

Family Handbook

2023-2024



LiHigh School welcomes all people and does not discriminate because of the age, race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity of any person.



2023-2024 Academic Calendar	3
Block Schedule	4
An Introduction to The LiHigh School	5
Basic Information	6
Leadership	6
School Description	6
Therapeutic Environment	7
Curriculum	7
Specialized Programs	8
Dual Enrollment & Early College Programs	9
Assessments	9
Graduation Requirements	10
Policies of The LiHigh School	11
Attendance Policy	12
Sick Student Policy	13
Communicable Diseases & Blood-borne Pathogens Policy	14
Mental Health Alerts & Academic Probation	15
Case Management	17
Harassment, Hazing, & Bullying	18
Technology Usage	20
Support Services	24
Co-Curricular Activities	27
Illicit Substances	29
Forms to Be Completed	30



2023-2024 Academic Calendar

August 2023

8/7 - 8/18: Teaching Intensive
8/21 - 8/23: Operations Inservice
8/24 - 8/25: Teaching Inservice
8/30: First Day of School

September 2023

9/4: Labor Day (No School)
9/19: Early Dismissal (Staff Inservice)

October 2023

10/9: Indigenous People's Day (No School)
10/20: Staff Inservice (No School)

November 2023

11/3: Q1 Ends
11/21: Early Dismissal (Staff Inservice)
11/22 - 11/24: Thanksgiving Break

December 2023

12/18 - 1/1/24: Holiday Break

January 2024

1/1: Holiday Break (Cont'd)
1/12: Staff Inservice (No School)
1/15: MLK, Jr. Day (No School)
1/19: Q2 Ends

February 2024

2/13: Early Dismissal (Staff Inservice)
2/19 - 2/23: February Break

March 2024

3/22: Staff Inservice (No School)

April 2024

4/5: Q3 Ends
4/15 - 4/19: April Break
4/23: Early Dismissal (Staff Inservice)

May 2024

5/17: Staff Inservice (No School)
5/27: Memorial Day (No School)

June 2024

6/8: Class of 2024 Graduation
6/14: Last Day of School

Block Schedule

While every student's schedule is unique, the school maintains a relatively stable block schedule on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, students' individualized programs take priority, with some students going on field trips or working on an off-campus internship and others completing a series of electives and personal projects at the school.

Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays (Academic Days)

8:45 - 9:00 AM:	Morning Check-in & Breakfast
9:00 - 10:00 AM:	Use of Numbers
10:00 - 10:30 AM:	Morning Break, 1:1 Meetings, & Teacher Collaborations
10:30 - 11:30 AM:	English Language Arts
11:30 - 12:00 PM:	Lunch
12:00 - 1:00 PM:	The Natural Sciences
1:00 - 2:00 PM:	History, Government, & Citizenship

Tuesdays & Thursdays (Program Days)

8:45 - 9:00 AM:	Morning Check-in & Breakfast
9:00 - 10:00 AM:	Advisory

The rest of the day typically follows the same block schedule as above, but it also includes field trips, internships, electives, case management, and community meetings.





An Introduction to The LiHigh School



Basic Information

- Address: 28 Depot Street, Poultney, VT 05764
- Mailing Address: PO Box 111, Poultney, VT 05764
- Main Phone: (802) 855-3929
- Website: www.lihighschool.org
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/lihighschool
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/lihighschool

Leadership

- Director: Greg Rosenthal (greg@lihighschool.org)
- School Administrator: Jen Calvey (jen.calvey@lihighschool.org)
- Academic Director & Special Educator: Stuart Gerrol (stuart.gerrol@lihighschool.org)

School Description

LiHigh School is an approved independent school in Poultney that provides personalized curriculums for students who struggle with social-emotional, behavioral, or learning disorders.

Our students build a history of meaningful accomplishments, an awareness of their strengths and challenges, and the independent skills they need to achieve their goals.

Our teachers get students out of the classroom and into the community, where they connect with mentors in their fields of interest and discover talents they never knew they had. With small-group and 1:1 classes, our teachers establish rapport, build trust, and create a judgment-free environment.

