

2025-2026

EverGreen Academy



3351 Chicory Rd

Mt. Pleasant, WI 53405

&

3554 Taylor Ave

Racine, WI 53405

262.456.1079

evergreen.k12.wi.us

Family

Handbook

4K-8th Grade

Disclaimer

The information, policies, and procedures contained herein are the property of EverGreen Academy and subject to change with or without notice.

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Vision Statement

Our vision is to have a school where each child is known, valued, challenged, nurtured, and looks forward to coming to school each day.

Mission Statement

1. Each child will be *known*, not merely by that child's particular teacher, but by all the staff as well. This will be accomplished by small classes and by frequent interactions between students and staff.
2. Each child will be *valued* because the worth of every individual is great. Every effort will be made by the staff of this school to see that each child will be treated as a precious commodity who has intrinsic worth regardless of their individual circumstances.
3. Each child will be *challenged* to do their best in all the aspects of their education, including academic, physical education, music, art, and social interaction with others. The curriculum will be sufficiently rigorous to ensure each child will learn what they will need to learn, and progress will be measured and monitored to make certain each child is keeping up.
4. Each child will be *nurtured*, by which we mean they will be helped, guided, directed, and gently prodded to grow and develop their various talents by kind and caring teachers and staff.
5. Each child, each day will be in an environment of happiness, joy, and excitement that will generate within them a desire to come to school each day.

Core Values

1. **SECURITY**- We believe students must feel a sense of security while at school. They deserve to be free of criticism, fear of bullying, fear of physical harm. Teachers and other staff must be vigilant in guarding against anything that would cause a child to be afraid at school.
2. **PERSEVERANCE**- We believe students should be taught the value of never giving up. Students learn at different speeds. Some students fall behind and may become discouraged. We believe in teaching the truism that "All things are possible" if only you persevere. "Perseverance" is a

quality that should be present in students- so they keep on trying to master a subject- as well as teachers who should never give up on a student who may be struggling.

3. **RESPECT-** All types of students are welcome at EverGreen Academy. Teachers and staff must take pains to make certain that all students are treated with the utmost respect regardless of physical, mental, economic, or national origin differences.
4. **JOY-** We believe that children learn best when they are in an environment that is stress free and is full of happiness and joy. Factors that enhance children's joy include an atmosphere of fun, plenty of art, music, and a variety of physical activities spread throughout the school day. Not to be overlooked is the disposition of the teachers and other staff. If children regularly see teachers and staff smiling and enjoying their work, the atmosphere of learning is greatly enhanced.

About the School

Non-Profit Status approved in July 2014

School Hours: **AM Drop off begins at 7:45 AM.**

4K, ½ day:

AM 8:05 am to 11:05 am

PM 12:20 pm to 3:20pm

5K through 5th grade:

8:05 am to 3:20 pm

Middle School 6th through 8th grade:

8:00 am to 3:35 pm

If you have need of after school care that would extend beyond dismissal, you can contact the following licensed childcare centers who have been known to transport to and from EverGreen Academy: AIM Now and Hands of Opportunity.

Elementary School (4K thru 5th)

3351 Chicory Rd, Mt. Pleasant, WI

Phone: 262-456-1079

Ext. 223 for Elementary

Website: evergreen.k12.wi.us

Middle School (6th thru 8th)

3554 Taylor Ave, Racine, WI

Ext. 130 for Middle

Facebook: EverGreen Academy

ATTENDANCE LINE: 262-456-1079, Ext 223 for Elem, Ext 130 for Middle

School Administration

Founder: Grant Meier

Directing Principal: Michael Meier

Principal of Middle School: Kyle Kwiatkowski

Principal of Elementary: Rebecca Spanke

Director of Staff Development: Mara Quinn

Director of Operations: Hillary Huck

Director of Student Advocacy: Elisabeth De Mali

Director of Culinary Services: Lara Meier

Administrative Assistants: Dana Huck & Lori Adams

Board of Directors

President: Michael Meier

Operations: Hillary Huck

Founder: Marsha Meier

Chairperson: Nancy Bloom

Cindy Warner

Academic Requirements

All students are required to participate in their education. This participation **MAY** include doing homework. It is EverGreen's goal to NOT HAVE HOMEWORK. Most, if not all, work should be done during the school day with the assistance of the teachers and staff. Doing the work at school allows a student to ask questions and get help when needed. EverGreen believes that students need a break from schoolwork and after school should be used for other activities and being with their family without the stress of homework.

With that being said, if a student is absent and/or does not complete work in class during the day, they may need to complete this work at home. We will do our best to provide opportunities during the day to complete this work. This may include staying in from recess, missing a portion of specialists (art, music, physical education, life skills) and/or staying after for office hours. Teachers communicate homework expectations to students and parents in many ways: phone calls, conferences, notes home, web pages, homework sheets, assignment planners, and JMC (online Student Information System).

Reading nightly may be required by a teacher and should not be considered homework but great educational practice. Research shows that students who read for 20 minutes every day outside of school are more successful in their academics. This is best done with an adult or older child who can listen to the student read aloud (or take turns reading together) so that the student can strengthen reading skills. Teachers will ask you to record your time as part of their class expectations. As a school, we will promote this activity with incentives, like getting Principal Meier to sleep on the roof if we earn our minutes' goal.

Parents can help by checking their child's backpack after school each day. By talking about completed work and reviewing assignments, parents/guardians

support their child's learning. If parents have questions/concerns about their child's work, they are **encouraged to contact their child's classroom teacher.**

For a student to participate in extra-curricular activities, such as after-school sports or clubs, individual policies will be shared upon sign up or before the start of the season.

