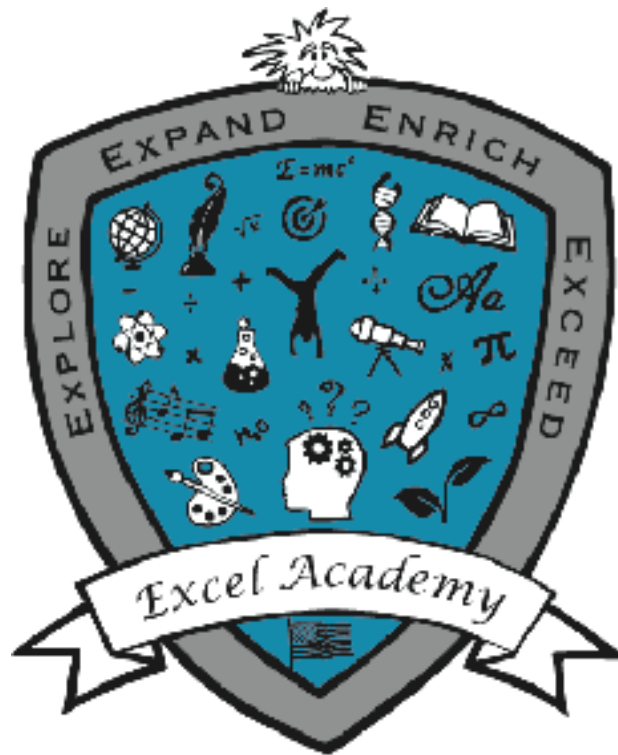


Excel Jr. Academy



Parent Handbook

2024-2025

REVISED 5-28-2024
First Published: 7-23-2016

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	5
Statement of Purpose.....	5
Accreditation and Licensing.....	5
Complaint Procedures.....	5
Non-Discrimination Statement.....	5
Mission Statement.....	5
Philosophy~Jennifer Wistisen.....	6
Excel Jr. Academy Program.....	7
The Classroom.....	7
General Information.....	8
Office.....	8
Staff.....	8
Operating Hours.....	8
Arrival and Dismissal.....	9
Emergency Procedures.....	9
Blizzard.....	9
Earthquake/Tornado or Other Severe Weather and Flood.....	10
Fire.....	10
Intruder/Dangerous person (Lockdown).....	10
Reunification/Relocation.....	10
Application and Registration.....	10
Tuition/Costs.....	11
Sibling/Staff/Former Family Preference.....	11
Wait List.....	11
Payment Options.....	11
2/3 year old Jr. Academy.....	11

3/4/5/6 year old Jr. Academy.....	11
First Student	11
Second Student (or additional students).....	12
Prepaid Tuition	12
Scholarships.....	12
Late Payment Invoices/Delinquent Accounts	12
Department of Family Services (DFS) Funding.....	13
Withdrawing From Excel Jr. Academy.....	13
Educational Registration Fee	13
Supplies/Supply Fee	14
LATE PICK UP FEES.....	14
Fundraising/Buy Out Option	14
Parent Information	15
Snacks/Lunches/Full Day Hot Lunch.....	15
Birthday Celebrations	16
Labeling Items Brought to the Jr. Academy.....	16
When Your Child(ren) are Sick or Injured.....	16
Accident Policy.....	17
Medication Policy	17
Medication Procedure.....	17
Discipline Policy	18
Discipline Procedure~(Suspension/Expulsion Policy).....	18
Weapons~Harassment~Drug Policy	19
Animals.....	20
Written Communication to The Jr. Academy is Needed When	20
Persons Allowed Into the school.....	21
Department of Family Services.....	21

Volunteer Opportunities21
 Observing in the school21
 Conferences22
Newsletters/E-Letter/Google Calendar22
Testing.....22
Field Trip/Chaperone Expectation..... 22
Events/Celebrations.....23
Excel Academy Board of Directors.....24
Appendix I.....25

INTRODUCTION

“Do not train a child to learn by force or harshness; but direct them to it by what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each.”— [Plato](#)

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The primary purpose of Excel Jr. Academy is to provide a safe, fun, nurturing environment. Students will engage in enrichment opportunities that will allow them to grow and flourish in all aspects of their educational experience.

ACCREDITATION AND LICENSING

Excel Jr. Academy is a certified, licensed, private, non-parochial, 501 (c)(3), Academic Child Care Center through the Department of Family Services and meets ALL statewide requirements.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

If at any time there are concerns involving the welfare of a student please report this to the Excel Academy Board of Directors. Licensed child care complaint and compliance history can be found at findchildcarewy.org or by contacting the local child care licensing officials.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The mission of Excel Jr. Academy is to provide a quality preschool education for 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 year old children, no matter their social, racial, ethnic, or religious backgrounds.

MISSION STATEMENT

Excel Jr. Academy~ Students of Excel Jr. Academy will engage in a safe, small, learning environment, while enrichment and real life opportunities will allow for students to broaden their educational foundations.

GUIDANCE POLICY

Positive guidance shall be used and well be consistent, clean and understandable to the child. When guiding a child's behavior, redirection and setting clear limits that enable a child to become self aware of actions will be used. Children will be encouraged to respect people, to be fair and learn to be responsible for their actions. Children can be removed from the group, but not isolated. Behaviors of a child may be ignored, but not the child.