Building on that trust, our teachers give students insights into their trauma and disabilities and help them connect their perceptions to reality. With these new insights, students take charge of their education and work towards personal, meaningful goals.



Therapeutic Environment

LiHigh School provides a therapeutic environment to support all social-emotional issues that beset today's teenagers. In addition to their academic goals, every student in the school actively works on at least three social-emotional goals to help them become well-functioning members of society.

Curriculum

The curriculum at LiHigh School consists of content-based seminars, academic intervention laboratories, skill-based workshops, work-based learning, independent projects, and college-level courses.

Because each student's curriculum is based on their passions and interests, no set method applies across the board, though we expect every student to demonstrate significant growth in:

- Reading
- Writing
- The Use of Numbers
- History
- Citizenship & Government
- Physical Education & Health,
- The Natural Sciences
- The Fine Art

In addition, students must complete nine weeks of work-based learning and complete a senior capstone project that makes the world a better place, however they choose to interpret that instruction.



Specialized Programs

Explorer Program

In the Explorers Program, students embark on a transformative journey of self-discovery. The primary goal is to help students uncover their passions and interests by providing various possibilities that cater to their unique aspirations. Whether a student has a well-defined passion or is still seeking their path, our Program Guides offer personalized support and resources to help them navigate their journey.

Sustainable Food Systems Program

This is where the culinary arts meets sustainable agriculture! Our program blends culinary exploration and hands-on learning about growing food and building a resilient, local food system. Students develop their cooking skills in our commercial-grade kitchen and gain a deeper understanding of how food impacts the environment and community.

Performing & Fine Arts Program

In the Performing & Fine Arts Program, creativity knows no bounds. Students discover the magic of self-expression through diverse artistic disciplines, including theater, music, dance, visual arts, and more. Students can explore their passions, hone their talents, and unleash their creative potential.

Practical Arts Program

The Practical Arts Program at The LiHigh School is designed to equip students with the practical skills and knowledge needed for a trade career. With a focus on woodworking, blacksmithing, computer-aided design, and auto mechanics, this program provides hands-on experiences that foster skill development, personal growth, and prospects.



Dual Enrollment & Early College Programs

The Vermont Dual Enrollment Program allows high school students to earn college credit while still in high school. Courses in the Vermont Dual Enrollment Program are offered tuition-free, with support for up to two college courses during junior and senior years at participating Vermont colleges.

Vermont's Early College Program allows Vermont high school juniors to apply to attend a participating Vermont college full-time and tuition-free during their senior year.

Please speak with your Case Manager for more information.

Assessments

Assessment at LiHigh School comes from learning plan meetings and end-of-quarter evaluations.

At learning plan meetings, assessment comes from direct feedback provided by the student's learning-plan team, including their case manager, parent(s) or guardian(s), and a special educator.

The end-of-quarter evaluation allows the case manager to paint a complete portrait of each student, discussing how they've progressed and what challenges they still face.

Students are not given grades during our assessments or ranked against each other. Generally speaking, our evaluation of each student is individualized and highly personal. Academically, we assess for growth; social-emotionally, we evaluate for consistency.



Graduation Requirements

LiHigh School uses growth-based pathways to graduation. These pathways ask students to set and achieve personal goals demonstrating their ability to learn and grow in a rapidly changing world.

Growth-based pathways offer students opportunities to make meaningful achievements in their lives. Students learn to set goals, develop and implement strategies to achieve them and reflect on the challenges and successes they faced while pursuing them.

The pathways, unique to each student, prioritize growth over grade-level proficiency, experiences and products over class rank, and collaboration and cooperation over competition.





Attendance Policy

School Hours

- Classes run from 9 am to 2 pm
- A morning break is offered from 10 am to 10:30 am
- Lunch is served from 11:30 am to 12:00 pm

Excused & Unexcused Absences

To count as an Excused Absence, a student's parent/guardian must call, email, or text their student's case manager before 7:30 am to notify the school of the student's absence and include the reason for the student's absence in the message. Good reasons include illness, observance of a religious holiday, a death in the family, a family emergency, or a situation beyond a student's control.