Accidents or Injuries

Minor injuries will result in first aid procedures. Procedures include washing the affected area and applying a bandage or applying a cold compress for bumps and bruises. A parent/guardian will receive a phone call for any head injuries or biting incidents resulting in broken skin. For serious injuries or other emergencies, 911 will be called and your child will be taken to Ascension All Saints Hospital, which is located at 3801 Spring Street. A parent will be notified immediately and asked to go to the hospital. A staff member will accompany your child to the emergency room until an authorized adult arrives.

Admissions

Admission to EverGreen Academy includes an electronic application (Racine Private Choice Program) or Private Tuition Application, and parent-provided documentation. Acceptance into the program is determined within 60 days of the close of the application period.

EverGreen Academy initiates a random selection process when more applications are submitted than seats available. In this selection, however, there are preferences given to certain application types:

1. Seats are filled with students and, next, siblings of students who are currently enrolled in EverGreen Academy.
2. Seats are next filled with students and siblings of students who are currently enrolled in the Choice Program but attended another Choice School the previous year.
3. Seats are finally filled with students and siblings who are new to the Choice Program.
4. Students who have been expelled from EverGreen Academy will not be admitted into EverGreen Academy.
5. Students who have a negative student account balance will not be admitted to EverGreen Academy unless made current and kept current from the application period through the end of the current school year.
6. Students **MUST** be potty trained to attend.

EverGreen Academy is an academic community whose doors are open to all applicants without regard to race, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, or

national origin, and complies with the regulations regarding students and persons with disabilities as required by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Appeals Process for Rejected Applicants

Students applying to EverGreen Academy would be rejected on the basis of non-compliance with RPCP application procedures or non-eligibility in the RPCP program based on residency, income, or prior year school attendance requirement. Under EverGreen Academy appeals process, a rejected applicant has five (5) working days from the date of receipt of their notice of rejection to provide written evidence to the school administration that the applicant was improperly rejected. The evidence must include residency, income, or prior year school attendance documentation. The school administration shall respond to the applicant's appeal within five (5) working days of receipt of the appeal notifying him or her of the acceptance or rejection of the appeal.

Attendance Policy

There is a powerful link between attendance and academic success in school. To give students the best opportunity to reach their potential both academically and socially, they must attend school regularly. When students are tardy, leave early, or absent, they miss valuable learning and social experiences that cannot be replaced.

Wisconsin requires that any person having control of a student enrolled in kindergarten and up to age 18 is required to have the child attend school regularly until the end of the semester in which the child becomes 18 years of age.

Parents/guardians are responsible for student attendance as defined by the state's Compulsory School Attendance laws. Students from age 5 to 18 are required to attend school. The school may file a truancy petition or child-in-need-of-services petition for students who have sixteen (16) or more absences in a school year.

We have a goal that our students will maintain an attendance rate of 90% or higher.

Parents need to call the school if their child is absent or late. Please call **262-456-1079, Ext 223 for Elementary or Ext 130 for Middle School, before 9:00 am to report absences or tardiness.** If someone is unable to answer your phone call, please leave a message.

If the school does not receive a phone call regarding your child's absence, we will call to find out the reason for the absence, however, the absence will be unexcused.

The tardy bell:

8:00 AM for Middle School

8:05 AM for AM 4K- 5th

12:20 PM for the PM 4K.

An adult who drops the child off will need to enter the office to sign the student in for the day.

Students who come to school after the tardy bell will need an adult to sign them into the building. Abuse of this absence policy could result in the student not being allowed to continue in the school!

Children who are pulled early from school, any time prior to the dismissal bell, will need to be signed out by an adult who is picking up. This will also count as a tardy at the end of the day in attendance records.

Tardy (Late entry or early pull):

- Parents/guardians are expected to bring their children to school on time.
- When students are late or leave early, they miss valuable learning and social experiences that cannot be replaced.
- To avoid an excess of "early pull tardies," parents should make doctor appointments during non-school hours.
- Tardies (late entries and early pulls) are monitored on a case-by-case basis.

Late Pick Up:

EverGreen Academy has a pickup "grace period" until **3:50 PM** for both elementary and middle school. If you know you are going to be late, we ask that you contact the school to let us know and give an approximate time of pick up. **A \$1/minute late fee will be charged to the account for EACH child.**

Car Line Procedures

ELEMENTARY

AM DROP OFF 7:45 AM- 8:05 AM

1. Enter the WEST ENTRANCE into the parking lot from Chicory. **Form a single line!**
2. Staff will open car doors to let out students.

3. ALL students are required to be dropped off via the car line, parents will NOT be allowed to park and walk their children across as this is a safety issue and slows down the drop off procedure.
4. Late (after 8:05 AM) students will need to be walked into the front entryway to be **SIGNED IN PRIOR to entering the building.**

PM PICK UP line up begins no earlier than 2:45 PM

1. Enter the EAST EXIT into the parking lot from Chicory. **Prior to 2:45 PM, wait to enter the parking lot until a STAFF MEMBER WAVES you in!!**
2. We are snaking through the parking lot (follow the cones).
 - a. Once around the first corner, you will form 2 lines as directed.
 - b. There WILL be a line of cars waiting to come into the parking lot on Chicory.
 - c. DO NOT SKIP the line!!
 - d. PLEASE DO NOT BLOCK THE WEST DRIVEWAY ENTRANCE FROM THE STREET!!
5. **Please display your CARLINE folder** on your dash or visor so staff can see it to place students in the correct dismissal order and car.
6. Once dismissal starts at 3:20, we will be done in 20-25 minutes. PLEASE be patient!
7. ALL students will be dismissed through the car line for their safety and car line efficiency. Walkups will be directed back to their cars to get into carline.

