



**JOURNEY**  

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**EDUCATION**

**Parent/Student Handbook**  
**2017-2018**

## **Mission**

We have character, confidence, and compassion. We are leaders and we are college bound.

As founder, administration, and staff of Journey Education, we have been influenced by a wide variety of educators, religious leaders, philosophers, researchers, etc. More profoundly, we have been influenced by our own experiences as learners and parents as well as our experiences as teachers. We believe that each child has potentialities to be discovered and developed. Yet, despite all that we have in common as human beings, we are individually unique. To most fully provide students opportunities to develop, we believe in clearly identifying starting points that then give students responsibility for determining what they become. We believe that infusing learning experiences with opportunities for students to demonstrate independence, choice, and responsibility, they will become aware of personal strengths and weaknesses, and will develop to be adults who see the world as a place of possibilities and themselves as individuals that can productively participate in it. Journey is an organization that upholds non-denominational Christian conservative values.

*Journey is operated as an exempt school under the provision of NRS 392.211 and as such is exempt from the provisions of the Private Elementary and Secondary Education Authorization Act.*

## **Days and Hours of Operation**

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:15 pm

School Hours: Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Before Care: Monday through Friday 7:00 am to 8:15 am

After Care: Monday through Friday 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Journey Education follows national/public school holidays. Journey does not follow Clark County public school district staff development days.

## **Admissions Process**

Before applying to Journey, parents should 1) schedule a tour of the facilities, 2) read through the Student/Parent Handbook and Journey website, and 3) schedule an assessment for their child.

Returning student registration begins the first of February. Returning student registration fees and paperwork must be in as soon as possible in order to ensure the student's seat. Open enrollment for new students 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade begins mid-February.

It is possible for new students to be admitted to Journey after the beginning of the current school year if there is a spot available in the desired level. It's never too late to make a positive change.

Journey's admissions process is as follows:

1. Students are admitted to Journey based on space and following a one-on-one assessment. This assessment takes approximately one hour and includes reading comprehension, reading fluency, writing, spelling, math computation, and math application. The \$50 assessment fee must be paid before an appointment can be scheduled.
2. Before the day of your child's scheduled assessment, Journey must have received all school records from his or her previous school. This normally takes a few weeks. Parents/guardians can expedite this process by picking up the records at your child's previous school and delivering them to Journey. If your child's school records have not been received by the scheduled assessment date then the assessment will need to be rescheduled.
3. Students will be notified of acceptance into Journey within 5 business days. At this time the application and curriculum fees are due along with the admissions application and tuition agreement. If the required paperwork and fees are not received within 5 business days your child's application goes into inactive status and the student's seat is not guaranteed.

**Waiting List** - If there are not any openings in the desired grade, your child can be placed on a waiting list. In order to be placed on the waiting list the \$50 non-refundable assessment fee must be paid, the student's records received, and the student assessed.

**Kindergarten Waiting List**— Parents may put their kindergarten student on the kindergarten waiting list up to one year before their student is to begin kindergarten. In order to put a kindergarten student on the waiting list the parent must pay the \$50.00 non-refundable assessment fee. The February before the kindergartener begins school, all students on the kindergarten waiting list will be assessed. Kindergarten acceptance letters will go out before February 28<sup>th</sup>. At this time the application and curriculum fees are due along with the admissions application and tuition agreement. If the required paperwork and fees are not received within 5 business days of being notified of admission, your child's application goes into inactive status and the student's seat is not guaranteed.

### **Students with Learning Disabilities**

Parents/guardians of students with an IEP must understand that Journey's staff does not specialize in special education. Journey Education can accommodate many IEP provisions but is limited to the special needs services it can provide. If your student has an IEP, the severity of your child's needs must be discussed prior to admittance into Journey to determine if Journey can make the necessary accommodations for your child's success. If you feel that your child has learning disabilities, but has not been tested or diagnosed, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to obtain such testing from either the public school your child is zoned for, or a

private organization offering such services, before admittance into Journey Education. If your student is admitted into Journey and it is later determined that your child has learning disabilities, Journey will do all that it can to help your child be successful. However, if it is determined that your child's disabilities are beyond our scope of expertise it will be recommended that your child attends a school that can adequately meet his/her needs with the help and recommendations of Journey teacher(s) and administration.

### **Tuition and Fees**

Please contact the Journey Education office for the current tuition and fee schedule.

### **Tuition and Fee Information**

Following admittance into Journey, the family must complete, sign, and return to the Journey office the following: Admissions Application, Tuition Contract, and non-refundable Application and Material/Curriculum fees.