At not time will the following occur:

- Punishment associated with food, rest or toilet training;
- Corporal punishment, including hitting, spanking, beating, shaking, pinching, or any other

- measures that produce physical pain;
- Abusive or profane language;
- Any form of humiliation including threats of physical punishment; and
- Any form of emotional abuse including rejecting, terrorizing, corrupting, isolating, or ignoring a child.
-

LIABILITY INSURANCE

Excel Academy Private School carries liability insurance through Mt Vernon Fire Insurance Company.

PHILOSOPHY – JENNIFER WISTISEN (Founder)

I believe that each child is a unique individual who needs a secure, caring, and stimulating atmosphere in which to grow and mature emotionally, intellectually, physically, and socially. It is my desire as the Founder to ensure that our program is helping students meet their fullest potential in these areas by providing an environment that is safe, supports risk-taking, and invites a sharing of ideas. There are three elements that I believe are conducive to establishing such an environment, (1) the Educational Instructor, acting as a guide, (2) allowing the child's natural curiosity to direct his/her learning, and (3) promoting respect for all things and all people.

When the Educational Instructors role is to guide, providing access to information rather than acting as the primary source of information, the students' search for knowledge is met as they learn to find answers to their questions. For students to construct knowledge, they need the opportunity to discover for themselves and practice skills in authentic situations. Providing students' access to hands-on activities and allowing adequate time and space to use materials that reinforce the lesson being studied creates an opportunity for individual discovery and construction of knowledge to occur.

Equally important to self-discovery is having the opportunity to study things that are meaningful and relevant to one's life and interests. One way to take learning in a direction relevant to student interest is to invite student dialogue about the lessons and units of study. Given the opportunity for input, students generate ideas and set goals that make for much richer activities than I could have created or imagined myself. When students have ownership in the curriculum, they are motivated to work hard and master the skills necessary to reach their goals. These opportunities will be addressed through enrichment.

When the voice of each student is heard, and environment evolves where students feel free to express themselves. Class meetings are one way to encourage such dialogue. I believe children have greater respect for their teachers, their peers, and the lessons presented when they feel safe and sure of what is expected of them. In setting fair and consistent rules initially and stating the importance of every activity, students are shown respect for their presence and time. In turn they learn to respect themselves, others, and their environment.

EXCEL JR. ACADEMY PROGRAM

THE CLASSROOM

The classroom provides an environment, which stimulates a higher level of learning for all students ages 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 yrs of age.

For the 2024-2025 calendar year, Excel Jr. Academy 2/3yr old program will allow 8 students. (These students do NOT need to be potty trained, however it is highly encouraged.)

**Excel Jr. Academy will ONLY hold a 2/3 year old class if there are at least 6 students enrolled by the first day of class.

Classical Jr. Academy and Montessori~3-6yr old class, will allow 20 students in the a.m. class and 20 students in the p.m. class.

ALL students in the 3-6yr old program MUST be bathroom independent, pull-ups will not be allowed! Medical exceptions will be allowed.

STAFF CHILD RATIO REQUIREMENTS

Ages of Children	One Staff	One Staff	Two Staff
Birth-12 months	2	1	4
12 months-24 months	2	1	4
24 months-36 months	2	2	4
Over 36 months	2	6	3
TOTAL	8	10	15

*Slots may be moved up but now down in age.

Ages of Children	Staff:Child Ratio	Maximum Group Size
Birth to 12 months	1:4, 2:8, 3:10	10
12 months-24 months	1:5, 2:10, 3:12	12
24 months-36 months	1:8, 2:16, 3:18	18
3 year olds	1:10, 2:20, 3:24	24
4 and 5 year olds	1:12, 2:24, 3:30	30
6 and older	1:18, 2:32, 3:40	40

****At this time, Excel Academy Private School does not offer an infant program.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

OFFICE

Office hours will need to be after the dismissal of students. Evenings or weekends will be available on a case by case basis. There will be NO office hours available during educational instruction or student contact times. Only EMERGENCIES (to be decided by the teacher) will be tended to during educational instruction or student contact times. Messages may be left at 307-237-3963 or e-mails may be sent to excelacademybofd@gmail.com.

STAFF

Excel Jr. Academy has one Educator per 8 students in the 2/3yr old classroom.

Excel Jr. Academy and Montessori has one Educator per 10 students in the 3-6yr old classroom.

**Excel Academy does have the opportunity to host Americorp instructors as well.

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

- First aid and infant/child/adult CPR certification must be completed biennially and kept current at all times
- 32 hours of continuing education biannually
- TB risk assessment or current TB test results if applicable
- A child abuse/neglect Central Registry screen done annually
- Full fingerprint based national criminal history record background check complete every 5 years
- National sex offender check results

OPERATING HOURS

Arrival	Class Instruction	Dismissal
<u>2/3 yr old class</u>		
Monday-Friday 8:00a	8:00a-10:55a	*11:00a
<u>3-6 yr old class</u>		
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m. to 10:55 a.m.	*11:00 a.m. (A.M. Session)
Monday-Friday 8:00a.m.	11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	*2:35 p.m. (P.M. Session)
Monday-Friday 8:00a.m.	8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	*2:35 p.m. (ALL DAY Session)

*Field Trips or enrichment activities may last longer.

Excel Academy has its own calendar that closely follows the Natrona County School District #1 calendar. In the case of inclement weather and/or poor driving conditions please watch for your email. Excel Academy Private School's Facebook page will additionally reflect any closures. In the incident of snow days or school closures; students will NOT be expected to make up days in May. Any canceled days will result in a credit for the day(s)

tuition. If a family receives DFS funding, scholarships, or any assistance, credits will NOT be given in the form of a monetary payment back to the family.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

2/3yr old program students will begin PROMPTLY at 8:00a and dismiss at 11:00a.

