

VAIL SKI & SNOWBOARD ACADEMY  
Handbook and Guidelines  
2017-2018



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## INTRODUCTION

This handbook is written for the student-athlete and their parent(s)/guardian(s) and is designed to acquaint them with the policies, services and activities offered by the Vail Ski & Snowboard Academy. Should the student-athlete or their parent(s)/guardian(s) have questions concerning statements or policies outlined in these pages please contact the main office at 970-328-2830.

## VAIL SKI & SNOWBOARD ACADEMY MISSION

Vail Ski & Snowboard Academy (VSSA) provides a rigorous secondary and college preparatory academic program while supporting the athletic and personal goals of our students. In partnership with Ski & Snowboard Club Vail (SSCV) and Eagle County Schools, VSSA facilitates the attainment of our students' dreams by offering challenging academics, flexible scheduling, and individualized attention.

## VAIL SKI & SNOWBOARD ACADEMY HISTORY

The idea of a dedicated winter sport academy in our community, integrated with the public school district, belongs to Aldo Radamus, former Executive Director of Ski & Snowboard Club Vail. The innovation required for this program to develop into a fully-operational school relied on the flexibility and creativity of Michael Gass, former Assistant Superintendent of Eagle County Schools. Together, Aldo and Mike married the interests of public and private along with sport and school. VSSA began with grades 9-12 in 2007 with 31 students and 2 dedicated staff as a 'school within a school' program through Battle Mountain High School, housed in the Home Economics room at Minturn Middle School.

While much was very 'rough' in the first few years, VSSA staff, with the support of ECS and SSCV was the little engine that could. We pushed enrollment to 90 students by 2010, gaining our own school code from the Colorado Department of Education. This meant that we were no longer following in the 'wake' of Battle Mountain. Our liberation proved successful as we were able to tailor our mission more effectively to the needs of a full-time winter athlete. Calendars, schedules, period lengths, nutrition, busses, and more were designed around the specific training needs of our SSCV family.

Our students hardly squandered the opportunity to train and get a high school diploma. Faye Gulini became our first Olympian in 2010 at Vancouver and Heidi Kloser, Adam Crook, and Aaron Blunck joined Faye in 2014 at Sochi. A dedicated facility to VSSA was established in 2011, which supported the expansion of grades 5-8, allowing kids the opportunity to chase '10,000 hours on snow' earlier in their young careers. Meanwhile, the VSSA staff marched forward with a vision to be 'rigorous and flexible', to develop the whole child, and to instill compassion in all who join our community. VSSA has been recognized as an innovative small school community with outstanding college exam and placement metrics.

Recently, the VSSA campus added the Minturn Fitness Center, a partnership between the Town of Minturn and Ski & Snowboard Club Vail which allows VSSA athletes to train more conveniently with expert strength and conditioning coaches. We have also added a trampoline facility to the building for aerial athletes and a world class ski tuning center. These factors have complemented our academic programming to drive record enrollment at VSSA. We will start the 2017-18 school year with over 190 students in grades 5-12.

## Vail Ski & Snowboard Academy Handbook

### Academic Dishonesty

Cheating (using the work or help of another person on a paper, homework, test, or examination), plagiarism (using the words or ideas of another person without noting the reference) and lying in reference to academic work will not be tolerated. Any of these infractions will be ground for disciplinary actions.

First offense: All participants will receive a zero. Student-athletes will be responsible for explaining to their parents the situation. Student will document event with a follow up e-mail to parents, advisor and Principal.

Second offense: The above protocol will occur. Additional disciplinary action will occur with Principal which could include a loss of on mountain training.

Third Offense: The above protocol will occur. Will result in a weeks removal from training.

Fourth Offense: Could result in the student re-applying to the program with no guarantee of acceptance.

### Academic Concerns

Excused participation in athletics is a privilege and contingent on the student-athlete maintaining a minimum score of 70% at all times, in each class. All student-athletes who have a score lower than 70% in any class will be listed on the "VSSA Academic Concerns" which will be updated weekly, each Monday and is shared with student-athlete's advisor, teacher, VSSA Head of School and SSCV Primary Coach and sport Program Director. Additionally, Primary Coaches and sport Program Directors will be provided updates on Fridays to inform eligibility for the coming week. Following are the procedures for notification, remediation and consequences of Academic Concerns.