Payment in full, or the first tuition payment, is due by June 1<sup>st</sup> of the upcoming school year. Tuition payments must be received by the school on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of each month. Tuition for students entering the school after the start of the school year will be prorated based on the number of attendance days remaining in the school year after entry, minus the total days in the school year.

Parents are obligated to keep their child's account current even if their child will be receiving the Education Savings Account funds or Opportunity Scholarship funds. If these funds are received after Journey tuition and/or fee due dates the account is to be paid by the family and Journey will disperse a refund once these funds are received.

Automatic payments may be set up through the Journey office to be paid on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.

### **Tuition Contract**

**Parents or guardians who sign the Tuition Contract are legally obligated to tuition payments and should read all the following provisions relating to the Tuition Contract:**

Acceptance of enrollment constitutes an agreement to pay the full academic year's account comprised of both TOTAL TUITION and all related fees and expenses for the student. Should a family decide to leave Journey any time in the school year, the family is legally and financially obligated to the balance of tuition due. This tuition obligation will be released if the student's spot is filled by another new student.

The school is entitled to be reimbursed for any attorney's fees and costs incurred in the collection of any unpaid balances.

Transcripts will be held for students until all unpaid tuition and fees are received. No amendment to the contract and no alteration or addition to the printed terms hereof will be effective without the express prior written approval of the Journey School Board.

### **Late Tuition Payments & Late Fees**

Monthly tuition payments are due by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. With this policy we ask parents to be mindful of where the weekend falls. An account is considered late if not paid by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month and will assess a late fee of \$25. An account is considered delinquent if not paid by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month and will assess a late fee of \$50. If an account becomes delinquent the student will not be permitted to attend until the account is brought current.

The student will be dropped from the program if the account is not brought current by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. If student is dropped from the program his/her spot may be given to another student on our waiting list. If the spot is not taken, student may be reinstated after all fees are paid in full. If the student is dropped from the program due to nonpayment, families continue to be legally and financially responsible for tuition until the student's spot is filled. Journey will work with families to set up payments.

Sometimes a family may have special circumstances in regards to the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month tuition payment. In order to have any changes to this policy a request will need to be made in writing and presented to the board for approval. Any payments set up differently must be set up as an automatic payment and will accrue a \$10 per month processing fee.

A \$30 fee will be imposed on all returned checks.

### **Extended care**

*Before Care:* 7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

*After Care:* 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Students being dropped off for before and after care will need to sign in and out at the front desk. Students that are picked up after 6:00 p.m. will incur late fees of \$5 per 10 minutes. Extended care fees are determined on how many hours are purchased at a time. See the front office for a fee schedule.

### **Drop off/ Pick-up/ Parking Policy**

*Drop off:* The school gates open at 8:15 a.m. for students. Students **should not be dropped off prior to this** as supervision is not available until this time. Parents dropping off their children are to enter the school parking lot from Rainbow and follow the designated one-way arrows. Parent should drop off students at the front gates to the playground. Parents are then to follow the arrows, exiting out at Rainbow. Please do not leave your car during drop off. If you wish to stay with your child or come into the school, please park your car. Dropping off is not permitted from Eldora Ave.

*Pick-up:* Parents picking up their children are to enter the school parking lot from Rainbow and follow the designated one-way arrows. When parents pull up, a monitor will call each student. If someone we do not recognize is picking up your child, they will be required to sign them out in the office. Please be understanding of this policy. It is for your child's safety. Do not leave your car in the driveway when picking up your child so as not to interrupt the flow of traffic. If you need to come into the school, you may park in the parking lot. Picking up will not be permitted from Eldora Ave. It is imperative that students be picked up promptly at dismissal. Dismissal is at 3:00 p.m. Only individuals listed with the office may pick up your child. Please make sure you add anyone who may pick up for you. There may be an occasion when unforeseen circumstances prevent prompt arrival. Every effort should be made to contact the school. In the event that students are left in the care of the school beyond dismissal, they will be sent to homework class/ extended care and be charged the drop in fee or their extended care card will be charged. Late fees will be charged for supervision beyond 6:00 pm in the following manner: \$5.00 for every 10 minutes charged to your account and invoiced in the next billing period. Parents picking up students late will have to come into the building to sign their student out.

*Parking:* Please be aware that parking is not permitted from Eldora Ave. The school property facing Eldora is fenced so there will be no access to the school except for the Rainbow entrance. Adequate parking is available in the school parking lot.