3-6yr old program will begin our day PROMPTLY at 8:00 a.m. for the first session and PROMPTLY at 11:30 a.m. for the second session. It is important for your child to take part in all academic time that has been allotted for success.

If dismissal will be at a later time than the regularly scheduled 11:00 a.m. or 2:35 p.m. Notice will be given prior to pick up.

Arrival for 2/3 yr old students and 3-6yr Jr. Academy students will be through the north entrance doors, facing Jefferson Street.

Dismissal/pick up for 2/3 yr old students will be done in the front entrance hall at the north doors. Excel Jr. Academy dismissal/pick up will take place by families entering through the fenced parking area and walking in to pick up students. The south doors at the bottom of the cement ramp will be utilized for dismissal/pick up. Students in 3-6yr old program will stay in their classroom until their approved adult arrives.

*Students whom are not picked up by 11:10 a.m. for dismissal in the 2/3 class or the Jr. Academy A.M. sessions or 2:35 p.m. for the Jr. Academy P.M. session, will be charged aftercare fees. Fees will be charged at \$2.00 per 1 minute increment, per student, and billed on the last day of each month. At 11:30 a.m. for the 2/3 class and the Jr. Academy A.M. sessions, and 2:55 p.m., for the Jr. Academy P.M. session, the Department of Family Services will be contacted. Upon referral, law enforcement may be additionally contacted.

It is the responsibility of an authorized person to enter the building and pick up their Jr. Academy student(s). Excel staff will not allow any K-3 students to release/walk out any Jr. Academy students. This includes siblings.

****FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS, STUDENTS MAY NOT LEAVE WITH UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS AT ANY TIME.**

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Blizzard

If a blizzard occurs during school hours, students will be kept indoors. Parents may pick up students when conditions are appropriate. If students are at an enrichment activity or field trip setting, they will remain indoors to ensure safety.

Earthquake/Tornado or Other Severe Weather and Flood

The Excel Jr. Academy Educator will follow DFS mandated earthquake, tornado, flood, or other severe weather emergency preparedness plan.

Fire

In the incident of a fire at Excel Jr. Academy, students and staff will follow posted fire evacuation plans. 9-1-1 will be called immediately. Students will remain at designated safe spot at the south end of the parking lot. Parents will be notified immediately of the current situation.

Intruder/dangerous person (LOCKDOWN)

Educator will make sure that they are inside of the building. Doors to the facility will be locked. Windows and window coverings will be closed. Students will be taken to a location away from doors and windows. The Educator will have a cell phone to make sure immediate communication with law enforcement is available.

If the Natrona County School District #1 is in a lockdown, Excel Jr. Academy will also take the same precautions. Should a lockdown be in affect when school hours are over, students will be released on a case by case basis.

Parents WILL NOT be called while the lockdown is active. Calling families would take away from the safety of the students.

REUNIFICATION/RELOCATION

Weather permitting, all Excel Academy students will meet at Washington Park in the incident of a fire or disaster that no longer allows occupancy of the school building. Parents will be contacted and require to pick up all enrolled students as soon as possible. Should weather not be conducive to staying outdoors, students and staff will gather at the Salvation Army Hope Center located at 625 S. Jefferson St.

APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION

Excel Jr. Academy's admission policies are non-discriminatory and non-sectarian. Due to the limited space in Excel Jr. Academy all families must submit an Intent to Enroll form for their child(ren) to attend the school. Intent to Enroll forms are reviewed by a screening committee before acceptance.

Acceptance by the Excel Jr. Academy means that your student is identified as someone who will fit the circumstances and conditions of the academy's environment. Families must also show their willingness to help the Educator to be successful in areas with your student(s).

A letter, email or phone call will be prepared to applicant families to notify if the child(ren) have been accepted.

Entering students will need to provide medical and emergency forms and shot records by August 15, 2024, for first semester. If a student begins after the first day of school, they MUST turn in ALL records before attending ANY academic instruction.

Child Record Requirements

- Completed Child Record
- Current Immunization Record
- Health Care Plan (if necessary)
- Written authorization from parent(s) or guardian(s) for the following:
 - Emergency Medical Care
 - Participation in field trips or excursions, whether walking or riding
 - Child to be transported
 - Over the counter medication form

TUITION/COSTS

Excel Jr. Academy requires all families choosing the monthly tuition payment option to pay by automatic withdrawal, Venmo, check, cash, credit card, Pay Pal, or online payments through Quickbooks (Venmo, Credit card, and Pay Pal payments will be charged additional fees.) Invoices will be emailed, unless otherwise noted. Any and all additional fees accrued each month. (ie. Hot lunch, t-shirts, aftercare) will be added to student account balances and invoiced out. These payments will also come out via automatic withdraw or remitted by individual families, via Venmo, check, cash, credit card, Pay Pal, or online payments through Quickbooks. Credit card, Invoice2go, and Pay Pal payments will be charged additional fees. Credit Card fee for ALL transactions is 3.15%+\$0.30.

Excel Academy only accepts Visa and Mastercard, for credit card transactions.

SIBLING/STAFF/FORMER FAMILY PREFERENCE

Siblings of current Excel Academy and Excel Jr. Academy students have preference over students on the wait list. Former families also have preference over students on the wait list. Students of Excel staff members additionally have preference over wait list students.