#### **WEEK 1 Academic Concerns ( AC Green Zone )**

Student-athletes who have a grade lower than a 70% in any class will be placed on "Week 1 Academic Concerns".

1. The student and Advisor will discuss the low grade and student will create a remedial plan (This may include the teacher.
2. The student will e-mail the advisor and cc: parent, teacher, Principal, Counselor, Primary Coach, Head coach and Program Director identifying the low grade and their intended steps to remediate the situation and provide a timeline for doing so.

#### **WEEK 2 Academic Concerns ( AC Yellow Zone)**

At the start of the second week student-athletes who have a grade that remains lower than a 70% in any class will be placed on "Week 2 Academic Concerns Yellow Zone"

1. The student and Advisor will discuss the low grade and student will create a remedial plan (This may include the teacher.
2. The student will e-mail the advisor and cc: parent, teacher, Principal, Counselor, Primary Coach, Head coach and Program Director identifying the low grade and their intended steps to remediate the situation and provide a timeline for doing so.

#### **WEEK 3 Academic Concerns (AC Red Zone)**

At the start of the third week Student-athletes who have a grade that remains lower than a 70% in any class for will be placed on "Week 3 Academic Suspension."

1. Advisor will e-mail student and cc: parent, teacher, Head of School, Counselor,

Primary Coach, Head coach and Program Director identifying low grade.

### **Fall Academic Concerns**

During the fall schedule, any student who is on week 3 will owe one day for each week of being on "Academic Concerns" when we switch to the winter schedule. Example: A student is on week 3 of "Academic Suspension" for two weeks in a row, in the fall, will owe two days of Study Hall and will not be allowed to train on snow those two days.

### **Winter Academic Concerns**

Student-athletes on "Academic Concerns Red Zone" will not be allowed to participate in on-snow training during school days or be provided excused absences from school for training or competition. Student-athletes on "Academic Concerns Red Zone" during the "Winter Schedule" will report to VSSA for a proctored study period at 10:00 am - 12:07 Tuesday through Friday. If a student is on "Academic Suspension" for 2 weeks (week 4 total), a meeting is required between Principal, teacher, and parent.

**As soon as the student-athlete grade is at or above 70%, the teacher of the course in question will:**

1. Email the primary coach to release the student-athlete to train or compete and update the "VSSA Academic Concerns."
2. Teacher will e-mail student-athlete, advisor and cc: parent, Principal, Counselor, Primary Coach and Program Director to indicate in writing that the student is released from "Academic Concerns" in their class.

### **Additional "Academic Concerns Red Zone" Details**

- The student-athlete must maintain the grade above 70% for a minimum of 7 days following the release from "Academic Suspension" before their academic notice status is reset to "Week 1 Academic Concerns."
- While away from VSSA on excused athletic absences for 3 days or more in any week a student's academic status will not change.
- The student-athlete will receive 1 school day for every school day of excused athletic absence to make up missed work without penalty.
- Any student who skips one "Academic Suspension" day will be required to make up the time with two days.
- Any student-athlete who is late, will be required to make up the minutes with twice the amount of time missed.
- In exceptional circumstances, additional time to make up missed work may be granted following review by the Advisor and approval by the Principal, per the Due Date Extension process.

### **Admissions**

All student-athletes must be full time athletes of SSCV to students to attend VSSA. VSSA does not accept student-athletes past the first day of school due to the nature of our systems set in place for the best possible student outcome.

### **Addressing Faculty**

All students and parents are requested to address VSSA faculty members by their surnames. Example: Mr., Ms., Mrs. This request supports an environment of respect and an attitude of academic success.

### **Advanced Placement (AP) Courses**

The College Board has developed a national program of college-level courses and exams for high school students. VSSA offers preparation in various AP courses. Student-athletes are responsible for the cost of the exams. Vouchers are available for students with financial need. The exams are given on national test dates in May. Each college establishes a level that it will accept for college credit, which can be viewed by visiting individual college websites. Contact our Counselor for more information on AP courses.

