



Family Handbook

Fair Lawn Campus

29-01 Berkshire Road

Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

201-797-7440

2023-2024



Table of Contents

<u>Section One - School Policies / Procedures</u>	<u>Page</u>
Welcome Letter from Executive Director	5
Welcome Letter from Principal	6
Mission & Vision	6
Learning Program	7
Academic Syllabus	8
Enhanced Curriculum Programs	9
Remote Instruction	10
Therapy Services	10
Therapeutic Consultative Services	11
Therapy Participation Clearance	12
School Supplies	12
Snack and Lunch	13
Field Trips	13
Walking Trips	14
Photo Policy	14
Birthdays	14
Student Absences/Early Pick-up/Late Arrival	15
Home & School Communication	15
Visits and Observations	16
Social Work Services	17
Home School Association	18
Development and Marking	18
<u>Section Two - Security Policies / Procedures</u>	<u>Page</u>
Student Security	20
Emergency Drills	20
Release of Students	21
Emergency Closings / Delayed Openings / Early Dismissals	22
Transportation	22
Child Abuse and Neglect	23
Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying	23
Sexual Harassment of Students	24



<u>Section Three - Medical, Health and Safety Policies / Procedures</u>	<u>Page</u>
Introduction to Health Services	26
Emergency Information	26
Immunizations	26
Height and Weight Measurements	27
Administration of Medication/ Specialized Health Treatments	27
Seizure Emergency & Medication Administration Policy	28
Allergen Management	29
Allergic Reactions in the School Setting	30
Food Related Topics	30
Emergency Responses	30
Communicable Disease	31
Medical Clearance to Return to School / Therapy	32
Restrictions for Activities and Therapies	32
Universal Precautions	33
Animal Encounter	33
Oral Hygiene Program	34
Sensory Experiences	34
Sensory Materials	35
Contact Information	36



Section One

School Policies and Procedures



Executive Director's Welcome Letter

Dear CTC Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the CTC Academy family! We are so pleased that you have selected our organization to support your child and family. We will work diligently to provide your child with an appropriate, fun, supportive and interactive education and an enriched learning environment.

We are proud of the fact that at the CTC Academy we strive to excel in the process of welcoming family members as partners in the educational and therapeutic process. It is vital for parents, teachers and therapists to communicate effectively and share ideas, thoughts, and concerns. Each member of the team holds a piece of the picture that is the child's development. Each of us can be far more effective when information is freely shared.

We are looking forward to continuing a productive partnership with you, the CTC parents and guardians, to ensure that our students, your children, can achieve their highest individual potential. The entire CTC Academy staff and I feel privileged to be part of this school family and we thank you for your support and partnership. Should you have any ideas, suggestions, or contacts that can help enhance or improve the organization, please share them with your child's teacher, school Principal or me.

Sincerely,

Anne Ogden, Executive Director



Principal's Welcome Letter

Welcome! I want to personally welcome you and your child to the CTC Academy's learning community. As the Principal of our Fair Lawn campus, I am honored to lead a school that is known for excellence. At the CTC Academy we believe in getting to know your child's interests and personality, while fostering a nurturing and motivating environment that will assist your child in reaching his or her fullest potential. Our primary goals are to enhance your child's life as well as support you, and through our collaborative reach approach, we celebrate successes - large and small. We are excited about working with your child and look forward to watching them grow, learn and enjoy!

Please take some time to review this manual which is full of information regarding your child's learning program, as well as opportunities and programs for all members of the family. If you would like to discuss any information in this manual or have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at sbrand@ctcacademy.org or schedule an appointment by calling 201-797-7440. **Together...we make great things happen!**

Sincerely,

Sue Brand, Principal

Our Mission

Enhancing the lives of children and young adults with special needs, and their families, by providing an enriched educational, therapeutic and supportive environment.

Our Vision

Fulfilling the potential of all people with special needs.

CTC Academy directs that all students enrolled in the school shall be afforded equal educational opportunities in strict accordance with the law. No student shall be denied access to or benefit from any educational program or activity or from a co-curricular or athletic activity on the basis of the student's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectational or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status or disability. The Board shall ensure that all students are free from harassment, sexual or otherwise.



Learning Program

The CTC Academy is a full-day program. Student hours are 8:40 am to 2:45 pm, Monday through Friday. Please refer to our school calendar for planned school closings and early dismissal dates.

We serve diverse learners with multiple and varying disabilities. The focus of our instruction program is to enhance students' individual strengths while fostering innovative learning techniques that promote autonomy and success. Each student's learning program, driven by his or her IEP (Individualized Education Program), is unique and collaboratively developed by the professional team of teachers, and therapists in conjunction with the child's parents or guardians.

Assistive Technology is infused throughout the program as both a teaching method and a tool to increase and promote communication. Our creative education program reflects our commitment to ensuring that each and every student reaches his or her fullest potential.

Program Features:

- Small class sizes with a high student to staff ratio equipped with specialized equipment and furniture adapted for the unique needs of our students
- Specialized curriculum that supports differentiation and comprehensive school syllabus
- Extended (Full-Day) School Year Program (Summer Program)
- Therapeutic Services based on the student's IEP (Individualized Education Program)- include occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy (all speech therapists are trained in feeding therapy)
- Consultative and specialized services for our students including: orthotics/equipment clinic, nutrition clinics, BCBA (behavior) consults, and physiatrist clinic
- Toileting and Hygiene Program
- Specialized nursing team headed by a New Jersey Certified School Nurse and consulting physician