A student who fails to attend school without a reasonable excuse will be marked as having an Unexcused Absence. Families have up to two days after the absence to provide a valid excuse

Habitual Absences

A LiHigh student will be considered habitually absent if they exceed:

- Four days of unexcused absences in a three-month period
- 12 days of total absences in a three-month period (excluding a severe illness for which a doctor's note has been provided)

If a student is habitually absent, the school may contact a truant officer or file a complaint with the Department of Children and Families claiming "Educational Neglect" by the parent or guardian. Before that, however, the Special Educator will contact the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) and the student's LEA to discuss and problem-solve the situation.

Students with habitual absences may receive a personalized attendance plan catering to their specific needs. Students who don't comply with the personalized attendance plan will be counted as absent.



Sick Student Policy

The following illness policies will be strictly enforced for the health, well-being, and safety of all concerned.

Under no circumstances may a parent bring a child to school if the child shows any signs of illness or cannot participate in the routine of the school day. Sick students can expose all students and staff members with whom they come into contact, which can expose more community members.

In the event a student becomes ill and needs to be picked up, the student's case manager or the school administrator will contact the parent(s)/guardian(s), who will be expected to pick up the student within one hour (60 minutes). If the parent(s)/guardian(s) cannot be reached or have not arrived within an hour, the student's emergency contact will be contacted and asked to pick the student up.

Symptoms Requiring Removal from School

- **Fever:** A fever of 100°F or higher (taken under the arm) or 101°F (taken orally). A student needs to be fever free without the aid of medication for a minimum of 24 hours before they return to school.
- **Diarrhea:** runny, watery, or bloody stools. Students with two or more loose stools within the last four hours should be kept home from school.
- **Vomiting:** Students who have vomited two or more times in 24 hours should be kept home from school. Also, please do not send your students to school if they vomit during the night.
- **Breathing issues**
- **Sore throat, swollen glands, or loss of voice**
- **Hacking or continuous coughing**
- **Frequent scratching of the body or scalp due to lice, rash, or other spots resembling a childhood disease (including ringworm).**
- **The student is irritable, continuously crying, or requires more attention than we can provide without hurting the health, safety, or well-being of the other students in our care.**



Communicable Diseases & Blood-borne Pathogens Policy

LiHigh School recognizes that the transmission of infectious diseases must be limited to protect the rights of all students and employees. Therefore, LiHigh School establishes the following guidelines:

Communicable Diseases

If our School Administrator determines a student or staff member needs to be excluded from school due to a communicable disease, the school will contact the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) and arrange transport. If necessary, the Department of Health may also be consulted.

The School Administrator may request that the student receive a physician's definitive diagnosis before returning to school.

If the communicable disease affects more than 10% of the student population, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of all students shall be notified.

Blood-borne Pathogens

If the School Administrator determines a student has had significant exposure to blood, the school shall immediately notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) and advise them to consult the child's physician at once.

Students will not be permitted to clean up the blood of others or potentially infectious materials.

LiHigh School complies with applicable Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Administration (VOSHA) rules to protect staff members who are reasonably anticipated to be exposed to bloodborne pathogens as part of their job duties. All staff not covered by the VOSHA standard are instructed to avoid contact with potentially infectious materials and blood and to immediately contact a staff member who is covered by the exposure control plan. When this is impossible, any person assisting shall follow universal precautions, which every staff member is trained in at the beginning of each school year.



Mental Health Alerts & Academic Probation

While LiHigh School, as a therapeutic institution, prioritizes a student's mental health over their academic performance, we must also recognize when a student does not meet the academic expectations of our school.

Every student at LiHigh School is expected to do the following:

- Attend school regularly in accordance with the attendance policy above
- Follow their assigned schedule
- Engage with their teachers and assignments during class
- Participate in group activities such as Lunch and Movement
- Voluntarily relinquish their smart devices (cellphones, tablets, etc.) for the school day
- Maintain a high level of safety for themselves and the rest of the community

Any student who meets the expectations above on a regular basis is considered "in good standing."

If a student cannot meet the school's expectations for five out of seven school days, the student's case manager, in consultation with our school administrator and special educators, will connect with the student to determine the nature of the obstacles and provide guidance on relevant strategies. Following the meeting, the case manager will notify all of the student's teachers of any follow-up actions they must take.