Elementary: Dismissal is at 3:20 PM
Late pick up charge begins at 3:50 PM

MIDDLE SCHOOL

AM DROP OFF begins at 7:45 AM- 8:00 AM

1. Follow the cones indicating the traffic route.
2. **Right turn in and right turn out ONLY!!**
3. Staff will open car doors to let out students.
4. ALL students are required to be dropped off through the car line, parents will NOT be allowed to park and walk their children across as this is a safety issue and slows down the drop off procedure.
5. Late (after 8:00 AM) students will need to be walked into the front door to be SIGNED IN PRIOR to entering the building.

PM PICK UP line up begins no earlier than 3:00 PM

1. **Right turn in and right turn out ONLY!! (3:30 PM-3:50 PM)**
2. We are snaking through the parking lot (follow the cones).
 - a. There WILL be a line of cars waiting to come into the parking lot on Lathrop and Taylor.

- b. DO NOT SKIP the line!!
8. Please display your name folder on your dash or visor so staff can see it to call out the correct students.
 9. Once dismissal starts at 3:35, we will be done in 15 minutes. PLEASE be patient!
 10. ALL students will be dismissed through the car line for their safety. Walkups will be directed back to their cars to get into carline.
 11. Students who have a Walk Home Permission form on file (new each year) will be released through the front door.

Middle School: Dismissal is at 3:35 PM

Late pick up charge begins at 3:50 PM

Etiquette

1. NO SMOKING/VAPING ON SCHOOL PROPERTY (EVEN WHILE IN YOUR CAR)
2. DO NOT PASS OTHER CARS IN CAR LINE UNLESS DIRECTED BY A STAFF MEMBER AT PICK UP OR DROP OFF
3. REMEMBER TO BE AWARE OF STREET & LOT TRAFFIC WHEN ENTERING & EXITING THE PARKING LOT
4. NO FOUL LANGUAGE/GESTURES TO STAFF OR OTHER DRIVERS

PLEASE LET ALL PICKUP PEOPLE KNOW THESE EXPECTATIONS OF CAR LINE ETIQUETTE

Commitment to Excellence

The Commitment to Excellence is a separate form that we require ALL parents/guardians to *read* and sign AND students 3rd-8th to *read* and sign.

Computer Usage

Internet access has been established for a limited educational purpose that shall be consistent with the school's curriculum and the State Standards. The term "Educational Purpose" includes academic activities, career development, and approved limited, high-quality activities.

Under no circumstances should a student provide passwords to other students or allow anyone to use their login and password.

Students are not authorized to load any software on a computer system

Students are restricted from using obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, threatening, or disrespectful language while using the school computers.

Students are not allowed to plagiarize works found on the internet. Copy and pasting work from the internet into your work is a form of plagiarizing.

Students are restricted from changing the set-ups of the computers and removing or adding programs to any of the schools computers.

There is no food or beverage allowed around the computers

Students are responsible to report any problems they see with the computers immediately to a teacher.

Failure to follow these rules and standards can result in the suspension of the students computer account and/or other disciplinary action.

Confidentiality of Records

All children's records are kept confidential. All persons having access to these records may not discuss or disclose personal information regarding the children or the family. This does not apply to parents or persons authorized in writing by the parent to receive such information.

Curriculum

Our school has adopted the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards in mathematics, reading, including language arts, science, social studies, art, music, and physical education. These standards can be found on the following webpage: <http://standards.dpi.wi.gov> implemented by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. The academic areas of Math and Language will be aligned with the **Common Core Academic Standards** so long as Common Core is mandated by the state (<http://commoncore.dpi.wi.gov>). EverGreen Academy will emphasize art, music, physical education/health, and social-emotional learning as an essential part of the academic week. Academic excellence is pursued through the arts, sciences, and languages to support children's ideas using written and spoken words, drawings and painting, mathematical symbols, computer technology, physical movement and dance, dramatic and musical interpretation, natural materials, clay, and sculpture. Basic skills are introduced and practiced within a context that has meaning and purpose for the child. Parents are respected and valued as important partners in their child's education. The success of our school is largely determined by the many positive relationships we strive to maintain with our families.

Dress Code- UNIFORM

ELEMENTARY

TOPS

ANY Solid color polo no insignia other than EverGreen Academy or plain

BOTTOMS

Dress pants, cargo pants, shorts, skirts/skorts, jeans, athletic pants, and jumpers:

- Bottoms must be at least two (2) inches longer than fingertips when arms and hands are at rest along their sides and may not be form fitting (ex. biker shorts).
- Bottoms must be accompanied by leggings if any skin is visible above the knee.
- No pajama pants unless designated as a pajama spirit wear day.
- **Leggings/jeggings may be worn as long as the student's top meets their fingertips when their arms and hands are at rest along their sides without stretching their top down.**

COLDER WEATHER:

- Sweaters, vests, or sweatshirts may be worn
- They should be solid colors without embellishments of ANY kind except for the EverGreen logo.
- Long sleeve shirts in any solid color may be worn under their polo shirt.
- **All clothing needs to be in good repair (no holes please)**
- If students are not in compliance with the dress code, parents may be contacted to bring proper clothing to school.
- EverGreen polo, long sleeve polos, sweatshirts, and hoodies may be purchased directly from the school.
- **Wacky Wednesday:** Students may wear spirit-wear shirts (ordered from the school) with any type of pants/shorts or their uniform ONLY.
- The 13th of each month is "CORE values" day. Students can wear their "Choose" t-shirts or other spirit wear purchased from the school.
- **Fundraiser Days (last day of each week) Children need to pay 50 cents to wear non-uniform attire.**

The guidelines are as follows:

- Clothing and accessories cannot display dangerous slogans, signs, images, or symbols that promote drugs, alcohol, tobacco, gang identification, weapons, or lewd sexual behavior.
- Clothing cannot promote discrimination for or against an individual or group on the basis of age, race, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, or gender.
- Clothing cannot reveal private body area(s) or undergarments (no tank/spaghetti strap tops, boys, or girls)