## Advisory

Advisory provides the student-athletes with a faculty advisor who is a conduit between the student, parents, teachers and coaches. It gives advisors a designated time during the week to check in with each student-athlete by monitoring their academic and athletic progress through weekly goal setting, grade checks and individual support. Advisory is also used to host speakers, host events, administer district testing, silent reading and provides supervised study halls, where students can request extra help from a teacher. Social and community issues address student's responsibilities to be involved and active in our community through community service projects and awareness of issues that affect our local communities.


## Athletics outside of VSSA/SSCV

Student-Athletes are allowed to participate in athletic sports at other schools as long as it is approved by the student-athlete's Program Director at SSCV. Please contact the other school you are interested in having your student-athlete attend for information regarding their athletic programs. Student-athletes are expected to complete the full school day at VSSA before going to practices elsewhere.

Note: All Student-athletes also must uphold the VSSA Academic Concerns policy for playing sports outside of VSSA/SSCV. Students are not excused for practices if any of their grades are below a 70%.

## Athletic Eligibility for Colorado High School Athletic Association (Not SSCV Programs)

The student-athlete must be enrolled in a minimum 5 classes each semester before and during participation, with no failing Colorado High School Athletic Association (CHSAA) guidelines are as follows.

1. The student-athlete may not fail more than one class per semester, given five or more classes, in order to participate. Eligibility is based on the grades of the previous semester of attendance until the date CHSAA has determined when eligibility can be regained with successful schoolwork.
2. The student-athlete may not participate in the upcoming year if they reach the age of 19 prior to August 1st. Students may not participate more than four years.
3. Any student-athletes who has attended more than 4 years of high school is ineligible for high school athletics.
4. Student-athletes interested in playing NCAA  college sports need to contact their college counselor for eligibility information or visit [www.ncaaeligibility.com](http://www.ncaaeligibility.com)

## Attendance & Absences

Student-athletes must attend all of their classes unless they have an excused absence. Due to the highly condensed academic programming, **families are expected to utilize the designated breaks for family vacations and not extend these designated breaks for vacation.** Families that choose to take vacations during school days are compromising their child's education at VSSA and their student-athlete will be held responsible to complete the assigned work for their courses.

### Absent Notifications

When a student-athlete is absent due to something other than an SSCV Excused Absence, parents must notify the school by e-mailing the Office Manager. VSSA may request a doctor's note for physical therapy appointments or if numerous days are missed due to illness.

Student-athletes continuously need to inform their teachers and advisors via e-mail of their training and competition absences. Student-athletes are responsible for all courses missed in a timely manner during absences.

### Excused Absences

Excused absences include athletic competitions and training, college visits, illness and family emergencies.

SSCV coaches are responsible for communicating with VSSA on all excused absences for competitions and training. Parents do not need to contact the school in regards to these absences.

### **Late Arrival /Early Departure**

Student-athletes arriving late or leaving early need to sign-in and out in the main office. Parents are strongly encouraged to schedule appointments during non-school hours. An email to the Office Manager will suffice in letting the office know of the late arrival or early departure.

### **Pre-Excused Absences**

Student-athletes with foreseeable future absences outside of their athletic Excused Absences need to fill out the pre-excused absence form, which is available in the main office. Forms must be signed by all teachers and a parent before they are submitted to the Head of School.

### **Tardies**

1. Tardies will be documented in PowerSchool and after three tardies the Principal will meet with student-athletes to discuss getting to class on time. If the issue persists, the Principal will contact parents.
2. Teachers will have the option to take 10% off that day's grade for unexcused tardies.
3. Weather and traffic is not an excused absence unless there are extreme circumstances, please plan accordingly.

## **VSSA Community Code of Conduct and Honor:**

**“As a contributing member of the VSSA community I will make choices that demonstrate the values of character, courage, commitment and compassion in everything that I do”.**

The VSSA community code of conduct and honor is guided by the 4 C's. These codes help instill integrity in all that we do and support the development of solid and upstanding community members.