If the student cannot meet the school's expectations for 10 out of 15 school days, the student's case manager, our school counselor, and a special educator will meet to determine whether the student is in the throes of a mental-health crisis.

Mental Health Alert

If the team determines the student needs extra mental-health support, they will call a meeting with the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) to decide on the best steps to take. Along with making necessary changes to the student's behavioral intervention plan on their IEP, the team's recommendations may include increasing the student's visits to an outside therapist, seeking medical advice from a licensed psychiatrist, reducing academic challenges at school, participating in group



therapies outside of school, altering the student's schedule, seeking in-patient treatment at a hospital or mental health facility, etc.

At this point, the student is placed on a "Mental Health Alert," which notifies all of the student's teachers and the rest of the staff about the student's crisis and the steps to be taken to alleviate that crisis.

Academic Probation

If the team determines the student is not experiencing a mental health crisis but instead avoids schoolwork for other reasons, the student will be placed on "Academic Probation."

The student's case manager, special educator, and school director will meet with the student to further pinpoint the obstacles standing in the way of academic success and develop a plan for overcoming those obstacles. The plan will include specific, measurable goals that must be achieved within a relevant and achievable timeframe. The case manager will provide the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) with a copy of the plan, including any steps the family might have to take at home.

If students meet their goals in the agreed-upon timeframe, they will be returned to "good standing." If they fail to meet any of their goals, the special educator will call a meeting with the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) and the district LEA to determine whether their continued placement at LiHigh School makes sense.



Case Management

Every student at LiHigh School has a Case Manager who is responsible for the student's progress. The Case Manager is each family's primary point of contact at the school. They can help you connect with teachers, counselors, and third-party service providers. They are also primarily responsible for your student's case file.

As a group, our Case Managers meet weekly to discuss each student's goals, development, and (in some cases) crises. They help your student build and maintain their personalized learning plans, work as a tireless advocate for your student's needs, and ensure your student's report cards and transcripts accurately represent your student's work.

While we do everything we can to keep Case Manager assignments consistent from year to year, student numbers and staffing changes sometimes require a new Case Manager assignment. We'll notify you if there are any changes to your Case Manager.



Harassment, Hazing, & Bullying

FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR, STUART GERROL IS THE DESIGNATED STAFF MEMBER TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF ANY BEHAVIORS THAT VIOLATE THIS POLICY.

Definition

No member of the school community shall bully another member. “Bullying” means any overt act or combination of acts, including an act conducted by electronic means, directed against a member by another member or group of members and which:

- is repeated over time;
- is intended to ridicule, humiliate, or intimidate the member;
- either occurs during the school day, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity; or can be shown to pose a clear and substantial interference with another member’s right to access educational programs

Reporting Violations

Any student who believes they have been bullied or witnesses or has knowledge of conduct they reasonably believe might constitute bullying is encouraged to report the behavior to the Designated Staff Member.

Any staff member who witnesses conduct they believe might constitute bullying shall take reasonable action to stop the behavior and prevent its recurrence and immediately report it to the Designated Staff Member. Any staff member who receives information about conduct that might constitute bullying shall immediately report it to the Designated Staff Member.

Upon Receipt of the Complaint

The Designated Staff Member shall notify the School Administrator of the complaint and, within one day, inform the parents or guardians of the students involved in writing that a bullying complaint has been filed.

The Designated Staff Member shall initiate an investigation of the allegations, and within five days, the Designated Staff Member shall submit a written determination to the School Administrator.



Upon receipt of the notification, the School Administrator shall notify the parents or guardians of both parties of the outcome of the investigation and, in cases where bullying has occurred, the specific disciplinary action taken.

Potential Consequences

If the investigation determines that the alleged conduct occurred and that it constitutes bullying, the School Administrator may take disciplinary or remedial action reasonably calculated to stop the bullying and prevent any recurrence of bullying, including (but not limited to):

- mediation between the parties
- education and counseling for the bully
- safety planning
- restitution
- suspension
- expulsion



Technology Usage

LiHigh School uses Google Workspace for Education as the technology foundation for our work. Students and staff members have free access to Google Drive, Gmail, Docs, Sheets, Slides, Classroom, Calendar, Chat, Meet, and other web-based technologies. By harnessing the power of these apps, we aim to help students transition from consumers of information to creative producers and owners of knowledge.