- Bottoms must be at least two (2) inches longer than fingertips when arms and hands are at rest along their sides and may not be form fitting (ex. biker shorts).
- Bottoms must be accompanied by leggings if any skin is visible above the knee.
- No pajama pants unless designated as a pajama spirit wear day.
- Hoods/hats/ head covering are not permitted indoors.
- **Leggings/jeggings may be worn as long as the student's top meets their fingertips when their arms and hands are at rest along their sides without stretching their top down.**

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Uniforms are not required. Guidelines are as follows:

- Clothing and accessories cannot display dangerous slogans, signs, images, or symbols that promote drugs, alcohol, tobacco, gang identification, weapons, or lewd sexual behavior.
- Clothing cannot promote discrimination for or against an individual or group on the basis of age, race, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, or gender.
- Clothing cannot reveal private body area(s) or undergarments (no tank/spaghetti strap tops, boys, or girls)
- Bottoms must be at least two (2) inches longer than fingertips when arms and hands are at rest along their sides and may not be form fitting (ex. biker shorts).
- Bottoms must be accompanied with leggings if any skin is visible above the knee.
- No pajama pants unless designated as a pajama spirit wear day.
- Hoods/hats/ head covering are not permitted indoors.
- **Leggings/jeggings may be worn as long as the student's top meets their fingertips when their arms and hands are at rest along their sides without stretching their top down.**

Drop Off/Pick Up

Onsite supervision does NOT start until 7:45 AM for both buildings.

Upon departure of the school, children will be brought to their assigned entrance/exit doors and dismissed to their authorized person. Unauthorized people who are not in JMC will not be allowed to pick up your child unless parent permission is given to the office.

In emergency situations, a parent may call and authorize an individual not on the emergency card to pick up their child. The parent will need to provide the first and last name of the authorized person.

Emergency Care

In an emergency medical situation, which will be recognized by the staff, 911 will be called and your child will be taken to Ascension All Saints Hospital, which is located at 3801 Spring Street. Parents are notified at once and will be asked to go to the hospital. A staff member will accompany your child to the emergency room until an authorized adult arrives.

Emergency Procedures

Each classroom has evacuation routes posted for fire and tornado drills. Fire drills are practiced monthly, and tornado drills are practiced monthly during tornado season. This ensures smooth evacuations in the event of a real disaster. Parents or emergency contacts will be notified in the event of an actual disaster. Only authorized people will be allowed to pick up children.

Emergency Snow Days/Closings

In the event school must close because of inclement weather or other emergency conditions, the decision will be made as early as possible. The notice that schools are closed will be broadcast over the following media stations:

Facebook Page

JMC phone, text, and email blast

Remind app (Middle School)

Teacher classroom notification app (Elementary School)

****We MAY or MAY NOT close if RUSD closes**

Field Trips

Field trips are a wonderful opportunity for children to discover a whole new experience outside the classroom setting. Our students gain valuable knowledge and experiences during field trips. When your child has a field trip, a permission slip will be sent home. It is vital that these are returned by the due date, or your child may not be able to attend that trip. All students are asked to wear either an EverGreen polo OR EverGreen spirit wear on all field trips.

Grading- TBD

EverGreen is reviewing our grading practices including moving to standards based grading. We will add an addendum to the handbook when this is finalized.

Graduation (8th Grade)

In order for our students to have a stable transition from middle school to high school, the criteria for 8th grade graduation are listed below:

- Satisfy school debts, such as but not limited to fines, lost/damaged textbooks, and outstanding accounts
- Fulfill any earned disciplinary measures
- Receive a C- or better for all subjects in Trimester 3

Health and Nutrition

Up to date immunization forms must be completed and signed by your physician no more than 90 days prior to or 30 days after enrollment. **(State law requirement)**

When a child becomes ill at school, a parent will be notified to pick up their child if they exhibit any of the symptoms listed below. The parent is required to pick up their child within one hour of notification that their child is ill. If a parent is unable to pick up, then they must provide the name of the person that can pick up their child. Only authorized persons will be allowed to pick up the child.

Children may re-enter school as long as they are free of these conditions for 24 hours, the disease is no longer contagious, or the doctor releases the child to attend school.

If a child has been exposed to a communicable disease, you will be notified by a letter sent home in the child's backpack. If your child contracts a

communicable disease, it is essential that this information be reported to the teacher, the principal, and the health department immediately.

Children may be excluded from attending school if there is evidence of:

- Fever over 100 degrees
- Skin eruptions, rash, or LICE
- Persistent "hacking" cough
- Severe nasal and chest congestion
- Recurring vomiting
- Evidence of extreme fatigue
- The contagious stage of any communicable disease
- Severe diarrhea
- Discharge and redness of the eye(s)
- Inflamed sore throat.

Items from Home

Parents are asked not to send to school with their child any toys, distracting items, or items of extreme value. **These items are a distraction to your child as well as others.**

Unauthorized use of cell phones is prohibited. Students caught using their cell phone outside of acceptable times will result in it being confiscated. They may pick it back up at the end of the day. After second unauthorized use will result in suspension.

Money for student accounts, snacks, fundraisers, or field trips should be placed in an envelope with your child's name on it and specification as to what the funds are for.

Lost and Found

Please mark all of your child's belongings (backpack, clothing, lunchbox, jacket, etc.) with your child's name. Many of our students have similar attire; therefore, having labels makes it much easier to determine the rightful owners of each item/article of clothing. Items/articles of clothing left in a classroom and whose owner is unknown will be put in the lost and found bin. Feel free to come at any time to check our LOST AND FOUND box. Lost items such as glasses, keys, or jewelry will be kept in the office. Items in the LOST AND FOUND box that are not claimed will be donated at the end of each year.