#### School Parking Lot Guidelines:

- Be courteous and considerate of others.
- Stay off your cell phone – **the parking lot is a cell phone free zone.**
- Do not leave your vehicle unattended unless in a parking stall
- Do not pull into parking stalls to drop off your child unless you are coming into the building yourself.
- Children are not to walk through the parking lot unattended.

Student safety is a top priority. Your patience, understanding and support are appreciated. We do everything we can to encourage drivers to follow the rules and maximize the flow of traffic. We know that your time is precious. Please remember and keep in mind that the safety of every student is our primary responsibility.

## **Attendance**

Regular attendance provides students an experience that is continuous and maximizes growth and development. Records of student attendance will be maintained. The school should be notified in advance of any absences due to illness or family activity. Prior notification will allow for adjustments to the instructional program and minimize negative impact. If you know your student will be absent please fill out the *Student Absence Notification* form found at the front office. If your student is unexpectedly absent please call the school or send a note upon your student returning.

Following an absence, students are required to attend homework class in order to make up any missed quizzes or tests. If no quizzes or tests were administered during the student's absence he/she will work on make-up work. There isn't any time within the school schedule for students to do this make-up work. Homework class is 3:10 pm to 4:00 pm. If your child doesn't normally attend homework class the homework class fee of \$10.00 will apply.

In the event that excessive student absenteeism negatively impacts student performance and/or the learning environment, Journey Education reserves the right to consider individual circumstances and establish a course of action. Excessive absences severely affect learning and the classroom flow. We ask that family vacations be scheduled during holidays and weekends. It is important to arrive to school on time. Students meet at the beginning of each day in the multi-purpose room. We teach and review important information during this time. Teachers take roll at the beginning of opening exercises at 8:30 am. Students arriving after 8:30 am are marked tardy.

Withdrawal: Students who withdrawal before the end of the school year will need to fill out a withdrawal form located at the front desk. Parents are under contract for the entire year regardless of early withdrawal unless a student is dismissed from the school by the Journey Administration. The student's report card will be mailed at the end of the grading quarter.

## **Discipline**

Student safety is unquestionably our top priority. Students are expected to behave appropriately. With appropriate behavior in place, students are free to focus on their learning experience. Rules are designed to promote the well-being of individual students and student groups. Methods of discipline take into account the development and individual needs of students. Discipline is viewed by staff as a component of the curriculum. Students will make mistakes. Our responsibility will be to help students learn and mature from these experiences. Journey Education will not utilize corporal punishment, or discipline designed to embarrass, humiliate or demean.

Our primary rule is this: “When I am at school I behave like a student.” Written in this way, the rule is designed to focus student attention on their role as a student. The role of the student is one of learning. Learning requires that several behaviors consistently be in place. Students, for example, must act responsibly, with discipline and integrity. It should go without saying that in a learning environment there is no room for nuisance items. When unrelated to instruction or school activity, a list of nuisance items would include hats, hee-ies, personal technology (such as ipods, mp3 players, cell phones, I watches), sunglasses, toys, etc.

Journey Education uses the following procedure for handling misbehavior and maintaining a classroom of learning and respect. After a reminder the student will be given an opportunity to go to a place of “recovery” to get himself or herself together and prepare to return to class. If the student continues to exhibit disruptive behavior on a regular basis he/she will be required to have a brief conference with the principal or assistant principal. During this time, the conference will center around assisting the student to redirect their focus and attention back on their schoolwork. Students will be given another opportunity to participate in the learning process in their assigned classroom. If the disruption happens yet again, parents will be notified, and a meeting will be scheduled with the student, their parent and Administration. \*\*The student may also be sent home or the parent will be required to join the student for the remainder of the school day\*\*

All students and parents are required to read and sign the student code of conduct.

Misbehavior extreme in nature or habitual may result in temporary or permanent removal from school. This will be determined on an individual basis with appropriate parent/guardian notification.

Journey Education staff dedicates itself to following a set of core beliefs that provide a guide for dealing with student discipline. These core beliefs guide our attempts to individualize disciplinary procedures and to help students see reasonable connections between their behavior and the resulting consequences. Since these core beliefs provide the guiding light for our professional decisions, the staff encourages parents to bring concerns and questions to us in the event that we operate in ways that appear to be inconsistent with these core beliefs.

### **Journey Education Staff Core Beliefs**

- Every attempt will be made to maintain the dignity and self-respect of both the student and the teacher.
- Students will be guided and expected to solve their problems, or the ones they create, without creating problems for anyone else.
- Students will be given opportunities to make decisions and live with the consequences, be they good or bad.



