115, weapons, dangerous objects, and any threats of violence are strictly prohibited on school property, at school events, or while using school transportation. Any student found in possession of a weapon or involved in making threats—verbal, written, or implied—will face immediate disciplinary action, which may include suspension, expulsion, and legal consequences. All threats are taken seriously, thoroughly investigated, and reported to the appropriate authorities when necessary.

Personal Property

Students are encouraged to bring only essential items to school. Valuable personal belongings such as electronics, jewelry, or large sums of money should be left at home. Better Dayz Academy is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged personal property. Students should label all school-related items and store their belongings in assigned spaces when applicable. Misuse or loss of personal items brought to school is the responsibility of the student and family.

21. School Business Office Hours

The Better Dayz Academy Business Office is available to support families with a variety of administrative and financial needs. Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding school holidays and designated closures.

During these hours, families may:

- **Make tuition payments** or inquire about billing and account balances.
- **Request student records**, including transcripts, enrollment verifications, and immunization forms.
- **Submit or update enrollment documents**, scholarship information, or financial aid applications.
- **Ask general questions** regarding school operations, policies, or scheduling.

For faster service, families are encouraged to call ahead to schedule an appointment for specific services or to speak with a designated staff member. Walk-ins are welcome during office hours, but response times may vary based on staff availability.

Parents or guardians needing assistance outside of business hours may leave a voicemail or send an email, and a staff member will respond within one business day.

22. Social Media and Social Networking Policies and Procedures

- At Better Dayz Academy, we recognize that social media and digital communication play a significant role in students' lives. While these platforms offer opportunities for creativity and connection, responsible use is essential to ensure a safe, respectful, and value-based learning environment.
- **Responsible Use at School and School-Sponsored Events**
Students may not access or use social media during instructional hours or school-related activities unless specifically approved by a staff member for educational purposes. Posts, images, or messages shared during school events must reflect the school's values of respect, integrity, and kindness. Inappropriate or disruptive use will result in disciplinary action.
- **Off-Campus Use That Impacts the School Community**
Behavior on social media that occurs outside of school hours and off-campus may still fall under school review if it disrupts the educational environment, involves harassment, bullying, or threats, or violates the school's code of conduct. This includes cyberbullying, hate speech, or spreading harmful or false information about students or staff.
- **Student Identity and Online Conduct**
Students must represent themselves truthfully and respectfully online. They may not create fake profiles, impersonate others, or post content that damages reputations or promotes harmful behavior. Online conduct should reflect the same standards expected on campus.
- **School's Right to Review and Investigate**
If there is reasonable cause to believe that a student's social media activity violates school policy or poses a threat to the safety or well-being of the school community, Better Dayz Academy reserves the right to review the activity in question. Investigations will follow appropriate privacy guidelines and disciplinary procedures.
- Parents and guardians are encouraged to monitor their child's digital presence and partner with the school in teaching digital citizenship and accountability.

23. Special Services

- At Better Dayz Academy, we are committed to supporting the whole child by providing a range of specialized services designed to meet the diverse academic, emotional, social, and developmental needs of our students. Our special services team works collaboratively with teachers and families to ensure every student has the opportunity to thrive.
- **Occupational Therapy Services**
Our Occupational Therapy Specialist supports students who may struggle with fine motor skills, sensory processing, and daily classroom activities. Services may include assistance with handwriting, coordination, attention regulation, self-care routines, and adaptations that promote active participation and independence in the learning environment.
- **School Counseling Services**
The School Counselor plays a vital role in fostering student wellness and school success. Through one-on-one sessions, small group activities, and classroom guidance, the counselor supports students with emotional regulation, social skills, conflict resolution, and academic goal setting. The counselor also serves as a resource for families navigating challenges both in and outside of school.

- **Speech and Language Therapy Services**

Our Speech and Language Therapy Specialist helps students develop effective communication skills essential for learning and social development. This includes support for articulation, language comprehension and expression, auditory processing, and fluency. Services are tailored to individual student needs and may be delivered through individual or small group sessions.

Better Dayz Academy partners with families to determine eligibility for special services, and services may be coordinated through private providers or qualified contracted professionals. Our goal is to empower every student to reach their full potential through compassionate, individualized support.

24. Student/Adult Interaction and Communication

At Better Dayz Academy, we foster a respectful and professional environment where communication between students and adults is grounded in mutual respect, clear boundaries, and trust. All interactions should promote a positive and supportive learning atmosphere. Adults, including staff and faculty, are expected to model appropriate behavior, provide guidance, and maintain professional boundaries. Students are encouraged to communicate openly and respectfully with teachers, staff, and administration to build strong relationships that support their academic and personal growth.