WAIT LIST

Excel Jr. Academy will generate a wait list for new students, when classroom capacity has been reached. Families will have 24 hours to accept or deny any open spot(s) up being contacted. In the event of a declined open spot(s), other candidates on the wait list will be contacted. (Waitlist will be generated in order of discretion by the staff.)

PAYMENT OPTIONS

2/3 year old Jr. Academy:

Monday-Friday \$280.00/month (Sept-May) *(plus a one time, first family registration fee per student).

3/4/5/6 year old Jr. Academy:

First student: \$315.00 a month for 9 months~for a.m. or p.m. session. \$605.00 for FULL DAY option (plus a one time, first family registration fee per student).

Under this payment plan the first tuition payment is due by August 1, 2024. The final tuition payment will be April 1, 2025.

Second Student (or additional students): \$300.00 a month for 9 months~for a.m. or p.m. session. \$590.00 for FULL DAY option (plus one time, first family registration fee per student). Under this payment plan the first tuition payment is due by August 1, 2024. The final tuition payment will be April 1, 2025.

Prepaid Tuition: \$2450.00 (2/3 class) or \$2450.00 (a.m. or p.m. session) or \$4900.00 (full time) per student for ALL 9 months at one time (plus registration fees). *This option gives families a discount!

Prepayment of tuition can be made for a discount and must be paid in FULL by August 1, 20234. (This option only applies for students starting in September and going through May.)

SCHOLARSHIPS

In the incident Excel Jr. Academy is able to offer a scholarship, any families that have inquired will be notified via email. Excel Academy Board of Directors will issue scholarships upon their discretion.

LATE PAYMENT INVOICES/DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS

Monthly tuitions are due on the first of each month. (Limited exceptions will be made for auto withdraw on the 20th of the month.) A \$25.00 late fee will be assessed on the 6th of the month, should fees go unpaid. Should an auto withdraw payment not clear, a \$10.00 fee will be additionally assessed. The payment will re-submitted immediately for a second auto withdraw opportunity. If at this time the payment does not clear for a second time, an additional \$10.00 will be assessed. Once two auto withdraw payments do NOT clear during an academic year, ONLY cash will be accepted to bring the account into good standing. Cash will be the only form of payment accepted for the remainder of the academic year.

If a non-sufficient funds check is written to Excel Academy, fees will be assessed in the amount of \$30.00. From that time forward, only CASH will be accepted.

Should a student have a delinquent account balance, they may not charge to the account until it is brought up to good standing.

Delinquent accounts with a balance of \$50.00 or more, will receive a phone call and an email on the 15th day. On the 30th day, another phone call and email will be attempted. At this time Excel holds the right to withdraw the invoice balance from the credit card on file, automatic withdraw on file.. On day 45 all enrolled students of Excel Academy tied to the delinquent account will no longer be allowed to attend academic instruction. The account will need to be paid in full before a student(s), will be allowed to begin receiving academic instruction again.

*Excel Academy does reserve the right to fill the spot of students being released due to delinquent accounts. Excel Academy will not be held accountable for saving or reserving spots for students release due to delinquent accounts.

Should an account go unpaid a second time, immediate removal of the student(s) will take place. Re-enrollment at Excel Academy will no longer be an option, unless an up front payment in full is received, before any academic instruction begins.

Invoices are considered 'delinquent' when the FULL invoice balance was not paid by the expected due date. Any and all partial payments will still hold a 'delinquent' status, until the balance is paid. Delinquent accounts may be assessed interest at the highest rate allowed by law.

*All accounts turned over to collections may be assessed a collection fee. This will be on the entire balance due.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES (DFS) FUNDING

Excel Jr. Academy accepts all state funding for eligible families. The funding opportunities are available by eligibility set out by the State of Wyoming. Families of students receiving these funds will be required to pay for any NON-COVERED costs from DFS. These costs may include, but are not limited to additional tuition, fundraising, late fees, etc.

WITHDRAWING FROM EXCEL JR. ACADEMY

If a family decides to withdraw a student from Excel Academy, a 30 day written notice MUST be submitted to the Executive Director. Educational fee obligations and ALL remaining fundraising expectations must be paid up until the day that the student withdraws. If a family chose to pay the full 9 months tuition in advance, a refund will be given at the per month rate or \$300.00 per month/per student.

If notice is given in the middle of a month, the NEXT months' tuition will ALSO be required to be paid in FULL. (ie. Notice given on Dec. 6th→December AND January tuition will be required to be paid in FULL.) Families that have paid one month in advance will be responsible for the current month (if notice is given in the middle of the month) and the following month's tuition. All fundraising expectations are due upon withdrawing.

Excel Academy's withdraw policy will be upheld no matter the circumstance. (ie. job transfer, natural disaster, pandemic, illness, financial)

EDUCATIONAL REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee secures the place of the child(ren) in Excel Jr. Academy and provides the staff a reliable way of assessing the enrollment so that both the program and budget may be planned accordingly.

Registration Fee: A one-time \$50.00 per family, per student (due by August 1, 2024).

Registration fees are NON REFUNDABLE.

*The Registration Fee is an additional and separate fee from tuition.

SUPPLIES/SUPPLY FEE

Students will be given a supply list at least 30 days prior to the first day of academic instruction. It will be the responsibility of families to purchase/gather materials. Some supplies will be the property of ALL students in the classroom (i.e. tissues, hand soap).

Each Student will additionally pay a \$10.00 supply fee due on or before January 1, 2025.