School-Supplied Chromebooks & Laptops

Because so much of contemporary education requires reliable access to digital tools, LiHigh School attempts to provide a Chromebook (or other laptop) to students who don't already possess one. The Chromebook allows students to access Google Workspace for Education and other web-based tools. As an educational tool, the supplied device is not intended for gaming, social networking, or high-end computing.

The policies detailed in this section apply to all school-supplied Chromebooks (or other laptops) used at LiHigh School by students, staff, or guests. Teachers may set additional requirements for technology use in their classrooms.

Receiving Your Chromebook

LiHigh School will distribute Chromebooks during the first week of school in September. Families and students must sign and return the Chromebook Sign Off & Student Pledge document before the Chromebook (or other laptop) can be issued.

Training

After receiving their Chromebook, students will be trained on how to use the device by a LiHigh School staff member. Training will include:

How to log into their Chromebook

- How to access Google Workspace for Education
- How to check, write, and reply to emails using Google Gmail
- How to check, write, and respond to messages on Google Chat
- How to access, create, and open files on their Google Drive



- How to access, create, invite participants, and edit appointments on Google Calendar
- How to access and use Google Classroom
- A brief overview of Google Docs, Sheets, & Slides

Students may access Google support documents and videos online as needed for further training.

Returning Your Chromebook

Students will return their Chromebook (or other laptop) and its charger at the end of the school year for maintenance over the summer. Any student who transfers out of LiHigh School must return the device and its charger before their last day of school.

In Case of A Lost/Stolen/Damaged Chromebook or Charger

If a Chromebook and charger are not returned to the school, the student's family will be held responsible for payment in full. The account will be turned over to a collection agency if payment is not received.

If a family reports the theft of a Chromebook, LiHigh School requires the family to file a police report. Fraudulent reporting of theft will be turned over to the police for prosecution.

If a Chromebook or charger is damaged, LiHigh School will assess whether the damage was accidental or caused by intentional misuse or abuse. In cases of the latter, the student's family will be held responsible for payment in full. The account will be turned over to a collection agency if payment is not received.

Costs of Replacement

- Chromebook: \$290
- AC Adapter & Power Cord: \$15

Taking Care of Your Chromebook

- No food or drink is allowed next to your Chromebook while it is in use
- Shut down your Chromebook when it is not in use to conserve battery life



- Do not expose your Chromebook to extreme temperatures or direct sunlight for extended periods, or you could cause damage to your laptop
- Do not lean against, rest anything on, or put any undue pressure on the screen of your Chromebook
- Do not poke the screen
- Clean the screen with a soft, dry, anti-static, or micro-fiber cloth. Do not use window cleaner or any liquid on the Chromebook.

Using Your Chromebook

At School

Your Chromebook is intended for use at school each day. In addition to your teacher's expectations for Chromebook use, you will access schoolwide messages, announcements, and calendars using the Chromebook. It is an integral tool in your education; we expect you to have it daily.

At Home

While students should plan on leaving their Chromebooks at school each night, certain circumstances may require students to bring their devices home. In such instances, students should refrain from using their laptops for anything other than schoolwork and take steps to ensure they remember to bring it back to school in the morning.

Personalizing Your Chromebook

Chromebooks must remain free of any writing, drawing, or stickers unless the Chromebook is protected with removable skin. A staff member will provide an identification label with the student's initials when the student first receives the Chromebook. Students may add appropriate music, photos, and videos to their Chromebook, but personalized media are subject to inspection by a staff member.

Students may not add additional software to their Chromebook other than what the school installs.

5-Minute Tech Support Rule

LiHigh School does not employ a full-time IT professional to support and maintain our Chromebook fleet. Because of the nature of our environment, staff cannot spend too much time attempting to fix every technical glitch that may arise. If a



problem cannot be resolved in five minutes, the staff member will confiscate the device, and someone will try to repair the Chromebook as soon as possible. During this time, the student may log in as a guest on another student's unused Chromebook (though they may not take it out of the eyeshot of a staff member).