Fair Lawn Campus Syllabus 2023-2024

Preschool		
<p><u>Academic Requirements:</u> Language Arts & Math – 4x week Science / Social Studies – 2x week Creative Arts – 3x week <i>Above Subjects are taught during: Morning & Afternoon Circle, Story Time, Center Time, Whole Group and Individual Instruction</i> Morning Matters – 5x week</p>	<p><u>Special Courses:</u> Adapted Physical Ed – 1x week Music – 1x week Yoga – 1x week Sensory Gym- 1X week Art- 2X month</p> <p><u>Skill Builder Clubs</u> Friday 1:30-2:00 - Semester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pretend play • Games 	<p><u>Special Programs:</u> Students are chosen through lottery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pony Power (Fall, Spring) <p>Students are chosen through therapist recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic Mobility Training <p><u>Assemblies and Special Events:</u> Note Monthly Calendar For Schedule</p> <p><u>Field Trips:</u> 1x a year</p>
Pre-K through K		
<p><u>Academic Requirements</u> Language Arts & Math – 4x week Science / Social Studies – 2x week Creative Arts – 3x week <i>Above Subjects are taught during: Morning & Afternoon Circle, Story Time, Center Time, Whole Group and Individual Instruction</i> Morning Matters – 5x week</p>	<p><u>Special Courses:</u> Adapted Physical Ed – 1x week Music – 1x week Yoga – 1x week Sensory Gym- 1X week Art- 2X month</p> <p><u>Clubs</u> Friday 1:30-2:00 - 8 wk rotation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pretend play • Dance 	<p><u>Special Programs:</u> Students are chosen through lottery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pony Power (Fall, Spring) <p>Students are chosen through therapist recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic Mobility Training <p><u>Assemblies and Special Events:</u> Note Monthly Calendar For Schedule</p> <p><u>Field Trips:</u> 1x year</p>
Building Bridges: Kindergarten through 2nd Grade		
<p><u>Academic Requirements:</u> Language Arts & Math – 4x week Science / Social Studies – 2x week Creative Arts – 3x week <i>Above Subjects are taught during: Morning & Afternoon Circle, Story Time, Center Time, Whole Group and Individual Instruction</i> Morning Matters – 5x a week</p>	<p><u>Special Courses:</u> Adapted Physical Ed – 1x week Music – 1x week Yoga – 1x week Sensory Gym- 1X week Art- 2X month</p> <p><u>Skill Builder Clubs Clubs</u> Friday 1:30-2:00 - Semester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warrior Ninja's • Cooking 	<p><u>Special Programs:</u> Students are chosen through lottery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pony Power (Fall & Spring) <p>Students are chosen through therapist recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic Mobility Training <p><u>Assemblies and Special Events:</u> Note Monthly Calendar For Schedule</p> <p><u>Field Trips:</u> 1x year</p>



Enhanced Curriculum Programs

All Enhanced Curriculum Programs are collaboratively developed and implemented by our therapy team members and our special education teachers. Each program is designed to foster opportunities that motivate students to work on their independent therapeutic goals.

Adapted Physical Education: The physical education program provides experiences through adapted sports and physical activities fostering independence, communication, and sportsmanship.

Yoga: The Yoga program provides our students with an opportunity to prepare themselves for learning while empowering them to be active participants in their own growth and development. Yoga practice may promote improvement in areas such as strength, flexibility, and overall sense of well-being.

Music Education: The music education program utilizes a music therapy framework to enhance social, cognitive, communication, and motor abilities. This program offers meaningful musical experiences using instruments, rhythm, singing, listening, and performing. Students work on skills reflected in the NJ student learning standards.

Therapeutic Riding: Therapeutic riding, held at Pony Power Therapies, offers a unique opportunity to ride, care for and interact with horses. Riding helps participants to strengthen muscles and develop balance and motor control. Both riding and non-riding activities enhance individuals' physical, social and emotional well-being in a safe, nurturing farm environment.

Skill Builders Club: The skill builders program provides opportunities for our students to participate in a therapeutically based group activity Friday afternoon. Therapists and teachers have created developmentally appropriate learning experiences focusing on the arts, sciences, social skills, play, and fitness. Our students will have the ability to practice and enhance fine motor, gross motor, self-help, and communication skills they have been developing during their individual therapy sessions. Students will have 2 club experiences in a school year- a fall and spring semester.

Art: Twice per month, a certified teacher of art provides instruction in the area of visual arts. Students are exposed to a wide variety of art mediums that allow them to express their individuality and love of art.



Sensory Gym: Sensory Gym is a movement based physical education class created with the goal of providing a meaningful movement experience to students of all abilities using a multisensory approach. Activities include pushing, pulling, balancing, rolling, bouncing and much more! All activities are created to motivate the students to explore and enjoy movement, promote independence, and provide opportunities for meaningful social interactions with their peers

Remote Instruction

The remote learning plan would be implemented during a closure lasting more than three consecutive school days due to a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or a directive by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health related closure. If CTC pivoted to remote instruction we would implement our state approved plan and provide technology support to any families who need assistance.

Therapy Services

CTC Academy offers physical, occupational, and speech therapy as well as assistive technology. The frequency and duration of therapies are defined in each student's IEP. Therapists work together with teachers in order to define optimal treatment plans and goals.

Each family will receive a copy of their child's therapy schedule at Back to School Night. The schedule may change during the year for various reasons. Missed therapy sessions are made up only when a therapist misses a session. If a student is absent or arrives late/leaves early when a therapy session is scheduled, the session is not mandated to be made up. Therapy sessions are also not mandated during special school events such as assemblies or when students are out of the building on field trips. Therapists will, at times, see students in advance for a session, if they know they will be missing a session at a future date. IEP meetings, vendor appointments, and clinics are all considered therapy sessions if the therapist working with the student is in attendance. The therapists keep detailed records of sessions to ensure all sessions are delivered in accordance with the student's IEP. Parents/guardians are welcome to observe their child's therapy sessions or to participate in parent/guardian training by appointment. Please contact your child's therapist to make an appointment.



Therapeutic Consultative Services

Physiatry Clinics: Physiatry clinics are conducted monthly. The purpose of these clinics is to provide consultation services to staff and parents regarding the student's therapy program, review orders/prescriptions for adaptive equipment, prescribe hand splints, and check the fit of orthotics/braces. Parents/guardians are required to participate at the scheduled clinic. Appointments are scheduled approximately 2-4 weeks in advance of the upcoming clinic. Parents/guardians can request that their child be seen for clinic by contacting their child's treating therapist(s). We respectfully ask parents/guardians who need to cancel a scheduled clinic to please give at least 24 hours notice so that the schedule can be revised in advance. A written summary of the physiatry clinic is provided by the consulting physiatrist and is forwarded to the child's therapy team as well as parent/guardian.