LATE PICK UP FEES

Students whom are not picked up by 2:45 p.m. will be charged aftercare fees. Fees will be charged at \$2.00 per 1 minute increment, per student, and billed on the last day of each month. At 2:55 p.m. the Department of Family Services will be contacted. Upon their referral, law enforcement may be additionally contacted.

FUNDRAISING/BUY OUT OPTION

ALL Excel Academy students will be required to raise funds for our school. Numerous options will be available to fulfill this requirement. Students who bring in Boxtops, ink cartridges, etc. will have these deducted from their accounts. Funds may also be raised through other events such as school carnivals, silent auctions, Butter Braid sales.

Required Profit (per student):

2/3 yr old M-F students	\$250.00
3-6 yr old a.m./p.m.	\$350.00
3-6 yr old Full Day	\$475.00
Multi student families	\$300.00 per student with a \$750.00 max

***This is not actual sales, this is profit that our school will receive.**

Participation in fundraising event(s) will help to generate the funds needed to provide daily activities and enrichment opportunities, as well as meet our general budget expectations. Once your fundraising expectation has been met, any additional funds generated will go into the general fundraising account. Funds may not be banked/saved or used for tuition.

Events that will receive compensation for manpower will ONLY be credited for adults participating in entire shifts. Should an adult leave during a shift, NO monetary compensation will be given towards fundraising expectations.

ALL families will be expected to participate in our calendar fundraiser for the month of September. These calendars will be handed out at the Meet and Greet on August 29th, 2024. This will earn families \$415.00 toward fundraising for full calendars.

ALL families will be expected to complete ONE shift at the Pumpkin Patch held the month of October 2024. These shifts will be sent out via a signup. If a family does not fulfill their shift, they will be assessed a \$30.00 fee on their November invoice.

ALL families will be expected to complete 5 volunteer hours throughout the academic year. Families may choose to buy out of these hours for a fee of \$10.00 per hour, totaling \$50.00.

**Excel does offer a buy-out option for fundraising. This fee is the amount listed in the chart above, per student. Families will NOT be obligated to participate in ANY fundraisers throughout the entire year. IF, a family chooses the buy-out option and withdraws, moves, or leaves Excel Academy for any reason, the buy out monies will not be refunded.

***Students may also have the required fundraising amount divided up on their invoices monthly. The monthly addition for a single student would be as follows:

2/3 yr old M-F students	\$27.78/mo per student for 9 months
3-6 yr old a.m./p.m.	\$38.89/mo per student for 9 months
3-6 yr old Full Day	\$52.78/mo per student for 9 months

PARENT INFORMATION

SNACKS/LUNCHES

Every student will have an assigned snack week or weeks throughout the academic year. Often times this will be the week of their birthday or Star Student expectation. We will have different shopping lists of items that will need to be brought into class by 8:00 a.m. (a.m./all day students) and 11:30 p.m. (p.m. students) on the first day of instruction for the upcoming week. If you do not provide snacks, your account will be billed in the amount of \$50.00, and Excel staff will purchase the necessary snacks.

Lunch will be the responsibility of each individual family. There will be days when we have picnics, festivals, or celebrations where a potluck style lunch will be allowed. Signup sheets or an online Sign Up Genius will be circulated for participation by all families.

*Should a student have allergies or special food needs, these will be addressed on a case by case basis to create a plan.

*Students will have the opportunity to warm up any items brought in their lunch.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

On your child's birthday please bring the following items:

1. Special snack-Please ensure that there is enough for all students. (Healthy snacks are preferred; NO cupcakes)
2. *Should a student bring invitations for a party outside of school/school hours, an invitation for EVERY classmate MUST be provided. Otherwise, please do NOT hand out invitations at school.

LABELING ITEMS BROUGHT TO THE JR. ACADEMY

ALL ITEMS your child(ren) wear or bring to the school should be labeled. Even though we will be a very small program and should know what items belong to us, labeling will ensure rightful ownership.

All Jr. Academy students will need to provide a plastic shoe box sized bin with a change of clothes. All items will need to be labeled, as will the bin. (Bin will need to include pants/shorts, socks, shirt, panties/underwear)

WHEN YOUR CHILD(REN)/STAFF ARE SICK OR INJURED

It can be a frustrating experience deciding when a child is too sick to attend their daily school. The following guidelines should help in deciding whether to keep your child home. These guidelines are for the benefit of everyone at the school, including your own child(ren).

1. The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in classroom activities.
2. The illness produces a greater care need than the staff can provide without reducing the health and safety of the other children. Keeping sick children home prevents illness from spreading to the staff and other children.

Please note that a child who has been ill cannot return to the educational center until 24 hours after treatment. Your child is not well enough to attend school if:

1. **TEMPERATURE:** An infrared forehead temperature of 101 degrees or greater accompanied by behavior changes or other signs or symptoms of illness.
2. **SYMPTOMS** and signs of possible severe illness such as **LETHARGY** uncontrolled **COUGHING**, **IRRITABILITY**, persistent **CRYING**, difficulty **BREATHING, WHEEZING**, or other unusual signs.
3. **GREEN OR YELLOW MUCOUS** combined with other symptoms of illness.
4. **DIARRHEA:** Two or more episodes of diarrhea in the previous 24 hours for any reason, food intolerance included.