Storing the Chromebook Each Day

LiHigh School maintains a tech cart with space and charger outlets for every laptop in our fleet. Before meeting with their end-of-day transport, students must return their laptops to the cart for overnight charging and storage. Their afternoon driver will attempt to remind them to do so, but it is the responsibility of the student to store their Chromebook each night.

Chromebooks Left Unsupervised

Under no circumstances should a student leave their Chromebook unsupervised unless it is stored in the tech cart. Unsupervised Chromebooks will be confiscated by staff and taken to the Operations Manager.

Family/Student Owned Laptops

Students with personal laptops can bring them to school throughout the day. However, LiHigh School is not responsible for damage, loss, theft, or IT issues of student-owned laptops. To protect the school from liability, staff members will not provide IT support for a family/student-owned laptop. Furthermore, students who bring their laptops to school accept the school's right to inspect the laptop at any time during school hours.

Smartphones, Video-Game Devices, & Other Personal Tech

Students at LiHigh School are not allowed to use personal electronic devices during school hours. This includes smartphones, cell phones, iPods, and video-game devices (except as part of a class). Students who bring their devices to school will hand them over to a staff member when they arrive. The staff member will place them in a secure location and retrieve them for the student at the end of the day (or when directed by a teacher).

If parents or guardians need to contact their students during school hours, they can call the school at (802) 287-2411 or email the student at their LiHigh School email address (firstname.lastname@lihighschool.org).



Support Services

Educational Support Services

IEP Services

Students at LiHigh School who are on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) have available to them a free and appropriate public education with specially designed instruction to meet their unique needs. These needs and services are defined in the student's IEP.

An IEP is a written statement for each student with a disability that is developed, reviewed, and revised, and it includes:

- A description of all special-education services, related services, and supplementary aids and services that the student needs to benefit from an education
- A description of any accommodations or modifications the school must make for the student to progress in the curriculum
- IEPs are constructed and maintained by the following team members:
 - A local education representative (LEA)
 - A LiHigh School special educator
 - A LiHigh School teacher
 - An individual who can interpret instructional implications of evaluation results
 - Parent(s), guardian(s), or educational surrogate of the student
 - The student (if appropriate)

504 Services

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 protects people with disabilities from discrimination. Students with disabilities that substantially limit a major life activity may require individual accommodations or specific services to ensure access to education and school-sponsored activities. Anyone can make a 504 referral to the school, and decisions are made through the 504 team. The team may need up-to-date documentation from a medical doctor or practitioner to determine and



develop appropriate plans. Any questions concerning 504 services can be directed to the Special Educator.

Mental Health Supports

While LiHigh School provides a therapeutic environment for all of our students, we do not offer formal therapy for students. However, with the family's written permission, we strive to connect with a student's therapeutic and medical support team (psychologists, therapists, psychiatrists, general practitioners, etc.) to help develop the best services and supports possible in an academic setting.

Speech & Language Pathology

While LiHigh School does not offer Speech & Language Pathology services, we will make time in the student's schedule to receive SLP services if a student's IEP requires it and the student's sending district supplies an SLP practitioner.

Community Support Services

LiHigh School strives to connect families to community support services to help alleviate struggles common in our region. Those services include, but are not limited to:

Vermont's Department of Children and Families

- 3SquaresVT (healthy, nutritious food)
- 3SquaresVT In A Snap (for disabled Vermonters)
- Childcare Subsidies
- Crisis Fuel (heating assistance)
- Emergency Assistance (emergency basic needs)
- Farm to Family Program (locally grown fruits and vegetables)
- Housing assistance
- ICAN (employment and training assistance for SNAP recipients)
- Reach Up (employment and training assistance to help parents support their children)
- VSNIP (financial assistance to spay/neuter a pet)



- VT Matched Savings (financial assistance)
- Weatherization (helps improve a home's energy efficiency)

Rutland Mental Health Services

- Child & Family Mental Health Services
- Respite for children, caregivers, and families
- Adolescent substance abuse services
- J.O.B.S. Program (employment support for at-risk youth, ages 16-21)
- Transition services

HireAbility Vermont

- Job exploration counseling
- Work-based learning assistance
- Workplace readiness training
- Instruction in self-advocacy



Co-Curricular Activities

While LiHigh School does not (currently) offer after-school clubs or athletics, we are a member of the Vermont Principal Association (VPA), which makes students at Approved Independent Schools such as ours eligible for participation in co-curricular activities offered by the schools in their home districts. Participation in a school's co-curricular activities shall not commence until a copy of the Vermont Agency of Education Enrollment Letter is presented to the principal by the parent or guardian.