Lunch

EverGreen Academy is part of the National School Lunch Program. All students are eligible for free lunch under the school community provision. Milk purchased separately is 40¢ and students ordering an extra main dish costs \$2.00. We encourage families to place money in the family account to draw from instead of paying daily. The administrative assistants, Ms. Huck (elementary) and Mrs. Adams (Middle School) monitor student accounts and will inform families when they are overdrawn via JMC texts and/or emails. PLEASE keep your information current.

“In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.”

Medication

If a child requires medication to be given at school, parents are required to fill out a release form allowing the medication to be administered.

Prescription medication must be labeled with the original pharmacy container including the child's name and specific directions concerning how and when to give the prescribed dosage. A doctor will be required to sign the medication form for any medications that are controlled substances or if the child is identified as being able to self-administer. This includes inhalers and epi-pens, as well as temporary prescriptions like antibiotics given at school.

Non-prescription drugs will be administered following the instructions on the label with parent permission. This includes Tylenol, Advil, cough drops, etc.

ANY and ALL medication coming into the school needs to be held in the office, even if it is just for transfer from one parent house to another. Medication is NOT to be left in a child's backpack for any reason.

Missing Child

If a child is missing, the police and parents will be contacted immediately. Teachers, to determine the whereabouts of the child, will conduct a search of the entire building. Safety procedures are in place to prevent such an event from happening. These procedures include teachers completing morning attendance and office personnel contacting parents of absent children who are not already called in.

Non-Harassment Policies and Procedures

It is imperative to maintain an educational environment that encourages optimum human growth and development. It is vital that each school maintains learning and working environments free from any form of harassment or intimidation. Harassment is defined as an incident or a pattern of behavior wherein the purpose or effect is to create a hostile, offensive, or intimidating environment. Harassment encompasses a broad range of physical or verbal behavior which can include, but is not limited to threatening behavior, racial insults, derogatory ethnic slurs, unwelcome sexual advances or touching, sexual comments, jokes, or gestures, physical or mental abuse. Any person who feels s/he has been subjected to harassment should contact the administration. The person contacted will inform his/her superior immediately upon learning of the allegation. The parties involved will then meet with the administration, where every effort will be made to resolve the problem on an informal basis. If the problem(s) cannot be resolved at the local/school level, the matter will be submitted to the Governing Board at an emergency meeting. Potential disciplinary actions can include a written reprimand being placed in the student and/or employee file, suspension, and may include termination, depending on the gravity of the situation. The administration of the school, in consultation with the Governing Board, is the responsible party in all such cases.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

EverGreen Academy considers communication between parents and teachers crucial for the success of all our students. Parents, as the first educators, bring valuable knowledge about their child to the table which we need to best instruct your child. Teachers are with your students for a large part of their day and have valuable knowledge to share with you. One of the ways we foster good parent and teacher communication is through Parent/Teacher conferences.

There are two (2) **MANDATORY** parent/teacher conferences **FOR ALL STUDENTS** during the school year. Additional may be scheduled for those families we need to have more discussions with. If you do not attend your scheduled conference, your child may be suspended until the conference has been conducted.

Planners/ 10 Pocket Folders

Some teachers utilize school provided planners which will be handed out at the beginning of the year. It is your child's responsibility to keep track of their planner. We utilize them to help communicate assignments, concerns, and successes. If your child loses their planner, it is a \$5 replacement fee.

Each child from 3rd grade through 8th grade will be given a 10 Pocket Folder at the beginning of the year. It is your child's responsibility to keep track of their 10 Pocket Folder. We utilize them to help communicate assignments, concerns, and successes. If your child loses their 10 Pocket, it is a \$5 replacement fee. Students are required to bring them to and from school EVERY day.

Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

The state of Wisconsin requires that all teachers be on the lookout for, and report to the state, any and all cases of abuse to a child. EverGreen Academy is therefore obligated to report to the state any suspected cases of child abuse and/or neglect. This includes if a student tells a faculty and/or staff member about suspected abuse or neglect happening to them or another minor. We are MANDATED reporters.

Retention Policy

The current grade teacher will initiate student grade retentions. The teacher should base his or her analysis on academic achievement using report cards, personal observation, attitude, attendance, and MAP and Forward Exams.

There will be a meeting with parents and the Administrative Team before a decision is made. The final decision will be the responsibility of the Administrative Team.

In the event the parent refuses the recommended grade retention, the student will lose his or her seat at the school the following school year.

Safety Procedures

EverGreen Academy has taken many steps to ensure the safety and protection of your children while they are at school. Classrooms are set up to always offer maximum visibility, particularly in areas where children may be vulnerable. The Wisconsin Model Academic Standards may involve taking photographs and recording children at school. By signing the statement of compliance, allows EverGreen Academy to photograph, record, and videotape for school purposes.

School Calendar

Located on the school's website. Hard copies are available upon request.

School Hours

4K, ½ day:

AM 8:05 am to 11:05 am

PM 12:20 pm to 3:20 pm

5K through 5th grade:

8:05 am to 3:20 pm

Middle School 6th through 8th grade:

8:00 am to 3:35 pm

If you have need of after school care that would extend beyond dismissal, you can contact the following licensed childcare centers who have been known to transport to and from EverGreen Academy: AIM Now and Hands of Opportunity.

Snacks

All grades will have a snack time decided upon by their teacher. EverGreen requires snacks to remain on the healthier side. Please use good judgement when providing snacks for your child. Cookies, snack cakes, donuts, and other “treat” items should not be sent regularly with a child. Snacks and drinks high in sugar interrupt the ability to think and focus during instruction time.

Student (Family) Money Accounts

Accounts are created for students to pull money from for school direct items such as extra lunch, a-la-carte milk, field trips, and Fundraiser Day. Cash, checks, and Venmo (@HillaryHuck) are acceptable forms of payment for these things. If a check issued to the school is returned for insufficient funds, the family will be responsible for the issued check amount and assessed a \$30 NSF fee as well.