5. **VOMITING ILLNESS:** Two or more episodes of vomiting in the previous 24 hours.
6. **URINE:** any sign of blood in the urine
7. **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE:** having a communicable disease or being a carrier of such, that is listed on the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) Reportable Disease and Condition List

Children will not be allowed in school until 24 hours after treatment of any of the following:

1. **MOUTH SORES WITH DROOLING** until a health care provider determines that these symptoms do not indicate a communicable disease.
2. **RASH WITH FEVER OR BEHAVIOR CHANGE** until a health care provider determines that these symptoms do not indicate a communicable disease.
3. **PURULENT CONJUNCTIVITIS** defined as pink or red conjunctiva with white or yellow eye discharge until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated.
4. **SCABIES, HEAD LICE, OR OTHER INFESTATION** until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated.
5. **IMPETIGO** until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated.
6. **STREP THROAT OR OTHER STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTION** until 24 hours after initial antibiotic treatment and cessation of fever.
7. **CHICKEN POX** until 6 days after the onset of rash or until all sores have dried and crusted.
8. **HEAD LICE** student may return to class when there are no visible louse/lice on the scalp.

Your child will be sent home if any symptoms of illness appear during the day. In such cases your child will immediately be isolated from the other children and you will be contacted and asked to pick the child up within one hour.

ACCIDENT POLICY

If your child suffers and injury while at school, the date, time, and all pertinent information about the injury are logged in our "injury book." Appropriate actions will be taken regarding each injury. If it is a severe injury you will be notified immediately. ALL Excel Jr. Academy staff members are First Aid and CPR certified. A copy of the medical incident report will be sent home.

MEDICATION POLICY

Excel Jr. Academy follows all DFS rules and regulations regarding the administration of medications to children.

Medication Procedure

If your child must take medication during the school hours of operation please provide the center with the

following:

1. A completed and signed Medication Form, these may be obtained in the Excel Office with the Office Administrator.
2. The **original** medicine container showing dosage, time of dosage, expiration date, etc. *Expired meds will be sent home. It will be the responsibility of each individual family to immediately provide new meds with a valid expiration date.
3. DO NOT put any medication in your child's lunch box, unless discussed with an educational instructor. (THIS INCLUDES VITAMINS!) Please hand the medication and Medication Form to the Educational Instructor on duty upon arrival. The Educational Instructor will bring ALL medication and notes to a designated classroom location/office where medication will be kept and administered at the proper time.
4. Be sure to remind Educational Instructor to retrieve your child's medication from the educational center upon dismissal.
5. Essential oils may be applied with a written note. Please provide instructions for application.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Excel Jr. Academy does not condone any physical discipline which will harm the child, nor does the school use rejection, terrorizing, isolating or ignoring any child. The behavior of the child may be ignored, but not the child. Removing a student for safety or confidentiality purposes is held to the discretion of Excel staff.

Discipline Procedure~(Suspension/Expulsion Policy)

Most small indiscretions will be handled by a daily respect session (only as needed). A child who hits or threatens to harm other children is encouraged to talk to the other child about why they were upset with them, stressing the idea that we should work out our problems by talking to one another. Recess roughness may result in children being asked to sit down and watch.

In extreme cases, where children are very uncooperative or aggressive, the parents will be contacted. A meeting will be set up between the teacher, child, and parent. Cooperative goals between the home and school are set up. A follow up meeting is then arranged after the child has been given the chance to change his/her behavior. Each step outlined represents a more serious response to the child's behavior. Depending on the nature of the problem and the child's history in the school each incremental step decision can vary in order to achieve what is determined to be in the best interest of the child, the rest of the students, and Excel Jr. Academy.

1. The teacher will deal with the misbehavior in the classroom using natural and logical consequences. The parents will be informed that a problem is occurring and what corrective measures are being applied.

2. If the misbehavior continues the teacher will hold a meeting and seek suggestions. The plan developed will be implemented in the classroom.
3. Parents will have knowledge of any behavior plan/modifications being used in the school that pertains to their child. If for some reason the behavior continues, the parents will be called for a conference and informed of the current situation and the corrective steps taken. A plan will be agreed upon for dealing with the continued misbehavior and a timetable set for evaluation of the plan. It is necessary to have the cooperation and support of the parents in developing consistent expectations of behavior.
4. Depending upon the type of misbehavior and its effect on the other children in the class it may be necessary for the child to temporarily be removed from the classroom.
5. If the misbehavior continues, outside professional help may be recommended. Financial responsibility for outside professional services is the parent's obligation. Excel Jr. Academy does not recommend specific professionals. It is the parent's responsibility to choose the professional, keeping in mind that it is important that the child, family, and school are all able to work with whoever is chosen.

*6. Excel Jr. Academy promotes positive social and emotional growth and includes age appropriate behavior supports. This practice enables us to offer the most proactive and supportive environment for children. However there may be a time when we have exhausted all efforts to help a child interact in a positive manner in our program. If this situation should arise with your child we will adhere to the following guidelines:

- Share with parents in writing behavioral concerns and what steps the facility has taken to change those behaviors.
- Schedule a conference with parent(s)/guardians to discuss steps implemented, local resources available and develop a plan for next steps.
- If expulsion or suspension is warranted, discuss with parents terms of child returning and length of suspension.

WEAPONS~HARASSMENT~DRUG POLICY

Additional consequences for certain behaviors may lead to suspension or expulsion from the school. Some specific actions may be severe enough to require immediate dismissal.

NO person on Excel Academy property may possess firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, explosives or any type of weapon. Persons, other than law enforcement, will not be allowed to bring weapons on to the premises or carry weapons into the facility. This includes individuals with a concealed carry permit.