Orthotic Clinics: Orthotic clinics are conducted monthly. With a prescription from a treating physician, a licensed and certified orthotist is available to fabricate orthotics for upper or lower extremities and/or trunk to promote proper body alignment, to provide a gentle stretch for tight muscles or to assist with weight bearing and standing and/or to facilitate functional movement. The orthotist works closely with your child's occupational and/or physical therapist during the clinic visits. Parents/guardians are invited to attend clinics. Requests for Orthotic clinic services should be scheduled with your child's treating therapist(s).

Equipment Clinics: Equipment clinics are conducted several times a month with a variety of durable medical suppliers to assist parents with ordering adaptive equipment. During these clinics our Equipment Coordinator will work closely with you, your child's therapy team and a durable medical supplier to choose the appropriate type of equipment. When your child is in need of new adaptive equipment, please discuss this issue with your child's treating therapists to gain their input. When it is determined that new equipment is needed, either you or your child's treating therapists can request an appointment. Updated insurance information and a copy of your most recent insurance cards are necessary in order to verify your coverage for durable medical equipment. The Equipment Coordinator will send your insurance information to a durable medical supplier before setting up an appointment for a seating evaluation. Parents/Guardians are required to attend this initial evaluation.

BCBA Consultation: A Board-Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA) consults weekly with CTC staff to provide positive behavioral support to the educational and therapeutic learning environments. In addition, the BCBA in collaboration with the child's team develops and monitors behavioral plans when needed for students. Parents/guardians may request to meet with the BCBA and your child's team by contacting the Principal or Head of Therapeutic Services.



Therapy Participation Clearance

To ensure best practices with the safety of our students in mind, CTC Academy annually requires the completion of a Therapy Participation Medical Clearance Form. This form needs to be printed, completed, and signed by your medical provider. If this form is not returned to CTC by the designated date, your child may not receive therapeutic services until it is fully completed and returned. A copy of this notice is also sent to your District Child Study Team Case Manager.

If at any time during the school year, concerns regarding your child's therapy plan arise, you will be asked to have this form updated by your medical provider. Even when this form is fully completed and returned, the CTC Academy may choose to withhold therapy services if a situation arises where the professional staff deem therapy to be detrimental to your child. In the event that therapy services are withheld, a meeting will be scheduled with you to discuss the concerns.

School Supplies

In order to support your child's learning program, we require supplies, some of which may be left at school and some which will go back and forth daily. In addition to the items listed below, teachers and therapists may request items throughout the school year to support your child's learning experiences. ***Please label all items that are sent to school with your child's name***

Items to be Left at School:

- Diapers and Wipes
- Grooming / Hygiene Supplies – as your child needs or as teacher / therapist requests
- Additional Clothing – which may need to be changed seasonally, including shirts, pants, socks, undershirts, underwear. Clothing should be comfortable and appropriate to support active play and movement throughout the school day.

Items to be Brought in Daily:

- Lunch Box with snack. CTC Academy has refrigerators, blenders, toasters, and microwaves available to assist with food preparation. If your child's class has any specific food allergies, you will be notified.
- Daily Communication Folder
- Backpack



Snack and Lunch

Nutrition is a vital component in keeping your child healthy. We appreciate the support of families to provide lunch and snacks for our students. We realize you do your best to strive to create nutritious meals that provide adequate representation from all food groups. If you have challenges regarding nutrition, we recommend reaching out to your child's healthcare provider.

With safety in mind, we ask that you **note the list of cautionary foods and do not send** those food items that are proven to present a choking hazard to young children. Please note - if these items are sent to school, a CTC staff will determine, based on your child's needs, if they will be permitted to consume the items. We will not serve any food deemed unsafe by a CTC staff member. Staff will not serve students any expired food items, even if they are sent in from home.

The classroom teacher will also communicate if there is a severe allergy concern within the classroom. If there is, parents will be asked **not to send any foods containing the allergen**. However, suppose a student (or staff member/private duty nurse) brings a prohibited product. In that case, the food will be stored in a location outside of the classroom, and they will need to eat the food item in a separate room, where there are no allergic students.

Cautionary Food List

Nuts (all types)	Blueberries
Fruit Snacks	Beans
Gummies (including chewing gum and candy)	Corn
Popcorn	Rice
Hot dogs	Sausage
Grapes	Peanut Butter
Pirates Booty	Raisins
Olives	

Field Trips

Throughout the school year, students are given the opportunity to participate in class trips. Field trips are connected to the class curriculum and are meant to support learning goals in real world settings. Permission slips describing the activity and informing you of the cost (as applicable) are sent home prior to the trip. **A signed permission slip is required for your child to participate in the experience.** To ensure transportation for your child, we need permission slips returned by the designated date. If permission slips are returned after the designated date, we cannot guarantee transportation for your child.



Walking Trips

Throughout the school year, students may participate in various walking trips to local business establishments. These trips provide opportunities for our students to work on social and communication goals in the community. Please indicate your permission for your child to participate in walking trips by signing [the universal permission slip form](#) found on our website located in the section “For Parents; Parent Support; Permissions”.

<https://ctcacademy.org/Forparents>

Photo Policy

Photos and Videos are used for various reasons throughout our school program:

- At times our teachers and therapists may utilize photos of students for instructional purposes, these photos will not be used for marketing purposes.
- Professional school photographs and class photos are taken once a year. These photographs may be purchased through the vendor. All students will participate in the class (group) picture. If a student does not have a photo release teachers will request approval for class pictures. If approval is not given those students will not participate in the class picture.
- Development photos may be used for marketing/media, but only with parental consent.
- Parents/guardians are welcome to take photographs at school events. However, any photos taken by a parent/guardian which include children or families other than their own may not be posted on the internet in any format (including Facebook, YouTube, and other social networks).

Birthdays

At CTC we enjoy honoring and celebrating student birthdays! Please notify your child’s teacher a week prior to your planned celebration so you can coordinate timing and activity.