- Misbehavior will be handled with natural or logical consequences instead of punishment, whenever possible.
- Misbehavior will be viewed as an opportunity for individual problem solving and preparation for the real world as opposed to a personal attack on school or staff.
- Students are encouraged to request a “due process hearing” whenever consequences appear to be unfair.

### **Student Cell Phone Policy**

Cell phones as well as other personal technology are a major distraction to the learning environment, and are vulnerable to theft. In addition, cell phones pose a safety concern as we are unable to filter content that comes through a student’s phone. Cell phones may not be used to talk, take pictures, play games, record or text on the Journey campus.

Students are only allowed to carry a cell phone if absolutely necessary. If your child does carry a cell phone to school, it must be turned off and stored in the student’s backpack. This rule begins the moment your child enters Journey and continues until the child has left for the day. At no time are students permitted to carry a cell phone on their clothing. Parent permission to carry a cell phone in the backpack must be on file. See the front desk for this permission form.

In the case of an emergency or concern a Journey staff member will contact the parent. Parents should call the school office for any emergency situation. Please do not try to contact your student by his/her cell phone.

If a cell phone is heard or if a student is seen with the phone on his/her person, a member of the Journey staff will confiscate it and send it to the office. The principal will contact the parent.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: a parent will have to retrieve the phone at the end of the day
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: a parent conference with the principal will need to be held in order to retrieve the phone
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: student receives one day out of school suspension

Journey Education is not responsible for any lost, stolen, damaged, or confiscated phones.

### **Dress Code/ Uniforms**

Students are expected to wear the required uniform each day.

Uniform tops consist of navy and gold polo shirts as well as a white cotton dress shirt. Girl uniform bottoms include uniform style pants, capris, jumpers, shorts and skirts that are fingertip length. Please note that girls will have to call home for a change, if shorts or skirts are too tight

or too short. Boy bottoms include uniform style shorts and pants. Bottoms for both boys and girls must be uniform style.

All students must have a dress uniform for special occasions. The boys' dress uniform consists of navy pants, a belt, and the white Journey button up with a blue Journey tie, black or blue socks, and black dress shoes (not tennis shoes). The Girls' dress uniform consists of a navy skirt, the white Journey button up shirt with a blue Journey tie, plain blue, black, or white knee length socks or tights, and black flat dress shoes (not tennis shoes).

\*Dress Uniform Ties: available for purchase only at Campus Club or the Journey front desk. If a student comes without the uniform tie, one will be provided and your account will be charged a \$12 fee.

During the cooler months **only** Journey jackets are to be worn. **Please label your students jackets.** Students may only wear closed toed shoes. No sandals or flip flops allowed.

All uniform items are to be purchased at Campus Club located at: 2411 Tech Center Court, Las Vegas, NV 89128. They can be contacted at (702) 360-0555. Our School Code: jrny1100.

If the student's uniform becomes stained or torn it should not be worn to school. If a student comes to school in a uniform that is torn or stained, or a non-Journey compliant uniform they will be sent to the office to call home to get a replacement.

Occasionally Journey will have a spirit day where they can dress according to that spirit day. During these spirit days students are expected to wear appropriate apparel.

**The following items are not acceptable school attire at any time:**

1. Short shorts. Students may wear only knee length shorts
2. Any apparel made from spandex material
3. "Mesh" shirts, tank tops or "cut off" tops, see through shirts. Midriffs must be covered at all times including when students are seated and/or raising their hands. Cleavage is NOT allowed to be shown at any time
4. Clothing that promotes the use or consumption of alcohol, drugs or sexual innuendos conveying suggestive or inappropriate messages
5. Articles of clothing that are ripped or torn
6. Body piercings with the exception of ear piercing
7. Apparel worn so tight that it is distracting
8. Low riding pants
9. Dresses and skirts not at least knee length
10. Flip-flops or house shoes

11. Pants that are not the appropriate size and not worn at the waist
12. Hair that is unnaturally colored, hangs in the student's eyes, or that is greasy and messy.

### **Student Supplies**

All students should have the following items the first day of school:

- Backpack
- Lunchbox
- Pencils
- Folders for homework and subjects

Teacher will send a list of supplies needed in the individual classrooms the first week of school

### **Opening Exercises**

Each morning students participate as a student body in opening exercises. Every student is given an opportunity throughout the year to conduct opening exercises. Students that are shy or afraid are not forced to get up in front of the student body. Usually as the year goes on we find that the student's confidence grows, they become more comfortable, and through the example of their peers will eventually take a turn to lead.