Disrespect

Disrespectful behavior is not acceptable at Excel Jr. Academy. Rude, negative or hurtful comments, damaging or destructive actions, or a disregard for personal or school property are unacceptable.

Assault

Assault or harassment, whether physical, sexual, or verbal, will not be tolerated. Any form of assault will involve disciplinary action with the possibility of suspension or expulsion.

Weapons

Excel Jr. Academy does not tolerate violent behavior. Any substance or object used with the intent to harm, or possession of any object designed solely as a weapon, will incur disciplinary action with the possibility of expulsion

Drugs/Tobacco/Alcohol

Possession, sale, and/or distribution of drugs or drug paraphernalia, alcohol or other controlled substances is prohibited. Disciplinary action will be initiated for any violation of this policy will result in immediate expulsion. Excel Jr. Academy considers tobacco/juul pods/electronic cigarettes as a controlled substance. Excel Jr. Academy will contact law enforcement on a first offense for and above stated items brought onto school property.

*Excel Jr. Academy is a drug free campus. Persons of legal age may not use any of the above stated products on school property.

ANIMALS

Excel Academy does not have animals on premises. Any/ALL animals entering Excel Academy must comply with Health and Sanitation and vaccination requirements must be presented. Any animal with a history of attacking even once person or demonstrating aggressive behavior will be made inaccessible to children in attendance of Excel Academy.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO THE JR. ACADEMY IS NEEDED WHEN:

1. The student is participating in an established car-pool schedule. The teacher needs to know who will be driving and when.
2. The car-pool schedule is changed.
3. An unfamiliar person is to pick up your children (give names, make of car, relationship to child etc.)
4. An extended absence is planned. The teacher would like dates your child(ren) will be gone.
5. There is a health problem.
6. Child(ren) need to leave class during regular school hours. Please let the teacher know what time your child(ren) will be picked up and returned.
7. Child(ren) is on medication. There is a special form for this information that must be filled out any time medication is to be given at Excel Jr. Academy.
8. There is a separation, divorce, or other serious circumstances in the child's family. This information will be kept confidential. The teacher should be aware of the child's special needs and parent granted custody must inform the teacher regarding the person(s) with whom the child can be released at dismissal times.

PERSONS ALLOWED INTO THE SCHOOL

To ensure the safety of all Excel Jr. Academy participants ANYONE volunteering in the school MUST have a background check on file with the teacher. Any individual with a child related felony or child related offense will not be allowed into the school. Background checks will be at the expense of each individual. Failure to comply will result in law enforcement interaction.

Parents or Legal Guardians will be the ONLY person(s) allowed to add individuals to the 'Authorized List'.

Parental/Guardian Rights

Parent/Guardians shall have:

- Unrestricted and immediate access to his/her child(ren) and any area of the facility where child care is located;
- The right to view inspection reports that can be found at findchildcarewyo.org
- All know and or treated injuries that occur to a child in care
- Any situation that occurs during child care that caused concerns for the child's health or safety.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES

Please refer to the Department of Family Services or visit their website at any time to review all Excel Jr. Academy inspections. <http://dfsweb.wyo.gov/>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Excel Jr. Academy may need volunteers to ensure the success of the school. It is understood that the majority of parents work outside the home full- or part-time. There are NO required volunteer commitment times, as opportunities arise notes will be sent home.

Volunteer opportunities may include, but are not limited to:

- Driving to and from field trips or enrichment activities
- Gathering supplies for an upcoming activity
- Providing food for an event
- Advertising
- Meetings
- Helping to line up guest speakers or enrichment opportunities
- Fundraising

****IF a volunteer should have 4 or more hours of student contact in a month, they MUST fulfill and pass all DFS requirements. All required expectations will be at the cost of the volunteer.**

OBSERVING IN THE SCHOOL

Any person(s) on the 'Authorized List' may observe with a scheduled visit. Individuals from the public must follow all expectations set by Excel Academy.

1. Observations must be scheduled.

2. Observations will be limited to 30 minute increments unless otherwise determined by Excel staff.
3. Observers will sign in at the main office and sign out upon conclusion of the observation.
4. If at anytime Excel staff feel that it is no longer safe or appropriate for an observer to stay, they will immediately be asked to leave.
5. Only one observer will be allowed on premises at a time. (Two parent families will be allowed if prior arrangements are made with Excel staff.)
6. Observers must follow all local and state health mandates set forth in order for Excel Academy to stay in compliance.

CONFERENCES

During the year parents/guardians will have the option to schedule parent/teacher conferences. These conferences are special times when you and the teacher discuss your child(ren's) progress and development.

All conferences, whether regular or special, are for the parents and the teacher privately. Please make arrangements for care of your child(ren) during the conference. Two days set aside in Nov will be scheduled for fall conferences. Please refer to the academic calendar and/or Google calendar for specific dates/times.

NEWSLETTER/E-LETTER/GOOGLE CALENDAR

A newsletter will be sent out via email regularly. These letters will contain important reminders and information. Please make sure that you have a current and correct email on file with your child's teacher to ensure you receive the newsletter.

All events will additionally be available on our Google calendar. It is the individual responsibility of each family/legal guardian to open and utilize this feature of communication. Families may also sign authorized information releases to allow other caretakers/family members/friends etc. to have access to Excel newsletters or calendars.

TESTING

Excel Jr. Academy will not administer any standardized testing to students.