### **The 4C's as defined by the VSSA Community:**

- **Character:** to be an individual who contributes to the integrity of my school, my community and my sport by being honest, being engaged and speaking out against bullying, cheating and disrespect of individuals and property.
- **Courage:** To stand up for all members of my community, to speak out against bullying and do my part to ensure all community members of VSSA feel safe and valued both in school and on the hill.
- **Commitment:** Dedication to academics through perseverance and integrity. Dedication to my community through advocacy for others and for the common good, commitment to excellence in my sport through discipline and passion.
- **Compassion:** to choose kindness first, to set an example of helping others without being asked and to set a standard of acceptance, inclusion and gratitude for others in our community both in school and on my team.

**We expect our students to uphold the 4C's which includes not engaging in the following behaviors:**

- **Bullying** can include, but is not limited to, pushing, shoving, hitting, and spitting, as well as name calling, picking on, making fun of, laughing at, and excluding someone. Bullying causes pain and stress to victims and is never justified or excusable. We believe that everybody should enjoy our school equally, and feel safe, secure and accepted regardless of color, race, gender identification, popularity, athletic ability, intelligence, religion, nationality or sexual orientation.
- **Lying** involves intentionally misleading a classmate, teacher, or staff member with false statements, actions, or objects.
- **Cheating** occurs when you gain an unfair advantage over others on an assignment, homework or test. . Such an advantage might come from looking at another student's paper; looking at your notes while a test or quiz is still out; sharing answers in written or spoken form before, during, or after a test, using technology without permission to find answers, copying or requesting/granting an answer to a homework question is also a violation unless explicit permission to work together is granted by your teacher(s). Collaboration is when multiple students submit one product. If the assignment dictates one product per student collaboration is not permitted unless dictated by the teacher in writing.
- **Stealing** involves the intention to take and keep property belonging to someone else without his or her permission or without payment.
- **Plagiarism** is when someone takes credit for another's words or ideas, intentionally or unintentionally using direct work from another source without placing material in quotes and citing it.
- **Vandalism** includes not respecting other's property. It is also the deliberate damage of an individual or property. Some acts are very clear (drawing or writing on a desk or wall, throwing a classmate's calculator on the floor, and others may not be, such as those resulting from horseplay.).

### Dress Code

Vail Ski & Snowboard Academy is an academic community that subscribes to a dress code. VSSA expects that clothing fit properly, as well as be neat, clean, modest, and not be distracting. The Principal and the faculty will determine what is considered appropriate. Noncompliance will result in disciplinary consequences.

### MONDAY DRESS CODE:

Males: Ties with collared button down dress shirts. No polo shirts.

Shirt-tails must be tucked in and a belt worn.

Dress slacks such as chinos, corduroys, or polyester/wool blend trousers. Khaki pants and shorts are acceptable.

Females: Dresses, skirts, business-suit-style pants. Dress shirts or sweaters. No t-shirts.

Unacceptable dress for Monday Dress Code:

- Denim of any color for Monday Dress
- Sweatshirts, hoodies, and hats for Monday Dress

### TUESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

VSSA expects that clothing will fit properly, be neat, clean, modest and not distracting to the educational environment. The Principal and faculty will determine what is considered appropriate.

STUDENT-ATHLETES MAY NEVER WEAR

- Any clothing or lack thereof that can be distraction to the learning environment
- Garments with inappropriate graphics or text including but not limited to sexual connotations, violence, swearing or drugs/alcohol/tobacco
- Hats, bandannas, items intended for use as head-wear are allowed in the building but may be prohibited in some classrooms and/or during specific academic activities

#### NONCOMPLIANCE

1. First offense: A warning will be given and the student-athlete will be asked to report to the main office to change immediately. The Principal will meet with the student-athlete to discuss the code and questions they may have.
2. Second offense: Parents will be notified and expectations will be conveyed in the event of future violations.
3. Third offense: Student-athletes will lose one on snow day in the winter for each repeated offense.

#### Driving/Parking Lot

All student-athletes with licenses must adhere to posted speed limits, Colorado law and drive with care on campus. Faculty parking is in the west parking lot. Student-athletes are to park in the east lot and must always park on the pavement and never drive over the grass. Student-athletes must have insurance and registration for the vehicle they bring to VSSA, and should be prepared to present these documents to administration if asked.