- Due to classroom logistics, we must limit the number of guests who can participate in the birthday celebration. When you notify your teacher, please inform him or her of the number of attendees you will be requesting to attend.
- Due to the fact that many of our children have allergies, only store bought, school safe food can be used during the celebration. A list of all ingredients must be on the package.
- Due to allergies, latex balloons are **not** permitted. Mylar balloons are acceptable.



- Due to oxygen use throughout the school, lit candles or open flames are **not** permitted.
- Non food items are also acceptable

If you have any questions or concerns, please discuss with your teacher or school nurse.

Student Absences/Early Pick-up/Late Arrival

If you need to report your child(ren) absent or to inform us of an early pick up or late arrival, please email: flstudentattendance@ctcacademy.org. (This email address is a shared mailbox and will ensure your child's team receives the notifications. Parents are also welcome to include other team members (such as teachers or therapist) in the email but must email flstudentattendance@ctcacademy.org to ensure the message is received.

Home and School Communication

If you have any questions or concerns about your child, we would like to hear from you. If you wish to speak with a staff member, please call (201) 797-7440 and we will be happy to assist by connecting you with the desired staff member. Email is also another efficient way of communicating with teachers and therapists. Each email address is the first initial and last name of the staff member followed by @ctcacademy.org. Communication with teaching assistants should be routed through the classroom teacher. Communication is very important to us. No question is too small or too "silly" to ask. Please keep in mind, our focus during instruction time is your child. When returning a phone call/email, we will make every effort to get back to you as soon as possible during a time that does not interfere with instruction or therapy.

Green Envelope: The Green Envelope email provides weekly updates regarding important information about upcoming events and school activities.

Email Communication: CTC Academy uses Constant Contact email to send time sensitive information to families and staff.

Monthly Academic Calendar: This calendar provides dates for events throughout the school year such as graduation and the annual holiday show. This can be found on the school website and will be sent home in backpacks at the beginning of each month.



“For Parents” Webpage: <https://ctcacademy.org/Forparents> : Please visit our parents page on our website for important permission slips, forms, and other school information.

Daily Communication Folder: We will provide each student with a “Daily Communication Folder” that should be sent back and forth to school every day. It is here that we will note information about your child’s school day and other important information regarding therapies, toileting, hygiene, snack/lunch and more. This is a great place for you to note information about your child for our staff to know such as: how your child slept, toileting and anything else that you consider to be relevant. Please note that we will also send home important memos and information about various school functions so please check backpacks daily.

Parent/Guardian Conferences: Parent/guardian/teacher/therapist conferences are typically scheduled in November. During our conference day, students will dismiss at 12:40 p.m.

Progress Reports: Progress reports will be sent home three times during the school year in November, March and June. Copies of all progress reports will be sent to the Department of Special Services from the sending district.

Note About Communication: All communication with school staff must be through official CTC Academy meetings, phone, email and/or through the daily communication sheet. While we recognize the ease of sending a text message or relaying information through a private duty nurse and/or the bus driver, we want to ensure that messages are communicated correctly and appropriately. So we ask that you only use one of the approved methods of communication. **Also, our staff is not permitted to use cell phones during instruction time.** The purpose of our “no cell phone policy” is to ensure that the focus remains on your child. We would like to thank you in advance for engaging with our staff through the approved methods and procedures that we have set in place.

Visits and Observations

Parents and guardians are welcome to visit and observe their child’s program by appointment. If you have any issue scheduling an observation, please contact the school principal.

All visitors are required to report to the front desk upon arrival. You must sign-in and wear the visitor’s lanyard given to you by the receptionist for the duration of your visit. All visitors will be escorted to your destination, as well as back to the lobby to sign-out at the end of your visit/observation.



Social Work Services

The mission of our school is not only to provide educational and therapeutic services for our students, but to further enrich the lives of our students by lending support to their families. We have licensed social workers at both campuses who provide many creative programs that support and nurture our children and their families. Bilingual services are also available, as warranted.

Parent/Guardian Time Out: This group was created to provide our CTC Academy parents/guardians with the opportunity to talk, share, laugh and learn from one another in a safe, supportive, and caring environment.

Family Education Series: Our educational series provides families with the opportunity to hear professional guest speakers discuss topics related to the needs of their children and their families.

Family Fun Night: These events are an opportunity for families to connect socially through participating in fun outings and events.

Grandparents/Special Person Day: Annually, CTC Academy hosts a special breakfast at our school to honor grandparents or special people in your child's life. This is an opportunity for the special people in your child's life to learn more about your child's school day and program.

Sibshops®: Sibshops is a peer support program for siblings of children with special needs. The Sibshop model combines peer learning and sharing with activities, games, special guest visits, activities and day-trips. Sibshops occur one Saturday per month and are designed for children 6 – 13 years of age.

Additional Social Work Services: The school Social Worker provides families with community resources such as workshops, meetings and other events in the community that can give the family practical information and support for day-to-day living. The Social Worker assists with assessment and referrals to appropriate agencies including PerformCare, DDD, the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund, and other community resources. Short-term counseling is available and referrals for individual, family, and group therapy is available. Guidance and information about the transition into adulthood (SSI/Medicaid) is also provided.



Home School Association

The CTC Academy's Home School Association (HSA) is a forum for parents/guardians and caregivers to work with CTC staff to achieve the common goal of creating a positive experience for each child. We meet periodically to discuss ways we can enhance each child's school experience and how to get involved. Please join us to make a difference in the education, health, and welfare of our children. Contact the Fair Lawn and Oakland Campus CTC HSA Presidents at ctcacademyhsa@gmail.com for further information.

Development and Marketing

The CTC Academy, Inc. is a nonprofit organization (Tax Identification 2215-08549) that enhances the lives of children and young adults with special needs and their families by providing an enriched educational, therapeutic and supportive environment. The Development and Marketing Department of the CTC Academy raises funds and awareness to support the Early Enrichment Program (EEP), extra-curricular programs, and the needs of the school tuition programs (Fair Lawn and Oakland Campuses). Development raises funds to provide adaptive equipment, enhanced programming and extra-curricular activities for students 18 months through 21 years of age and their families. Funds are raised through special event fundraising, direct mail solicitations, foundation fundraising and business and corporate giving. Our marketing efforts include managing the CTC social media pages, the CTC website and community outreach through social and print media and community awareness events.