FIELD TRIPS/CHAPERONE EXPECTATIONS

Excel Jr. Academy participates in field trips throughout the academic year. Educational Instructors will act as chaperones on ALL field trips, both in town and out of town. Parents/guardians will be REQUIRED to attend ALL field trips with students enrolled in the 2/3 classroom. Parents/guardian of Jr. Academy students may be invited to attend certain trips throughout the academic year. Not all field trips will require a parent/guardian to accompany for the 3-6yr classroom.

Students will be transported in their own vehicles to and from all field trips. If a parent/guardian are unable to transport their student, the student will be unable to attend the event.

Parents may NOT transport other Excel Jr. Academy students. If such arrangement should be necessary, then it will be the sole responsibility of each individual family to coordinate these arrangements. Excel Academy holds

NO liability or responsibility for any situations that may come about, should a parent/guardian transport other students.

*On certain occasions, bus transportation may be provided. Limited seating is available.

*Fuel and food costs will be the responsibility of each individual chaperone who chooses to volunteer. Entrance fees will also be the responsibility of each individual chaperone.

All chaperones will be provided with a detailed itinerary for each field trip that they volunteer for. Itineraries are expected to be followed and respected to ensure the best possible experience for students, educators, and chaperones.

Chaperones may bring siblings on field trips and events, in most cases. Please keep in mind that any cost(s) for siblings will be the responsibility of the chaperone/parent.

*Parent/guardians will be responsible for all fees to get background checks.

TRANSPORTATION

When children are transported there will be a First Aid kit, emergency medical release form, written plan for direct supervision and a current attendance record available. Excel Academy Private School follows Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards for child restraint systems and cannot transport without proper safety restraints. Direct staff supervision will be maintained at all times and children will wear some type of identifiable clothing necessary for easy visual recognition. Physical boundaries will be identified for children.

OPPORTUNITIES NOT OFFERED AT EXCEL JR ACADEMY

~Excel Academy does not offer swimming/wading pool opportunities.

~Excel Academy does not offer overnight care.

EVENTS/CELEBRATIONS

(subject to change)

BACK TO SCHOOL MEET AND GREET: Meet and greet your new classmates, teacher, classroom, and playground area. Don't forget your school supplies and positive attitude!

HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL: Fall themed festival

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Students will join with the K-12 students for an all school celebration.

VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY: Students may bring in Valentine's to trade.

GRADUATION: Jr. Academy students moving to Kindergarten and 8th grade students moving to high school will be recognized at a special ceremony in May.

*These are ONLY a few of the wonderful activities Excel Jr. Academy offers. Parents have the opportunity to follow along with ALL scheduled events on a private Google calendar.

Excel Academy Board of Directors

Excel Academy Private School is overseen by a Board of Directors. This is a federal requirement to fulfill the necessary mandate to keep a 501 (c)(3) status. Board members for the 2024-2025 academic year are:

Jennifer Wistisen

David McKenzie

Kara Evans

Stacey Pearson

Mattea Steinert

Patrick Ford

Any person/group wanting to meet with Excel Academy's Board of Directors will need to:

1. Send an email request to ExcelAcademyBofD@gmail.com.
2. Set up a meeting time agreed upon, or wait for the next scheduled board meeting.
3. Attend meeting with 10 minutes to present.
4. All requests must be made within one week (7 days) of a scheduled board meeting to be added to the agenda.

Appendix I

Excel Academy Volunteer Policy

Volunteer~Any individual that is not on payroll for Excel Academy Private School. This includes Board Members, parents, grandparents, spouses, friends, community members, siblings, former students, and children of staff over the age of 18.

How to become an Excel Academy volunteer:

1. Fill out TB assessment paperwork. If any questions are answered 'yes', then a formal TB assessment will need to be completed. (This is upon initial volunteer status, then only if traveling out of the country)
2. Pay for and submit fingerprints. (Fingerprints are upon initial volunteer status and then every 5 years after)
3. Fill out the Central Registry paperwork (This is required yearly)
4. Fill out the DCI paperwork (This is required yearly)
5. Sign a confidentiality statement. (This is required yearly)
6. **If driving, a copy of insurance and drivers license will be necessary. (This is required yearly)
7. If volunteering in the 2/3 Toddler or Jr. Academy classes STARS training will need to be completed.

When I am a volunteer at Excel Academy:

**THIS IS FOR STUDENT CONTACT DAYS/HOURS.

-I may volunteer for no more than 5 hours a month in the school.

-I may volunteer for exterior building work for unlimited hours.

-I must follow the dress code (All clothing must be free from holes in the pants/shorts, no race/religious/political/sexual/vulgar images or statements)

-I assure that I will be a good role model at all times. (This includes setting good examples and following building and classroom expectations.)

-I will not utilize my cell phone for personal reasons when working in a classroom or directly with students.

-I may not take photos/videos of students with my own camera. I may only utilize the schools camera to take any photos/videos.

-Volunteering for the 2023-2024 academic year is held to Monday's, Wednesday's, and Thursday's unless otherwise noted by the Executive Director or Board of Directors.

-Excel Academy staff will have a list of items/jobs/expectations pre-approved by the Executive Director or Board of Directors for volunteers to fulfill.

-All volunteers must sign in and out on the front desk sheet as well as the volunteer sheet. This will help us to document all hours for grant writing purposes. 😊

-Please ensure you are able to be flexible to teacher/staff needs.

-Keep a positive attitude at all times.

We are SO grateful for any/all volunteers at Excel Academy Private School