#### Dual Enrollment (DE) Courses

Dual Enrollment courses are specific courses at VSSA that earn both high school credit and college credit. VSSA covers the cost of tuition for all students and Colorado Mountain College generates a college transcript and grades for the student. Parents are required to purchase books and parents must reimburse Eagle County Schools for any grade lower than a C . Students with successful completion of the course are guaranteed that the credit will transfer to any in state public (CO) institution. Each year we strive to offer several DE courses for students. Contact the College Counselor for more information on DE courses.

#### Early Graduation

Seniors who will have completed their graduation requirements prior to the spring term of their senior year and wish to graduate early, must complete the following.

1. A written request and accompanying letter to the principal stating the reasons for wanting to graduate early signed by the student-athlete and their parent(s). This form must be presented to the principal two weeks prior to the beginning of the term in which they wish to finish.
2. Upon receipt of the written request, the principal will review the student academic standing with a college counselor and respond accordingly. If approved, diplomas will be awarded during commencement ceremonies that spring. Only those students who have earned their required number of credits may participate in the graduation exercise. All outside credits need to be submitted and approved at least 10 school days prior to the graduation ceremony.

#### Early Withdrawal

Student-athletes/families who choose to move their student from VSSA prior to the last day of school will be asked to reapply to the program for the following year. Leaving before the end of a semester is highly discouraged. Student-athletes will not be accepted to VSSA after the first day of school. Please contact the Counselor with any questions.

#### Fees at VSSA

There is a required Eagle County School District fee of \$550 for every ECS student. For VSSA students, this fee goes towards the following: transportation, books, the wilderness trip, social events/dances, classroom supplies, lab renewables, spring trips, and printing/copying. The breakdown of this fee varies depending on the grade of the student, however this is a district-required fee. The fees are bundled and can be paid in full or a payment plan may be arranged with the Office Manager. We are proud to have held fees at \$550 for the last nine years. You will



be glad to know that VSSA has no other fees assessed throughout the year.

### **Final Exams**

Attendance is mandatory during the scheduled final exam window. All courses will have a final assessment, which will not be administered prior to the designated exam window unless there are extenuating circumstances. Student-athletes who do not attend their final exams will forfeit a significant percentage of their final grade.

### **Free Period**

Juniors and seniors who do not have a scheduled course are expected to report to a scheduled Study Hall room. Seniors who have Off Campus Access may only leave campus by signing out in the main office. **\*See Off Campus Access.**

### **Forgiveness Policy**

Student-athletes who receive a D or F on a course may seek approval from the College Counselor to retake the course. The new grade will be binding and the previous grade will be changed to a NC for No Credit, but will remain on the transcript to indicate that the course was repeated. Students need to have pre-approval when retaking a course and need to sign a contract at that time.

### **Grading**

All staff will complete their grading of student assignments within 72 hours (maximum) of receiving it. Students are discouraged from asking teachers to immediately grade work, particularly if that work is late.

#### **Due Date Extensions**

When student-athletes recognize that they will be unable to meet assignment dates, they may request an extension. The student-athlete's request may not always result in an extension. Extensions are reserved for extenuating circumstances and typically involve athletic competitions of an extraordinary nature or medical situation. Students may request an Extension Form from their teachers. Late Assignment Forms are also available when students are not able to predict their future absences.

#### **Late Work Policy**

Student-athletes who submit work after the due date will receive deductions from their graded assignment.

- 1 day late: 10% point reduction
- 2 days late: 25% point reduction
- 3-9 days late: 50% point reduction
- 10 days late: no credit

The days are counted as **school days**, not block schedule days. When assignments are late due to excused absences, students will be given a day for a day to complete work up to one week. For absences greater than one week, students will be expected to complete a Due Date Extension Form. If students are not able to predict an excused absence, they will also be given the opportunity to complete a Late Assignment Form to coordinate the due date assignment expectations directly with their teacher. Students will be held responsible for contacting their teacher regarding absences.