There are many opportunities for you to become involved in the happenings at the CTC Academy. There are development event committees, volunteer opportunities and so much more! These extra-curricular activities serve as a great vehicle for parents to find support, share experiences and make new acquaintances. Contact **Audra Hoffman** at ahoffman@ctcacademy.org or at 201-797-7440 extension 3227 for further information. You can visit us on the web at www.ctcacademy.org, as well as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for the most up-to-date information and activities.



Section Two

Security Policies and Procedures



Student Security

CTC Academy has security measures to ensure the safety of our students as they attend our school program. Auxiliary entrances into the building are locked at all times. The main entrance in front of the CTC Academy building will be the only entrance and exit for the school (except for emergency drills). All visitors are required to register with the receptionist and will be monitored during the duration of their visit. All visitors will be asked to provide identification and to state the reason and purpose for the visit. The receptionist will issue you a visitor's pass, which must be worn for the entire duration of your visit. Visitors will be escorted to the desired destinations and will be escorted back to the reception desk at the end of the visit. The CTC Academy Campus is equipped with security cameras. If any individual is found to be in the school building without a visitor's badge, they will be required to report to the front desk.

Emergency Drills

In accordance with NJSA 18A:4-1, CTC Academy will conduct emergency drills on a monthly basis. One fire drill and one security drill will be conducted each month to ensure student safety in response to any possible threats. CTC Academy will conduct drills designed to prepare for:

- **Evacuation** of the building may occur when staying in the building is deemed to be unsafe. Staff and students will exit the building and proceed to a designated area of safety until it is safe to return to school or be dismissed from that location.
- **Shelter-in-place** which may occur due to threat of harm or danger remotely outside the school building. Students and staff will stay in their classrooms and all school activities within the building will continue. No one will be permitted to enter or exit the building for the duration of the event.
- **Lock-down** may occur due to the threat of harm within the school building or within close proximity outside of the school. Staff and students will be securely locked into rooms inside the school building.

CTC Academy may also utilize a call and/or text announcement system to communicate emergency events. It is important that we test these emergency alert procedures regularly throughout the school year. We ask that all parents/guardians provide contact information and phone numbers that are current and up to date in the event of an emergency.



Release of Students

Students will only be released from school to the custodial parent/guardian, or with parent/guardian permission to a designated person, or a district-contracted bus company providing transportation services. Families that are separated/divorced or are in the process of doing so, should provide court-ordered custodial arrangements to the Principal of their child's CTC Academy campus so that CTC Academy will have a clear understanding of its responsibility in providing for your child's safety. This information will be held strictly confidential. Parents/guardians are also encouraged to advise their child's case manager from their sending district of your custodial status as it changes. This information should be updated whenever court orders have changed.

If you have a consistent caretaker whom you would like to designate to be allowed to pick up your child, please fill out the "Picking Up Your Child Form" (found on our website located in our "For Parents" section <https://ctcacademy.org/Forparents>). Please return the form with a schedule of the day(s) your designee will be picking up your child. The "Picking Up Your Child Form" will be held for the school year in the front office and identification will be asked for the first time the designated person is picking up your child. If you make plans to have your child picked up from school by another individual (not on the "Picking Up Your Child Form"), you must notify the Principal of CTC Academy in writing. In the note, you must include the date that your child will be picked up, the time, and the name of the individual who will be taking the child from school. The individual assigned to pick up your child will also be asked to present identification for verification purposes. If there is an emergency situation and you cannot notify the school in advance of this arrangement, you must call the school as soon as possible and either speak with the Principal/Assistant Principal, or Social Worker and advise them of your situation and the need for another individual to pick your child up from school. The Principal/Assistant Principal or Social Worker will document the required information as provided by you at the time of the phone call. When you or your designee picks your child up from school, you must sign them out. The logs will be located at the front desk at the main entrance. If your child has a private duty nurse and they bring your child out to you, they are also required to sign out your child and be noted on the "Picking Up Your Child Form".



Emergency Closings/ Delayed Openings/Early Dismissal

It may be necessary to close school, delay dismissal or dismiss early due to inclement weather or other emergency conditions. Parents/guardians, bus companies, and school districts will be notified of emergency closings through the call, text message, and email alert system as soon as decisions are made. To ensure that you will always receive these alerts, your telephone and email contact information must be kept up to date at all times. School closing will also be noted on News 12 NJ website. A delayed opening means that CTC Academy will open for students at 10:15 am. An early dismissal means that CTC Academy will dismiss students at 12:40 pm. A delayed opening means that CTC Academy - Oakland Campus will open for students at 10:15 am. An early dismissal means that CTC Academy - Oakland Campus will dismiss students at 12:40 pm. Please note: school must be closed for three or more days during an emergency situation before remote instruction can take place. Since most weather-related events typically last one or two days, the school cannot use remote instructions and count it as an instructional day for purposes of the 180-day school year requirement.

If an unexpected severe weather event occurs during school dismissal, we will pause the dismissal until we feel it is safe to continue. In the event of a pause in dismissal we utilize the emergency blast (text and phone) system to notify parents and guardians.

Transportation

While transportation is formally arranged between your school district and bus company, CTC Academy provides oversight in the daily drop-off and pick-up of students by the fleet of buses and vans that arrive at our doors each day.

Upon arrival, these buses are visually inspected by staff members who check for noticeable problems. If it is determined that a more comprehensive inspection is warranted, the bus company and sending district are notified. If the problem involves faulty heating/cooling systems or broken/missing equipment on the vehicle, CTC Academy may require/request that a new vehicle is provided before students are sent home. As per our policy, we will always notify parents and guardians as soon as problems arise. We also urge you, when possible, to conduct a similar brief inspection before you place your child on the bus each morning.

In addition to our daily visual inspections of the buses, there are further measures that we take to help ensure that your child is safely transported to and from school. In the fall and spring, we



complete a thorough inspection of every bus that transports our students to each campus. During the inspection, we check for visible damage to the vehicle on the interior and exterior of the bus. We ensure that each bus has state-required safety tools including fire extinguishers, belt cutters, etc. We also inspect vertical restraint systems and ensure that all hazardous items are tied down correctly. While conducting the inspection, we check that each driver has a valid driver's license to operate the vehicle. We conclude these inspections by making sure that each driver and aide is well versed in emergency evacuation procedures. All reports are sent to the bus companies and your district.