The opening exercises agenda is conducted by a student and is as follows: Welcome, pledge, song, prayer, student body memorization, student presentations, announcements, and values message. Opening exercises typically takes 10 to 15 minutes each morning. Roll for student attendance is taken once opening exercises begins.

### **Leadership, patriotism, and Christian values education**

Journey has several learning components in place to strengthen student leadership and instill positive Christian values such as responsibility, integrity, compassion, service, etc. To achieve these goals, Journey students begin each day with a prayer, the pledge and patriotic song; as well as the values message. In addition, a value lesson is taught daily within the classroom, students participate in ongoing goal setting, team meetings, communications class, student council, and the Journey patriotic challenge.

#### *Goal setting*

Goal setting is an important skill to success. As part of Journey's leadership and value education, students are taught to make personal goals. Each quarter students meet one-on-one with their teacher and create a goal or goals (depending on age and maturation) of what he/she would like to accomplish for the quarter. These goals are generally academic in nature. Throughout the quarter the teacher reviews and reminds the students of ways to work on their goals. At the end of the quarter, the teacher and student discuss the progress made and decide if a new goal should be made or if the same goal should be continued. These goals may be teacher

guided, but they are ultimately the choice of the student. Ownership of the goal(s) is vital to responsibility in carrying out the work to achieve.

### *Team meetings*

At the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters team meetings are conducted. Team meetings include the student's team: teacher, parent(s), and student. We all have the same goal: to help the student be successful, responsible, and confident. As a team we meet to discuss the student's goals and academic progress thus far.

These team meetings are conducted by the student. With that in mind, parents and teachers will let the student lead the meeting and ask questions to the student directly. **This meeting is not a conference to discuss difficulties or problems the parent is observing. Parents are asked to make a separate appointment with the teacher to discuss these concerns.** The team meetings are to be positive and are structured to build confidence and accountability within the student. It is vital that all parties are respectful of this objective. Classes are not in session during the days we hold team meetings.

### *Music and Memorization*

The primary objective of our music class is to train students to be comfortable performing in front of a group as well as develop the skill of communicating effectively one-on-one. As students learn and understand effective communication skills they become comfortable expressing themselves in a variety of settings. Students are also encouraged to memorize material throughout the curriculum including: grammar, history and science information, inspiring quotes, and many poems during the year. Students are then given opportunities to perform these recitations in front of classmates and/or the student body.

### *Senior Grammar Principles of Leadership & Student Council*

*Principles of Leadership:* All Senior Grammar students (grades 6, 7, 8), who are not enrolled in *the Enrichment Program* are enrolled in the principles of leadership class.

The focus of this class is four fold and includes leadership principles for:

1. Myself (self-government)
2. My peers (being an example)
3. My school (student council)
4. My community (service and civics)

As part of this class, special guest speakers are invited to highlight specific topics relevant to these leadership principles. Parents are encouraged to share their own leadership stories as well as help to get inspiring community speakers. Please let our Principles of Leadership teacher know if you or anyone you know would be an effective presenter for this class.

*Student Council:* All Senior Grammar students (grades 6, 7, 8) are eligible to take an active role on the student council. The objective of the student council is for Journey students to learn how to be good leaders and helpful citizens. The student council meets during the Principles of Leadership class. The student council assists the Parents' Organization with school activities, spirit days, and yearbook, coordinates service projects throughout the year, and fundraisers for a trip to Washington D.C. that takes place every other year for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Student Body elections are held every May for the following year for the position of President, Vice President/Treasurer, and Secretary/Historian, and Class representative. Only 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders may run for a student body position. Responsibilities for each office may include the following:

President: Represent and lead the student body, develop the agenda for student council meetings, lead student council meetings, final vote when there is a tie, and attend all JPO meetings to discuss activities and needs.

Vice President/Treasurer: Represent the student body, responsible for the prayer for all student council meetings, assist in developing the agenda for student council meetings, serve in absence of the president, head important subcommittees, help to coordinate fundraisers, count and record money raised, work in conjunction with Principles of Leadership teacher to track fundraising money and report to the student council.

Secretary/Historian: represent the student body, record attendance at student council meetings, keep accurate minutes of meetings, handle correspondence for the student council, attend JPO meetings and take notes, and type materials for the student council as needed, keep a record and take photos of events, and work with JPO in creating the yearbook.