We also accept credit/debit cards; however, a 5% service fee is added.

Parents will be informed when the account is low or overdrawn. Any account not made current by the end of the school year may result in student expulsion for the following year.

Student Code of Conduct

To: Parents/Guardians

The Student Code of Conduct has been developed to help your child succeed in school. It defines the responsibilities and rights of students attending EverGreen Academy and states the consequences of student actions that disrupt learning.

Since parents/guardians can be held responsible for the actions of their children, you should be well informed as to what is considered proper behavior

while students are in school and participating in extracurricular activities. Learning is enhanced by working together.

To: Students

The Student Code of Conduct informs you about your responsibilities, rights, and the rules you must follow. It also states consequences for misbehavior. You are expected to show responsible behavior at all times.

To: Parents/Guardians and Students

The school needs your help and cooperation. Parents/guardians and students are asked to please read and discuss this important section together. Please sign the "**NOTICE OF RECEIPT**" sheet on the last page of this handbook and return it to the school. This form will be kept on file at the school. Your signature does not mean that you agree or disagree with the contents, but just that you received a copy of the family handbook containing the Student Code of Conduct and are aware of its contents. Thank you in advance for your attention to this most important document and for returning the signed receipt.

Introduction

EverGreen Academy provides a safe and structures environment to promote student's academic and social development. Our disciplined environment contributes to both the academic and social success of our students.

Our goal as a staff is to collaborate with parents to encourage and teach each student to take responsibility for making good decisions about their behavior.

This Student Code of Conduct explains the rights, expectations, and responsibilities of students, parents, and EverGreen Academy regarding student behavior. This Code applies to every student who is under the authority of EverGreen Academy. The Code is in effect on school property, at school-sponsored events and on school transportation. You may also be subject to discipline for violation of the Code if your misconduct is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on property owned or controlled by EverGreen Academy, or if your misconduct is directed at an EverGreen Academy employee or the property of such official or employee. It is the policy of EverGreen Academy that misbehavior of any kind will not be tolerated. In order for instruction to occur in a safe environment, there must be a cooperative relationship between students, parents/guardians, and the school system.

STUDENTS are expected to:

- Assume responsibility for their own behavior
- Be in school and on time every day, if well, and be ready to learn
- Respect individuals and property
- Use appropriate, responsible behavior at all times
- Help maintain a safe, alcohol-, drug-, and weapon-free environment

PARENTS/GUARDIANS have a responsibility to encourage their child's career in school by:

- Supporting the school in requiring their child(ren) to follow all school rules and regulations and to accept responsibility for their willful in-school behavior
- Sending their children to school clean, appropriately dressed and in good health
- Having an active interest in their child's schoolwork and making it possible to complete assigned homework by providing a quiet place and suitable conditions for study
- Reading all communications from the school, signing, and returning documents promptly when requested
- Cooperating with the school in attending conferences and sharing information with school personnel

EVERGREEN ACADEMY is expected to:

- Provide and maintain a safe atmosphere which will encourage positive behavior and high achievement
- Provide courses of study, programs, and activities to meet the needs of all students
- Show respect for all individuals by treating them fairly and impartially
- Encourage open communication among students, parents/guardians, community agencies, and school personnel
- Discipline any student under its supervision, subject to limitations of the law and district policies
- Treat parents and other members of the public with courtesy and respect

RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES

This section summarizes the rights of students. With each right comes a responsibility.

KNOWLEDGE AND OBSERVATION OF RULES OF CONDUCT

Effective learning takes place in an atmosphere where students, parents/guardians, teachers, support staff and school administrators know the rules for all students and the consequences for students who violate the Code of Student Conduct.

Responsibilities

- To know and observe school rules and procedures which govern your conduct.
- To become familiar with the Code of Student Conduct, school rules, classroom rules, and bus rules.

Rights

- To receive a copy and explanation of the rules of student conduct.
- To expect the rules to be enforced fairly and without discrimination.

RIGHT TO LEARN AND PARTICIPATE

You have the right to be involved in your education. Age, grade, and maturity are factors which determine the level of your involvement. Participation in school activities is part of learning.

Responsibilities

- To request participation in academic programs and extracurricular activities that match with your abilities.
- To cooperate with the teacher and help create a safe environment.
- To cooperate fully and strive to achieve mastery of the basic skills.
- To treat others equitably and fairly.
- To act in a way to not harass others and to report harassment or discriminatory incidents to school administrators.

Rights

- To attend school in a learning environment where all students and adults are treated equitably without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. This list is not all inclusive.
- To receive instruction from competent teachers.

RESPECT FOR PERSONS AND PROPERTY

To be safe in public and private are important safeguards. You, your parent(s), and the school's staff should work together to see that these rights are preserved. You are expected to respect other people and their property.

Responsibilities

- To treat other students, school personnel and school visitors with respect.
- To respect others' property by not damaging or taking it.
- To treat school property with respect and to act in a way that does not interfere with the rights of others and is not harmful to the health and/or safety of others.
- To avoid conflict and to report and seek adult help, first, when conflict arises. Protect yourself from harm if no other options are available.

Rights

- To be treated with respect by other students, school personnel and campus visitors.
- To expect that your property will be respected by other students and school personnel.
- To have a safe and orderly school.

ATTENDANCE (Ages 5 to 18)

Your parents are responsible for your attendance as defined by the state's Compulsory School Attendance laws. You are required to attend school from age 5 through age 18. The school may file a truancy petition or child-in-need-

of-services petition for students who have sixteen (16) or more absences in a school year. EverGreen Academy also has an additional attendance policy which is explained beginning on page 6.

Responsibilities

- To attend and be on time at school and classes daily.
- To provide the school with an adequate explanation of absences.
- To request and complete make-up assignments as required by the school.
- To complete make-up work with honesty and integrity.