Any bus issues will ultimately be the district and bus company's responsibility to manage, however we strive to work with them to keep your child safe! If you have any questions or concerns about your child's transportation to school, please inform your case manager and your campus Principal.

Child Abuse and Neglect

State law requires, "Any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or neglect shall report the same promptly to the Division of Child Protection and Permanency." Anyone making a report under this Act shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed (N.J.S.A. 9:68, 10 and 8:13). All reports of suspected abuse and neglect are investigated by the Division of Child Protection and Permanency. School staff are required to report all suspected cases of abuse or neglect according to NJAC 18A:36-24 and 25. The NJ Child Abuse Hotline is toll-free at 877-NJABUSE or 877-543-7864. For students over 18 years of age, reports of suspected abuse or neglect are directed to Adult Protective Services (APS). Each county in New Jersey has its own APS office.

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying

CTC Academy believes a safe and civil environment is necessary within the school setting for students to learn and achieve developmentally. To ensure the welfare, comfort, and security of each student, CTC Academy sets forth policies prohibiting harassment, intimidation, and bullying in compliance with 11 N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15 (3) (b) (1 through 10). Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate to their level of development, maturity, and demonstrated capabilities with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students and school staff. Consequences and appropriate remedial plans shall be applied to all acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying (including cyberbullying) through the use of established program disciplinary procedures. These may range from positive behavioral interventions up to



suspension or termination from the program. Student counseling may also be implemented as appropriate. All acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying shall be reported immediately to the Principal of CTC Academy. All reports will be reported to and investigated by the sending school district. Following the investigation, the sending district will decide if disciplinary action is deemed necessary based on district policy.

Sexual Harassment of Students

CTC Academy will not tolerate sexual harassment of students by school employees, other students, or third parties. Sexual harassment of students is a form of prohibited sex discrimination. In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 34 CFR §106, the school adopts this Policy and implements practices to investigate and resolve allegations of sexual harassment of students engaged in by school employees, other students, or third parties pursuant to 34 CFR §106.3(c). In addition, reports of sexual harassment shall also be investigated in accordance with the requirements of New Jersey's Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act and Policy 5512. The full policy and accompanying regulations can be obtained by calling the school principal and also by visiting our website.

<https://ctcacademy.org/parent-portal/sexual-harassment-of-students/>



Section Three

Medical, Health & Safety Policies and Procedures



Introduction to Health Services

It is CTC Academy's privilege to be a partner on your child's health care team! Health care forms are sent home annually. Parents/guardians are required to complete and return all required health care forms to the Campus Health Office by the designated return date. Your child will not be eligible to participate in the school program without the required paperwork. Throughout the school year, if there are any changes in your child's health status, allergy profile, or medications, it is important to inform campus nurses.

Emergency Information

It is required that we have two (2) emergency contacts on file for your child. Annual emergency forms must be completed and submitted by the designated date. The information must be current and include emergency contacts that can be available if you cannot be reached. These contacts must be able to transport your child home if necessary. Please notify the school office of any changes to this information throughout the school year.

Immunizations

As per the State Sanitary Code (NJAC 8:57-4.1 to 8:57-4.19), all students at all grade levels must be in compliance with all immunization regulations. Your child will not be allowed entry into school unless all required immunizations for their age are up-to-date, as verified through your child's primary care physician's office. Booster immunizations must be up-to-date and received by the specific age required by law. Children age 5 and younger are required to have the flu vaccine annually. Medical exemptions stating that the child cannot have the required immunizations must be documented in writing by the child's primary care physician annually. Parents/guardians seeking a religious exemption must submit written documentation annually. Children who do not have up-to-date immunizations or boosters will be excluded from school.



Height and Weight Measurement

In an effort to provide the best services to our students, we will be conducting periodic height and weight measurements. This information is helpful to therapy staff and clinic providers when

making decisions about equipment and positioning. We will also communicate this information with you, as it may be helpful for you to share it with your private care providers. If at any time during the school year you would like us to weigh and measure your child for an upcoming appointment, please contact the campus health office and we will be happy to accommodate your request.

Administration of Medication/ Specialized Health Treatments

Any student requiring medication or specialized treatments, including tube feedings, during the school day must have up-to-date prescriptions or medical orders from your treating physician. Failure to provide necessary documentation will prohibit nurses from administering treatments during the school day.

If your child requires any medication in school (including over-the-counter, nonprescription medication, or specialized medical treatments such as catheterization, suctioning, tube feedings, or dressing changes), the following is required:

- An **original written prescription** of medical orders from your physician which states the **dosage, route of administration, time to be given, and purpose** of the medication or the nature of the specialized treatment is signed by the physician.
- Signed parent/guardian permission to administer the medicine/treatment to the child. Please use our medical admission form obtained from the campus Health Office.
- Medications must be labeled and in the original bottle from the pharmacy. The prescription bottle will remain in school and be returned home for refills.
- G-tube feedings, formula, and feeding pump must be sent in working order with fully charged batteries and parents must supply feeding bags. If possible, please send in a spare charger in case of battery malfunctions.
- Whenever it is necessary to administer an EpiPen, an emergency protocol will be enacted, and your child will be taken to the emergency room for medical follow up.



Seizure Emergency & Medication Administration Policy

Students **without** a private duty nurse:

- The CTC Academy nurse will implement the student's individual Seizure Action Plan as the initial guide for intervention.
- The CTC Academy nurse will notify parents/guardians of the use of this intervention (seizure emergency medication administration, oxygen administration) and the parent/guardian is required to pick up their child from school immediately. The student will not be permitted to be transported by bus.
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will be called if the nursing staff have clinical concerns about the child's status and/or ability to be observed safely at school post seizure emergency medication administration and/or weaning off oxygen.
- If a seizure occurs out in the community while on a school trip and emergency medication is administered, EMS will be called immediately. A staff person will accompany the student to the Emergency Room and remain with the student at least until the parent/guardian arrives at the hospital.