Senior Grammar Class Representative: Represents the senior grammar class, attends student council meetings and activities, meets with Sr. Grammar class to gather ideas.

Student Council Government positions are selected based on teacher recommendation, principal interview, and student votes. Students running for a student government position must prepare a 3 minute speech to present in opening exercises and have a signed parental permission slip. Campaigning is generally the last week of September with speeches and elections on that same week's Friday. Students are allowed to hang 5 posters in the lobby and multi-purpose room, and handout small, inexpensive handouts for campaigning. It is the students' responsible for hanging and removing their posters in a timely manner. The announcement elections will be done at the end of that same day. Being a class officer requires responsibility and dependability, as well as a

commitment to follow through on assignments and put in a little extra time and effort. We ask that students and parents consider this as the student makes a decision to run for an office. There is a class representative chosen from each class by the administration and teacher to represent the student body as well.

All students involved in student council may not have any grades lower than 70%, if at any time a student's grade falls below a C, they will be placed on probation until the grade is raised.

*Patriotic Challenge:* Journey emphasizes a love of country as well as knowledge of the important documents that formed and represent our great country. As part of this emphasizes each student has the opportunity to memorize and pass off several important items.

The documents included in the Journey Patriotic Challenge are as follows:

- Recite the Pledge of Allegiance
- Memorize the Preamble to the Constitution
- Memorize the Gettysburg Address
- Memorize all US Presidents, in order (first and last name)
- Sing the Star Spangled Banner
- Memorize 50 States and their Capital Cities (filling in a blank US map)
- Write the Pledge of Allegiance from memory, with correct spelling

Students work on this with their class as well as individually. Over the course of their years at Journey students will pass off the items. Once a student completes all 7 items the student is recognized for the achievement and his/her name is placed on the Patriotic Challenge plaque with other children who have accomplished the Patriotic Challenge in the past.

### **Grades**

Report cards are sent out at the end of each quarter. In addition, students will receive a progress report every 3 weeks. The purpose of the progress report is to keep the lines of communication open between teacher, parent, and student.

Student grades are given in the form of percentages in the core subjects including language arts, math, social studies, and science. They are also given a participation grade for their special classes, which include: computers, art, music, fitness, enrichment, and leadership (for senior grammar).

Explanations of citizenship/ participation marks are as follows:

- 1 = Never participates
- 2 = Rarely participates
- 3 = Participates sometimes
- 4 = Participates often

5 = Participates the majority of the time

The Students and their parents are assigned a Gradelink login (the system we use for entering student grades) so that students and parents can track progress weekly. Some Homework assignments can be accessed by looking at the teacher's homepage in the Gradelink system. Although grades are not a reflection of a student's potential or worth, they do reflect a student's initiative and persistence in following through on assignments, working in class, as well as academic abilities. Journey maintains the philosophy that every student has strengths and weaknesses. Our goal is to strengthen the weaknesses and build upon the strengths. As students grow and mature, we work with the parent to help the student increase in his/her responsibility and desire to be a conscientious student. Journey will provide an outstanding educational opportunity to each student; however individual success is ultimately up to the student. Students with a strong desire to learn will inevitably learn more. As part of Journey's philosophy, we encourage students to recognize the vital part they play in every success they experience.

### **Honor Roll**

Each quarter students have the opportunity to earn their place on the Journey *A honor roll* or the *A/B honor roll*. Journey holds a high standard of educational excellence which includes citizenship. In order for a student to earn a place on the honor roll he/she must not only earn all A's (or A/B's) but all student's citizenship marks must be 3 or higher.

### **Enrichment: Program**

Journey Education will be devoting 35 minutes daily Tuesday – Friday to providing an Enrichment Program. The Enrichment program is divided into two main sections. Those sections include Enrichment and Intervention.

The Intervention program will give opportunities for struggling students to have an additional period of time for specific instruction and practice in the areas of math and reading.

The Enrichment time will give students an opportunity to engage in rigorous learning activities that go beyond factual and procedural knowledge, such that students gain conceptual understandings that are based upon the Nevada Academic Content Standards.

### **Diagnostic Testing**

Journey Education uses a computer-based testing system called MAP (Measures of Academic Progress). Testing students every fall (around the end of September), mid-year (January) and spring (around the beginning of May) gives the Journey teachers and parents a gauge of student performance and helps teachers to zero in on skills which may need additional practice and review. Please help your students during testing time by making sure they have plenty of rest and a nutritious breakfast.