Rights

- To be informed of EverGreen Academy policies and individual school rules about absences and tardiness.
- To appeal a decision pertaining to an absence.
- To make up work and tests missed due to excused absences within the time required by the school.

FREE SPEECH, STUDENT PUBLICATION AND ASSEMBLY

Citizens are guaranteed self-expression and due process under the First and Fourteenth amendments of the United States Constitution. One of the basic purposes of education is to prepare you for responsible self-expression and the free exchange of ideas.

Responsibilities

- To recognize the rights of others by expressing yourself in a manner which does not disrupt the process of education, violate school rules, or interfere with the rights, safety, and/or welfare of others.
- To observe guidelines provided by school administrators and follow the rules of responsible journalism so as not to slander or libel other people.

Rights

- To express your viewpoints responsibly without jeopardizing your relations with your teachers or school.
- To print and distribute publications only under the supervision of the Administration.

PRIVACY

Federal and state laws provide persons with reasonable expectation of privacy in addition to freedom from unreasonable search and seizure of property. Such guarantees are limited and must be balanced by the school's need to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law pertaining to maintenance and disclosure of student records.

Responsibilities

- Not to carry or conceal any prohibited material.

- To learn how information is gathered, used, and what it means in your school records.

Rights

- To have privacy of your personal possessions unless appropriate school personnel have reasonable cause to believe you have an object or material which is prohibited by law or EverGreen Elementary School.
- To expect that schools will keep your records safe and private.

MISBEHAVIOR and CONSEQUENCES

EverGreen Academy has a firm mission to educate its students. Occasionally a student's actions (misbehaviors) will make the goal of educating other students challenging. This is not acceptable to the teacher or other students, and the teacher must act in order to allow the other students to learn.

Also, our school has a firm mission to keep our students safe and free from physical and emotional harm. Unsafe actions (including bullying) can occur outdoors, at gym, on the stairs, in the restroom, or in the classroom. This is not acceptable, and the teacher must act in order to keep others from harm, be it physical or emotional.

Choices have Consequences.

Our policy is to teach the students that their decisions or their actions have consequences. These consequences can vary from teacher to teacher. This approach allows the one person who knows the student best- the teacher- the freedom and responsibility to manage his or her classroom in a manner they believe will have the best chance to succeed.

It is up to the teacher to decide which consequence to impose when a student misbehaves. The teacher is granted a great deal of latitude when it comes to deciding which consequence would be appropriate. The purpose of each consequence should be designed to help the child improve, and not merely to inflict punishment.

Consequences will typically include, but not be limited to, the following options:

- Verbal warning or redirection
- Parent contact (phone, writing, or in person)
- Loss of privileges (including field trips, recess, clubs, etc.)
- A written "alert" sent to the parent.
- Removal from the classroom to another location in the school- including the principal's office.
- Assignment to an area that will allow a "cooling off" period for the student (Recovery room)
- Meeting with the teacher and parent(s)

- Meeting with the teacher, principal, and parent(s)
- Detention
- Suspension (in school or out of school)
- Expulsion

There will be no precise consequence mandated for any particular infraction. The consequences will be left to the discretion of the teacher. Teachers are free to deal with student misbehavior based on the unique circumstances and the teacher's unique view of the particular rule violation.

If the teacher feels that a particular infraction should be handled by the principal, the student will be referred to the principal who then will be responsible for handling and resolving the situation.

It is our belief that parents are more supportive when they believe that each child is treated as a unique individual and each situation is treated as unique. Before deciding the consequence, the teacher will take into consideration a number of factors, including:

- Seriousness of offense
- Planning, impulse, or self defense
- Age
- Disability, if any
- Strength of evidence (including witnesses)
- Cooperation/remorse
- Disciplinary history, if any

The most severe of the consequences are detention, suspension, and expulsion.

Suspension and Expulsion policy is explained on page 30.

As a school, EverGreen Academy will continue to emphasize the development of a student's character as an important part of his or her education. As part of this process, EverGreen has a referral process for those students who require disciplinary action. As part of this process, students will be asked to reflect on their behavior and strategize better options and understand how to adjust their behavior moving forward.

PROHIBITION and NOTICES

You are expected to behave appropriately at school. Misbehavior that violates the rights of others, disrupts the school, or interferes with learning is not acceptable.

These include, but are not limited to the following misbehaviors as defined in the glossary:

- | | |
|------------|-------------------|
| • Arson | • Assault/Threats |
| • Bullying | • Burglary/Theft |

- Classroom Disruptions
- Computer Misuse
- Disorderly Conduct
- Fighting/physical contact made in anger, including pushing
- Foul language, including profanity
- Harassment
- Possession and/or use of drugs or drug paraphernalia
- Possession and/or use of tobacco/vaping products or paraphernalia
- Possession and/or use of weapons or potential harmful materials
- Racial/Sexual Orientation Slurs
- Trespassing
- Cheating
- Defiance
- Gambling
- Public Displays of Affection
- Sexual Advances/Offenses
- Vandalism

Our philosophy for handling misbehavior and its consequences can be summed up in the following points:

- The happiest kids are those who have limits and boundaries.
- Classrooms must not be held hostage to the negative behaviors of students.
- Kids work harder for teachers they like.
- The teacher should set an example for respect and dignity.
- Misbehavior and bad decisions should be viewed as opportunities for individual growth.
- Consequences for misbehavior are most effective when individualized for the particular student and the particular situation.
- Consequences for misbehavior are more effective when stated at a time when both the adult and the student are calm and when both have time to think it over.
- Yelling at a student should rarely, if ever, be used when admonishing a student
- Very few practices are more effective than a strong relationship with the parent(s)
- Teachers will have discretion and flexibility as to which consequence to administer in a given situation.

If, as a parent or guardian, you have any questions about our approach to misbehavior and consequences, please feel free to speak with our teachers or the principal.