Participation in co-curricular activities sponsored by a VPA member school is a privilege, not a right, so the student may participate in co-curricular activities provided the student complies with the same physical examination, insurance, age, and any other requirements for participation as required of all students. The student must also adhere to the same behavior, responsibilities, and performance standards as other participants.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to participate in co-curricular activities sponsored by a VPA member school, students must be enrolled full-time at LiHigh School, comply with the attendance policy detailed above, and be a student in good standing. Students who are habitually absent or on academic probation are ineligible to participate in co-curricular activities.

Eligibility is determined five school days after the end of each term. See the Academic Calendar above for details.

Students determined to be ineligible will have a two-week period where they will not be allowed to participate in games and/or shows. However, they are eligible for regularly scheduled practices/rehearsals. They are also allowed to travel with the team/club (unless the travel requires the student to miss a regularly scheduled class), provided they do not participate in any game(s)/show(s) during that time.

Following the two weeks, students must request a Progress Review from their Case Manager. The Case Manager will check in with all of the student's teachers, and if the student has returned to good standing in all of their classes, they will once again become eligible to participate. If they are not in good standing, the student will remain ineligible until their bi-weekly Progress Review shows they have made the necessary improvements.



For more information, please refer to www.vpaonline.org or ask your Case Manager.

School Attendance to Co-Curricular Activities

- Students who are absent from school may not participate in any practice, rehearsal, game, or show scheduled for that day.
- Students absent the day before an event that takes place on a non-school day (e.g., the Friday before a Saturday performance) may not participate in the event.
- Students must arrive at school before 10 am and stay for the entire school day to participate in any co-curricular activities that day.

The student's Case Manager must approve exceptions to the above policies.



Illicit Substances

LiHigh School works to prevent and prohibit the possession, use, and distribution of any drug, alcohol, or drug paraphernalia on school property, at school events, and in school-provided transports.

We recognize that substance abuse may indicate other severe or underlying problems and will make every effort to offer the student help or assistance, including early identification, referral for treatment, and aftercare support. Any disciplinary procedure taken by LiHigh School will be in the best interests of the student and the community. The seriousness of the offense may require more severe consequences.

Whereas the principal responsibility for substance abuse begins in the home, substance abuse also affects the community and interferes with each individual's behavior, learning, and development. The school shares in this responsibility and strives to help in prevention by education and intervening, when necessary, or by referral to trained personnel.

The rights of a student who possesses, uses, and distributes any drug, alcohol, or drug paraphernalia will receive due consideration. The questioning of a student on school premises will occur in the presence of the student's Case Manager, and the student's right to remain silent or speak through an attorney or parent/guardian will not be abridged. A school official will maintain a written record of all proceedings under the policy, which will be made available to the student and the student's parent/guardian.

Tobacco, Cannabis, & Alcohol Use

It is illegal in Vermont for anyone under 21 to possess, purchase, or attempt to purchase tobacco or cannabis products, substitutes, or paraphernalia. As such, a staff member will confiscate and destroy any such products possessed or used by any student under 21.

Students over 21 and staff members are free to possess and use tobacco products during the school day, provided they remove themselves from the line of sight of any school-affiliated property (including, but not limited to, the REclaimedED Maker Space). Staff members must also check in with a senior staff member before taking a smoke break.

The possession or use of cannabis or alcohol during school hours is strictly prohibited.



Forms to Be Completed

We've created a Google Form where you can provide LiHigh School with all of the contact information we'll need to support your student this year.

You can complete the form at <https://bit.ly/lihigh2023>

Scan the QR Code to Go To The Form

You may also use your smartphone's camera to scan the QR code below to go to the form.