## **Homework/ Homework Policy**

Homework contributes toward building responsibility, self-discipline and lifelong learning habits. It is the intention of the Journey Education staff to assign relevant and meaningful homework assignments that reinforce classroom learning objectives. Homework should provide students with the opportunity to apply information they have learned, and develop independence. Homework can be modified based on students' individual needs.

Actual homework time required to complete assignments will vary with each student's study habits, attention span, and academic skills. If your child spends an inordinate amount of time doing homework, please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible.

Students are expected to turn work in on time. Late assignments may have points deducted and in some cases will not be accepted. This is up to the teacher's discretion. Homework assignments must be turned in by the Friday before each progress report or report card.

Students who miss homework because of an absence will receive the opportunity to make up missed work. Students are given one calendar day for each day absence plus one extra day to turn in their work. It's the student's responsibility to get the missed work from his/her teacher.

Any homework turned in after the due date will lose points as follows:

- One day late – 10% will be deducted
- Two days late – 20% will be deducted
- Three days late – 30% will be deducted
- Thereafter – 50% will be deducted

Reading is a key component to successful learning. The best way to increase one's reading ability is through constant practice. Therefore **nightly reading is expected**. We ask parents to treat this component of their student's education as a priority. If your student brings home a reading log please make sure it is filled out and signed daily.

The average time a student should be spending on homework is as follows:

- Lower Grammar: ½ hour to 45 minutes per night
- Middle Grammar: 45 minutes to 1 hour per night
- Upper Grammar: 1 hour to 1 ½ hours per night
- Senior Grammar: 1 ½ to 2 hours per night

Children that are overscheduled have a difficult time completing and keeping up with homework. Overscheduling also takes a toll on families. Not only are overscheduled children



prone to stress but they often miss out on important childhood experiences including: unstructured play, family relationships, and down time with parents. With a schedule that is overtaxed, education gets put on the back burner.

### **Homework Class**

Journey offers an after school homework class Monday through Friday 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for a monthly fee. Students enrolled in aftercare receive homework class as a part of aftercare. Homework class is not available on the days students do not have school. We strongly recommend this class to promote good study habits and get a start on homework each day.

Homework class is designed to guide students in independent work and provide a structured time to work on homework. Homework class is not in lieu of private tutoring. This time is geared towards independent work coupled with the direction of a teacher for occasional questions and answers. If your child has struggled completing homework in the past we urge you to enroll him/her.

This is a quiet study time. In order to keep the environment conducive to studying; visiting, wandering, or goofing around will not be tolerated. If a student is a distraction or behavior problem he/she will be asked to withdraw from the homework class.

Students will sign in at the beginning of homework class and parents must sign out students at the end of each homework class. A student not enrolled in aftercare should be picked up promptly at 4:00 pm. Students remaining at Journey after homework class are sent to aftercare and the account is charged the drop in rate or the extended card will be charged.

### **Field Trips**

Occasionally classes will attend field trips that correspond with learning experiences at Journey. A permission slip will be sent home before each field trip. Students who do not return the permission slip will not be allowed to participate and will stay at the school where alternative work will be assigned. We must abide by this policy strictly for the safety of each child. Parents who wish to drive will need to contact their child's teacher and provide copies of their driver license and insurance to the front office.

### **Media Release**

Throughout the school year students attend programs, activities, field trips and events along with normal classroom routines that support their education, promote community service or encourage positive behavior. With the Principal's approval, staff, parents and occasionally local media cover these events by taking photographs or video. This may include newspaper, television, Facebook, websites or other media production. This also includes our school's website. Parents should be aware of the possibility that your son/daughter may be included in

photographs or video. If you do not authorize the use for public print, display or broadcast it is the parents' responsibility to let Journey Education know.

### **Email**

Journey Education uses email for the majority of parent/student information and correspondences. Parents are responsible for information sent via email. Part of this responsibility is to make sure your email is kept updated with the Journey office. Please ensure our domain, [journeyeducation.org](http://journeyeducation.org), is listed as a "safe" domain with your email service so you receive our updates accordingly.

### **Parent Involvement**

It is in the best interest of students to see that the relationship between the home and school is positive and strong. Journey Education maintains an open-door policy for parents, and will frequently seek to engage parents directly in the teaching/learning process. We encourage all parents to be involved in the Journey Parent Organization (JPO). This organization provides activities, spirit days and other special opportunities for our students. The JPO oversees 3-4 fundraisers per year. Parent involvement is vital to the success of these fundraisers. Therefore, each family is expected to promote the fundraisers. Families who choose to opt out may do so by paying \$100 for each fundraiser they choose not to participate in. The JPO produces a Journey Parent Directory in order to contact other Journey parents for Journey activities and events.