25. Study Lab

The Study Lab at Better Dayz Academy provides a quiet, focused environment for students to complete homework, study for tests, or receive additional academic support. Available during designated hours, the Study Lab is staffed by qualified personnel who can assist students with understanding assignments, managing time, and developing effective study skills. This resource is designed to help students build independent learning habits and improve academic performance in a supportive setting.

26. Student Disability Accommodations

Better Dayz Academy is committed to providing equitable educational opportunities by offering accommodations that supports students with disabilities in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

- **General Policy:** All students with documented disabilities are entitled to receive appropriate accommodation to ensure equal access to the curriculum and school activities. Better Dayz Academy strives to create an inclusive learning environment that respects the diverse needs of all students.
- **Request and Documentation:** Parents or guardians seeking accommodation must submit a formal written request along with current, professional documentation from a qualified healthcare provider, such as a physician, psychologist, or licensed specialist. This documentation should clearly outline the students' diagnosis and recommended accommodation.
- **Release for Communications with Physician:** To facilitate effective support, parents are required to provide consent for the school to communicate directly with the student's healthcare provider. This collaboration helps clarify needs and ensures the appropriateness of accommodations.

- **Assessment of Request:** The school's admissions and student support teams will review the submitted documentation and may conduct internal assessments to determine the most suitable accommodation. Decisions are based on the student's documented needs and how they align with Better Dayz Academy's educational program.
- **Limitations and Requests:** While Better Dayz Academy endeavors to meet the accommodation needs of every student, accommodation will be reasonable and within the school's capacity and available resources. The school may not be able to provide modifications that fundamentally alter the nature of the curriculum or exceed its operational capabilities.

27. Technology

At Better Dayz Academy, technology is a vital tool to enhance learning and prepare students for a digital world. The use of technology on campus is carefully managed to support educational goals while promoting responsible behavior.

- **Personal Technology on Campus:** Students are expected to keep personal electronic devices, such as smartphones, tablets, and smartwatches, securely stored away during school hours unless a teacher has given explicit permission for their use as part of a classroom activity. Unauthorized use of personal technology during instructional time is prohibited to minimize distractions and maintain a focused learning environment.
- **Acceptable Use Policy:** All students must adhere to Better Dayz Academy's Acceptable Use Policy, which outlines the responsible and ethical use of technology and digital resources. Technology is to be used strictly for educational purposes, including research, assignments, and communication related to school activities. Students are prohibited from accessing inappropriate content, engaging in cyberbullying, or using devices for non-academic activities during school hours. Violations of the policy may result in disciplinary action and loss of technology privileges.

28. Student Records and Information

Better Dayz Academy is committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of all student records in compliance with applicable federal and state laws, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and relevant Florida statutes.

- **Confidentiality:** All student records, including academic, health, and behavioral information, are treated as confidential and are only accessible to authorized school personnel who require the information to support the student's education and well-being.
- **Parental Access:** Parents or legal guardians have the right to review and request copies of their child's educational records. Requests must be submitted in writing to the school administration. Better Dayz Academy will provide access within a reasonable timeframe as outlined by school policy and state regulations.
- **Record Maintenance:** Student records are securely stored and maintained to ensure accuracy and protection from unauthorized access or alteration. Records are retained and disposed of in accordance with state retention schedules.
- **Disclosure of Information:** Better Dayz Academy will not release student records to third parties without prior written consent from the parent or legal guardian, except as required or permitted by law (such as transferring records to another school upon student enrollment).

- **Request Procedures:** Parents seeking access or wishing to amend their child's records should contact the school office for guidance on the formal process. The school is committed to working collaboratively with families to address any concerns regarding student information.

29. Transportation

Better Dayz Academy is committed to providing safe, efficient, and orderly transportation procedures to ensure the well-being of all students during arrival and dismissal times.