Students **with** private duty nurses :

- Immediately upon recognition of potential medical distress, the private duty nurse will have a CTC Academy nurse summoned to the scene to provide support to the private duty nurse.
- If the child has seizure emergency medication administered, the parent/guardian will be called by the private duty nurse and given the option to pick their child up or have them transported home on the bus at the end of the school day with private duty nurse (provided that the CTC Academy Nurse or private duty nurse deems it medically safe to do so).
- EMS will be called if the nursing staff have clinical concerns about the child's status and/or ability to be observed safely at school post emergency medication administration and/or weaning off oxygen.
- If a seizure occurs out in the community while on a school trip and seizure emergency medication is administered, EMS will be called immediately. The private duty nurse will accompany the student to the Emergency Room and remain with the student until the parent/guardian arrives at the hospital.



***The CTC Academy nurses are responsible to act in the best interest of the health and safety of all students at all times. The CTC Academy nurses reserve the right to implement Emergency Medical Services at their discretion.

Allergen Management Policy

All food allergies have the potential to cause a health-related crisis. For example, a child with a serious peanut/tree nut allergy can suffer a reaction merely by touching or smelling a peanut/tree nut-containing food. Therefore, please adhere to the following safety guidelines:

- Parents/guardians are required to annually complete the Health History Allergy Profile, Tasting permission slip (distributed by Speech Therapy Dept), and Sensory Material permission slip (distributed by teachers). Parents/guardians are asked to update the Campus Health Office of any changes to this information throughout the school year. Staff is provided with updated copies of the list throughout the year.
- The classroom teacher will communicate with parents if there is a serious allergy concern within the classroom. Parents/guardians are asked not to send any foods containing the allergen. However, if a student, staff member, or private duty nurse, brings the prohibited food to school, the food will be stored in a separate refrigerator or room and they will need to eat the food item in a separate classroom where there are no allergic students.
- After eating or changing food-soiled clothing, all parties (staff, students, parents/guardians) must wash their hands and faces to remove any allergens.
- There will not be any classroom projects that involve peanut/tree nut products or any other product that can cause an allergic reaction to the students.
- No homemade baked goods will be served to students. Only pre-packaged, school-safe brands are acceptable. The nutrition label needs to be on the item so staff can check for any allergens.
- No latex balloons or latex gloves are permitted inside school at any time. Mylar balloons are allowed.
- The Allergy Action Plans written by the student's physician and emergency medications are kept in the Campus Health Office.



Allergic Reactions in the School Setting

Any child who experiences an allergic reaction while at school will not be permitted to be transported home on the bus. Parents/guardians will be notified to pick up their child immediately and bring him/her home for continued observation. We encourage parents/guardians to contact their child's regular physician. Any student sent home with a potential allergic reaction will require medical clearance by their physician in order to return to school. If the student requires EpiPen administration, EMS will be called immediately and the student will be transported to the nearest Emergency Room.

Other Food Related Topics

CTC Academy recommends that you pay special attention to the food choices you select for your child, striving to create a meal that provides adequate representation from all of the food groups.

Please pay special attention to foods that may present a choking hazard to your child. Foods such as peanuts, fruit snacks/gummies, popcorn, hot dogs and grapes can easily block the airway. Please do not send these items to school, as we may not allow your child to consume it.

Staff will not serve students any expired food items, even if it is an item sent in from home. Parents are instructed that the school does not keep a stock of extra food, so please plan school snacks and meals accordingly.

Emergency Responses

For the health and safety of your child, in the event of a medical emergency, the CTC Academy nurses and designated staff are authorized to take whatever action is deemed necessary in their judgment and shall be held harmless of any claims arising from acts of good faith. In the event of an anaphylactic reaction, the CTC Academy nurses or trained designee shall be held harmless of any claims arising from the administration of a pre-filled, auto-injector mechanism containing epinephrine if the nurse or trained designee in good faith believes the student is having an anaphylactic reaction. Whenever it is necessary to administer an EpiPen, an emergency protocol as per N.J.S.A 18A: 40-12 will be enacted and your child will be taken to the emergency room for medical follow-up. CTC Academy is not financially responsible for the emergency care and/or transportation for your child.



Communicable Disease Policy

If a child exhibits any signs of illness, he/she should not attend school. If symptoms occur at school or if your child is deemed unable to participate in our program's activities, you will be called to take him/her home. The child's parent, or a designee assigned by the parent, is required to pick the child up from school within the hour of being called. Please be aware that we are unable to keep sick children in the Health Office until the end of the day as this impacts health services to other students. If arrangements cannot be made to pick up your child, your district case manager will be called. No therapy will be provided if the child is not able to participate to the best of their ability.

Examples of illness include, but are not limited to:

- Fever
- Persistent cough
- Severe pain or discomfort
- Respiratory compromise
- Fatigue or abnormal sleeping pattern
- Decreased appetite/refusing to eat/drink
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Runny nose that is excessive and/or discolored mucus
- Apparent sore throat
- Eyes with discharge
- Skin rashes

Students must be symptom/fever free for 24 hours, without the use of over the counter cold medications/fever reducing medications, and able to fully participate in all activities before returning to school. If your child was prescribed antibiotics or eye drops, they must have completed a full 24 hour dosing of the medication before returning to school. **If your child is diagnosed with an illness, please report it to the Campus Health Office**

Medical clearance is required after 5 days of absence due to illness, surgery, medical procedures, hospitalizations, Emergency Room evaluations, and/or at the request of the school nurse. The clearance is required to specify that the student is able to return to school and is able to participate in all activities. Restrictions, if any, need to be specified. Please use the CTC Academy's Medical Clearance Form that can be downloaded from the "For Parents" web page under "Health Office Information" or obtained from the campus Health Office. **Readmission of the student is at the discretion of the School Nurse.**



Medical Clearance to Return to School/Therapy

At CTC Academy, the health and safety of your child is our first priority. At times, a medical clearance is necessary to ensure a safe return to school. The CTC Medical Clearance Form is meant as a tool to help parents/guardians get necessary information from your child's health care provider to share with the school. Understandably, there may be circumstances where you may be at a doctor or hospital visit and may not have access to the CTC form. Therefore, the form is not required, however there is information that is necessary in order for your child to return to school safely. The information required from your child's healthcare provider in order for your child to return to school is:

- Reason for absence
- Date student may return to school
- The name/signature/contact information of the healthcare provider with date.