Journey parents are always welcome and encouraged to volunteer within the classroom whenever their schedule permits. If a parent is interested in helping in the classroom, please schedule this with your child's teacher. Jobs may include making copies, filing, working with individual children, helping with whole class activities, etc.

At the beginning of each year we hold a mandatory parent orientation. Parents are required to attend in order to discuss Journey policies, rules, homework, curriculum, and other important information that will be helpful during the year.

All parents and visitors are required to check in at front office and receive a visitor's tag.

### **Fundraising Responsibilities**

As a non-profit, Journey relies heavily on its annual fundraisers in order to help with building beautification, updates, and expansion as well as to provide special activities and experiences for our students.

Each year Journey host three to four major fundraisers. Participation from our Journey families is vital to the success of these fundraisers. Journey families are responsible to support each

major fundraiser by either obtaining a minimum amount of sales for each fundraiser, or the family can choose to “opt out” by paying the opt out fee. Additional smaller fundraisers for both JPO and the Journey student government will be held, but are not part of the mandatory fundraising responsibilities.

Each Journey family will be assigned the minimum sales items and will be invoiced for whatever monies are not turned in for their required sales. Of course we hope all our families catch the vision of the impact these fundraisers make for Journey and support and sell as possible.

### **Student Store**

Journey provides a student store where lunch and snack items can be purchased as well as water bottles, and a few school supplies such as pencils, composition notebooks, folders, etc. In order to purchase items students must buy a \$5.00 “punch card”. Punch cards can be purchased only at the front desk. The student store does not sell items without the use of the punch card. We have found that every student at some time has needed an item from the student store, whether it is water or a pencil. Therefore, we highly recommend that every student have a punch card in case they need an item. Any balance that the student doesn’t use by the end of the year can be kept for the following year or refunded to the parent. The JPO stocks and maintains the student store and proceeds go towards JPO sponsored activities. Checks for punch cards should be payable to the JPO.

### **Nutrition**

Proper nutrition is essential to growth, development and good health. The impact of good health on learning is widely documented. Students should arrive at school having eaten a proper breakfast. To help promote the nutrition and exercise concepts we teach and model in the classroom, we ask that parents send a lunch from home that will help keep students’ energy levels up. Students’ lunch should be healthy, minimally processed foods. (Fresh fruit, string cheese, carrots.) We also ask that lunches sent from home do not include “junk food”, such as soda, sugary treats, etc. This ensures each child has a good start to their afternoon and optimal readiness for learning. The school should be notified of any dietary restrictions or food allergies. Due to time restraints during lunch time, Journey does not provide the use of microwaves to heat up food. We recommend that a thermos be purchased in order to keep students’ food warm when necessary as well ice packs to keep food cool.

### **Illness**

A child should not come to school when ill and unable to benefit from attendance, or when illness puts others at risk. Students should not attend school if presenting a fever or vomiting, or has conditions such as strep throat, conjunctivitis, or lice. Possible exposure should be reported

to the school so that, if appropriate, parents can be promptly notified. If medication is needed at school, please see the office staff for individual needs.

Here are some guidelines that are meant to be helpful when making the decision about sending your child to school:

- A runny nose when the mucus is thick and green
- Severe congestion that interferes with breathing or with wheezing
- Rash
- Fever
- Severe stomach aches or cramps
- Pink eye
- Lice
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Children recovering from an illness who are still too ill to participate in typical school activities must remain home until able to resume school activities

Permission for the administration of pain reliever, and/or Benadryl may be provided by Journey Education and administered to students by a school agent. If your child requires the administration of any medications Journey must have an “Authorization for dispensing Medication” form on file. See the front desk for this form.

Journey staff or teacher will report any accidents or changes in your child’s health. If an illness or emergency arises at school, we will contact you immediately and ask that you pick up your child promptly. If your child seems very ill and we are unable to contact you or others you have listed for an emergency, we will call your pediatrician. In a serious emergency we will call for emergency services. Should emergency procedures be necessary, a staff member will remain with your child until you or a designated adult arrives. **It is extremely important for your child’s safety to update the school with any changes in your phone number, email, emergency numbers, and other pertinent information.**

### **Non-Discriminatory Policy**

Journey Education will not knowingly discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, or national or ethnic origin, or sex.

### **Policy Revision**

Journey Education reserves the right to revise, amend, add to, or otherwise change school policy at any time. Parents will be promptly notified via email of any such changes.