- **Morning Drop-Off:**
Students should be dropped off only at designated drop-off zones supervised by school staff. To ensure safety and smooth traffic flow, parents and guardians are asked to follow all posted signs and staff instructions. Students should remain in vehicles until a staff member is present to assist them safely in the building.
- **Afternoon Pick-Up:**
Students will be released only to authorized individuals listed on the student's emergency contact and release form. Identification may be requested to verify the identity of the person picking up the student. Any changes to authorized pick-up people must be communicated in writing to the school office in advance.
- **Booster Seat Policy:**
In compliance with Florida law (Florida Statutes §316.613), children under the required age, weight, or height must use an appropriate booster seat when transported in vehicles, including school buses or parent vehicles during school-related transportation.
- **Inclement Weather - Afternoon Carpool:**
During severe weather conditions or emergencies, afternoon dismissal procedures may be modified or delayed ensuring student safety. Updates and instructions will be communicated promptly via the school's alert system, including email, text, and phone notifications.
- **Late Pick-Up:**
Parents and guardians are asked to pick up students promptly at dismissal. Late pickups may result in additional fees and can impact on student safety and staff schedules. If late arrival is unavoidable, please notify the school office as soon as possible.

Better Dayz Academy appreciates your cooperation in following these transportation guidelines to maintain a safe and efficient environment for all students.

30. Tuition and Fees

At Better Dayz Academy, tuition and fee payments are essential to maintaining the quality of our academic programs and services.

- **Payment Schedule:**
Tuition is due on the first of each month, from August through May, unless otherwise stated in a written agreement. Payments can be made online through the school's designated payment portal or in person at the school business office during regular hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.).

- **Late Fees:**
Payments not received by the 15th of the month will incur a \$25.00 late fee. If payment is not received in full by the 30th, the student may not be permitted to attend class until the account is brought current.
- **Non-Prorated Tuition:**
Monthly tuition is **not prorated** for absences, withdrawals, or dismissals occurring after the first school day of the month.
- **Outstanding Balances:**
Student records, including report cards, transcripts, and recommendations, will not be released if there is an unpaid balance on the student's account.

We encourage families to communicate with the school office regarding any financial concerns to ensure transparency and avoid disruptions in student learning.

31. Visitors

Better Dayz Academy welcomes visitors while prioritizing the safety and security of our students and staff.

- **Check-In Procedures:**
All visitors — including parents, guardians, and vendors — must report directly to the front office upon arrival. Visitors will be asked to sign in, present a valid photo ID, and obtain a visitor badge, which must be visibly worn at all times while on campus.
- **Escorted Access:**
Visitors will be escorted or directed to their destination by office personnel. For classroom visits or meetings with staff, an appointment is recommended and may be required in advance.
- **Student Interaction:**
Visitors are not permitted to interact with students other than their own without prior approval. Taking photographs or videos of students is strictly prohibited unless granted written permission by the school administration.

These measures are in place to ensure a safe, respectful, and disruption-free learning environment for all.

32. Uniform Policy and Dress Code

Better Dayz Academy's uniform policy is designed to foster school unity, reduce distractions in the classroom, and reflect a spirit of excellence and discipline among our students. Our dress code emphasizes modesty, neatness, and a professional appearance that aligns with our academic values.

Overview

All students are required to wear the **official school uniform** each day unless otherwise specified (e.g., dress-down days or spirit days). Uniform compliance is monitored daily, and students not in uniform may be required to call home for appropriate attire or receive a uniform infraction notice.

Other Requirements

- **Footwear:** Only **closed-toe, flat shoes** are permitted for safety and uniformity. Sneakers or dress shoes in neutral colors (black, navy, white, or brown) are recommended. No open-toe sandals, slippers, or flashy designs are allowed.
- **Grooming and Hair:** Hair should be **clean, well-groomed, and kept away from the face**. Hairstyles and colors that are deemed distracting or extreme by administration are not permitted.
- **Accessories:** Jewelry should be minimal and not interfere with school activities. Hats, hoodies, or sunglasses may not be worn indoors.

Uniform Reference Guide

Each family receives a **Uniform Reference Guide** at the beginning of the academic year. This includes photos and descriptions of all required uniform pieces, guidelines on how to wear them properly, and a calendar of themed dress days (e.g., chapel, PE, spirit days).

• List of Approved Clothing Items

Only **school-approved uniform items** may be worn. Uniforms must be:

- Clean and free from stains or tears
- Properly sized (not excessively tight or baggy)
- Worn as intended (e.g., shirts tucked in, belts when needed)

Uniform items must be purchased through the school's designated uniform provider or approved vendors. Non-compliant items will result in a dress code violation.

• Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Uniforms

A list of FAQs is included in the Uniform Guide to help families navigate:

- Where to purchase uniforms
- How to handle size exchanges or back orders
- What to do if a student forgets part of their uniform
- What constitutes a uniform violation and how it will be addressed

The uniform policy reflects Better Dayz Academy's commitment to structure, focus, and school pride. We appreciate parental support in ensuring students are dressed for success each day.