Student Information System- JMC

EverGreen Academy's student information system hosted by JMC Inc. is a valuable tool for our parents to become familiar with.

Once the online registration is complete, parents will be able to login from home or work and change the following:

- Update contact information

- Ensure contact information is current at all times including phone and email.
- Except addresses- per voucher regulations, address changes must be accompanied by an approved address verification (WE Energy bill, recent pay stub, etc.). Once that is received the office can change home addresses for parents/guardians of students.
- Check balances on student (family) money account.
- Track grades
- Set notifications for attendance, grades, and low balances.

If you have any questions, please contact your building Principal.

Suspension and Expulsion Policies

Serious or continuous discipline problems will require that the teacher or administrator remove a student from the classroom. The administration reserves the right to suspend a student for disciplinary infraction and/or consistent or serious disregard for school policy. Suspension is justified in unusual circumstances. Prior to any suspension, the students must be informed of the reason for the suspension. The parents/guardians of the suspended student are given notice of the suspension and the reason for the action.

Expulsion will be used only as a last resort. Expulsion is considered termination of enrollment. Expulsion results from blatant and repeated refusal to obey school rules, or behavior that endangers the health and/or safety of others or property either by students or parents/guardians. If the decision to expel is made, parents are notified, in writing, of the action and informed of the right to appeal. Parents, or guardians, may, within five (5) days, following the notification of the expulsion appeal to the administration in writing. If a child is expelled from EverGreen Academy, they will not be accepted back into the school.

Termination of Enrollment

A child may be withdrawn from EverGreen Academy in the following ways:

- By a parent (written notice)
- By the school where after working with the family and child:
 - Child's individual needs cannot be met.
 - Parents do not follow school policies.
 - The administrator and staff determined that the child's and/or parent/guardian's actions threaten the health and/or safety of other children/employees.
- By mutual consent
 - The administrator and parent agree that the child will be better off in another setting.

- Verbal/Physical abuse directed towards teachers or students either from students or parents/guardians will not be tolerated and are grounds for immediate dismissal from the school.
- Student accounts overdrawn and no attempt to correct from parent/guardian.

Transfer Policy

EverGreen Academy will consider accepting credit from other institutions to the extent that coursework at the previous institution is documented and is in accordance with our school's academic standards. All final determinations for the acceptance or rejection of transfer credits shall be made at the discretion of the school administration.

Tuition and Fees

The following information regarding tuition is for families who do not qualify for the Racine Parental Choice Program (tuition voucher).

Tuition amounts are set at the voucher amount which is available late June to early July	2023-2024	Annual (by 8/1)	Monthly (Aug-May)
	4K	\$5,439	\$584
	5K- 8 th grade	\$10,877	\$1,128

If payment is not received by the 5th of the month, the student(s) will be suspended from EverGreen Academy until such time as it is made current. If, for any reason, the student(s) is unable to complete the school year at EverGreen Academy, the parent/guardian will notify the school in writing at least one (1) month prior to their child's last day.

Forms of payment accepted are cash, check, money order, or credit/debit card (additional fee). Checks should be made payable to EverGreen Academy and marked with your child's name. Credit/debit cards are subject to an additional 5% service fee. Payments need to be given directly to the Director of Operations located at the Chicory building. All payments should be made promptly by the due date. Tuition payment plans are broken down into 10 even months from August to May. **All tuition received is non-refundable.**

Visitor Policy

Because the safety of our students and teachers here at EverGreen Academy is a top priority, all visitors during regular school hours must buzz in and sign in at the office. We ask that you follow our procedure with courteous behavior. Failure to comply will result in the administration taking your behavior as a serious safety incident.

Volunteer Policy

Parents/guardians are asked to volunteer for a total of 10 hours during the school year. Opportunities to volunteer include field trips, recess duty, PTO and student council events, and many more. As multiple studies have proven, parent/family involvement/support in a child's school atmosphere is crucial to a student's success later in life.

School Song Lyrics

We have a great school it's really cool
The name is EverGreen
A place to go where you can grow,
And play and learn and be.

EverGreen, ever learning, ever growing
This is what we do
EverGreen, ever learning, ever growing
We are true blue

We love to learn
We'll do our best
We'll put our knowledge to the test

EverGreen, ever learning, ever growing
We are always showing
That we are EverGreen
EverGreen
EverGreen
Eagles!

Music and lyrics by Wendy Davis



Family Handbook 2024-2025 Notice of Receipt

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM

This letter is to comply with the guidelines of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction stating you received the following information at the time you completed your child(ren)'s application. The information provided includes:

- Name, address, phone number of school and contact person at the school.
- List of members of the school's governing body
- Notice if the school is a profit or non-profit operation and an IRS certificate of non-profit status (or equivalent)
- Copy of the appeals process if school rejects an applicant.
- Copy of the non-harassment policy with procedures for reporting and obtaining relief from harassment
- Copy of suspension and expulsion procedures including appeal procedures
- Copy of policy for accepting or denying the transfer of credits from another PPSCP school
- Copy of the visitor's policy

Failure to return this form will not relieve you or your parent/guardian from responsibility to know the contents of and will not excuse your non-compliance with the EverGreen Academy handbook.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. _____
<i>Student Name</i> (please print) <i>GR</i> | 2. _____
<i>Student Name</i> (please print) <i>GR</i> |
| 3. _____
<i>Student Name</i> (please print) <i>GR</i> | 4. _____
<i>Student Name</i> (please print) <i>GR</i> |
| 5. _____
<i>Student Name</i> (please print) <i>GR</i> | 6. _____
<i>Student Name</i> (please print) <i>GR</i> |

I have received a copy and am aware of the contents of the EverGreen Academy handbook.

Parent/Guardian (print name)

Parent/Guardian (signature)

Date

EverGreen Academy



EverGreen Academy