Examples of when CTC Academy requires a medical clearance are:

- after a contagious illness (Flu, Strep Throat, Pink Eye etc.)
- after 5 day absence due to illness
- after an emergency room evaluation, even if the student is not admitted to the hospital
- potential orthopedic injury or suspected fracture (clearance must include restrictions)
- Surgery (clearance must include restrictions)
- procedures including but not limited to Botox or Alcohol Blocks (clearance must include restrictions)
- any other health related cause as deemed by the Campus Certified School Nurse

At the discretion of the Heads of Health & Therapeutic Services, a conference or phone call with the student's parents/guardians will be conducted prior to re-admittance to ensure a safe transition back to school.

Restrictions for Activities and Therapies

In certain situations, it will be necessary to have your child's healthcare provider outline if there are any restrictions for your child. For example, physical/occupational/speech/feeding therapy, adaptive physical education, yoga, and swimming are all aspects of our program that require knowledge of restrictions in order for your child to participate. Examples of when this information is required include, but are not limited to, emergent orthopedic evaluations, head



injuries, surgeries/procedures, or if requested by the Campus Nurse. Even if there are no restrictions, it is important to have your healthcare provider specifically write “no restrictions” or “may resume all usual activities.” If there are restrictions, please indicate the date of the follow-up visit when restrictions will be re-evaluated.

In the cases of a significant medical event such as surgery/procedures, emergent orthopedic evaluation, bone fracture/suspected fracture, head injury, etc., phone call by the parent/guardian with Carol Anne Chupak, Head of Health Services, is required to ensure a safe transition back to school.

Prior to your child’s return to school, all clearance information can be emailed to cchupak@ctcademy.org or faxed to the Health Office. The campus Health office fax numbers are: Fair Lawn 201-791-1504 or Oakland: 201-644-2223.

The campus nurses are always available to review medical clearance requirements with you. Head of Health Services, Carol Anne Chupak, is also available for any medical questions or consultation at 201-612-5677 x 2410 or email cchupak@ctcademy.org.

Universal Precautions

To ensure the health of all students and staff, CTC Academy follows Universal Precautions. These are basic hygiene measures necessary to prevent contact with blood-borne pathogens and potentially infectious material in order to reduce the risk of occupational exposure and disease transmission. Program staff receive training annually and it is practiced throughout every aspect of the school program. All staff and visitors are also required to follow these guidelines while engaged in work or activities with the students of CTC Academy during program hours.

Animal Encounter

On occasion, the CTC Academy hosts animal encounters including visits from certified therapy dogs and petting zoos. During the encounters, we work on social, emotional, and/or cognitive goals. Please indicate your permission for your child to engage in these activities by signing the universal permission slip form which is sent home annually with the health packet. Please contact your classroom teacher with any questions.



Oral Hygiene Program

As part of our student health program, each family has the option for their child to participate in a daily oral hygiene care program. We are following recommendations made by a pediatric dentist to use small, soft-head toothbrushes and fluoride-free toothpaste (i.e., safe to swallow). With caregiver permission, each participating child will be assigned their own personal toothbrush and toothpaste for daily care after each meal.

Sensory Experiences

Sensorimotor play or “sensory play” is any activity that stimulates your child’s senses, which include touch, smell, taste, sight, hearing as well as movement and balance.

The benefits of sensory play include:

- Builds essential nerve connections between sensory receptors located in the skin, nose, tongue, eyes, and ears to the brain
- Supports language development
- Develops gross and fine motor skills
- Assists children to learn about the world around them

Our students engage in daily sensorimotor play through participation in classroom activities and during the therapies that they participate in daily.

Examples of sensory play include, but are not limited to:

- Finger painting
- Sensory bin playper
- Creating art projects with glue
- Smelling cooking spices
- Listening to music
- Tasting new foods

Please make sure to let the Health office know if there are any allergies, skin reactions, or sensitivities to play materials listed on the following page (paints, oils, shaving cream, etc.). Parents/guardians are expected to report any changes in their child’s health status or allergies/sensitivities to the Health Office.

Sensory Materials

Dry	Wet	Mixed Materials	Foods that we touch
Beads Baking soda Baking powder Chalk / Crayons Cotton balls Couscous Dirt Dot markers Dried Beans Fabric - Textured Feathers Foam pieces Glitter Glue Grass/flower petals/branches(artificial and real) Flower seeds Koosh balls Leaves (fake or real) Magnetic chips/toys Marbles Markers(Scented) Mylar (shiny) Pipe cleaners Pom-poms Ribbon / yarn Rice Rocks or pebbles Sand Sand paper Shredded paper Spices/Scents •peppermint extract •vanilla extract / •cinnamon •nutmeg / •pumpkin spice •lavender / •Citrus essential oils Sponges Stickers Textured balls Tissue Paper Uncooked pasta Wikki stix	Contact lens solution Finger paint fabric starch Glue Sticks Hair Conditioner Hair Gel Ice cubes Scented oils School Glue (Elmer's) Shaving Cream Stamp Pads Snow (artificial and real) Soap Shavings Liquid soap Soap foam Washable Paint Water /sponges Water beads (orbeez brand) Vanicream skin lotion	Blubber (is a dry, fluffy, soft, marshmallow-feeling substance made out of microscopic ceramic beads coated in a polymer.) Discovery putty Dough(flour, salt and cooking oil) Insta-snow Model Magic Mood mud Moon Sand (Kinetic Sand) Play doh Oo-blek/Gak (cornstarch and water) Sands Alive Silly string Theraputty	Flour Eggs Oatmeal Coffee grinds Marshmallows Oatmeal Mash potatoes Kool-aide Food coloring Pudding Pasta Jello Applesauce Canned pie filling (lemon, lime, cherry, pumpkin) Fruits Vegetables Herbs (rosemary, thyme, basil, mint)



Contact Information

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