### **Graduation Requirements**

VSSA Academic Graduation Requirements are set by the Eagle County School Board. Close attention is given to NCAA requirements when a VSSA student-athlete is interested in competing athletically at the college level. In the Spring 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade course scheduling will be done with the College Counselor. Parents are welcome and encouraged to participate in these meetings. To receive a diploma from VSSA, students must earn a minimum number of credits. Please note that 25 credits are required to graduate. Guidelines for required credits are listed below. To graduate with a diploma of distinction (recognized by ECS) please see the following expectations. Please note below that the state of Colorado and our school board have adopted new

requirements for the class of 2021 (Freshmen in 2017-18). These are listed below.

*The requirements for a standard diploma are as follows:*

4.0	English
3.0	Mathematics
3.0	Science
2.5	Social Studies
1.5	Physical Education (SSCV)
0.5	Civics/Government
0.5	Health
<u>10.0</u>	<u>Electives</u> One of the electives must be Senior Project to graduate at VSSA.
25	

*The requirements for a College Prep diploma are as follows:*

4.0	English
4.0	Mathematics
4.0	Science
3.5	Social Studies
1.5	Physical Education (SSCV)
2.0	Foreign Language
0.5	Civics/Government
0.5	Health
<u>5.0</u>	<u>Electives</u> One of the electives must be Senior Project to graduate at VSSA.
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*For incoming Freshmen (Starting 2017-18) standard diploma are as follows:*

4.0	English
3.0	Mathematics
3.0	Science
3.5	Social Studies (.5 must be Civics/Government and a .5 Economics)
1.5	Physical Education (SSCV)
1.0	Foreign Language
0.5	Health
1.0	Practical Skills (CTE, Arts, Performance Arts, Internship, Community Service)
<u>7.5</u>	<u>Electives</u> One of the electives must be Senior Project to graduate at VSSA.
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*For incoming Freshmen (Starting 2017-18) College prep diploma are as follows:*

4.0	English
4.0	Mathematics
4.0	Science
4.0	Social Studies (.5 must be Civics/Government and a .5 Economics)
1.5	Physical Education (SSCV)
2.0	Foreign Language
0.5	Health
1.0	Practical Skills (CTE, Arts, Performance Arts, Internship, Community Service)
<u>4.0</u>	<u>Electives</u> One of the electives must be Senior Project to graduate at VSSA.
25	

### **Hallways**

No bags are allowed to be stored in the hallways in order to keep the community space clear.

### **Lunch**

Student-athletes in the Lower School are required to be in the cafeteria or at recess during the lunch period unless they have a written note and pass from a teacher.

Upper School student-athletes must be within campus boundaries during lunch. These student-athletes and parent(s) understand there will not always be supervision at these times should they choose to be outside of the cafeteria and or recess areas where designated faculty are stationed for duty.

Juniors and seniors who have Off Campus Access may leave campus for lunch and must sign out in the office and sign back in upon return. They are not allowed to bring 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade students with them.

### **Off Campus Access**

Juniors and seniors are given Off Campus Access during lunch hours, pending they check out with the office and have signed and submitted the Off Campus Access Form (in the registration packet). Seniors may gain an exception from attending Study Hall if: 1 they are not on the Academic Concerns list for any class, any week. 2. They demonstrate punctuality throughout their regular schedule including less than three tardies per semester including the All School Meeting. Juniors and seniors who transport any 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> graders during school hours are subject to revocation to Off Campus privileges.

### **Parent Conferences**

Parent conferences are an opportunity for parents and teachers to share information with students about their progress, strengths and weaknesses. Parents and teachers are also encouraged to periodically meet throughout the year as needed. Parents and teachers are strongly encouraged to view themselves as teammates with common objectives; the education and growth of their child.

### **Phones**

Cell Phones: When a faculty member is using cell phones for classroom learning student-athletes may have their cell phones out. All other times student-athlete cell phones need to be put away and turned off. Lunch and recess is technology free for Lower School.

*If a student is caught using a phone:*

*1<sup>st</sup> Time:* The teacher may take the phone for the class, or the rest of the day.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Time:* The teacher will give the phone to the Principal and be kept for the remainder of the day. It is up to the Head of Schools discretion if the parent must come in and get the phone.

*3<sup>rd</sup> Time:* A meeting will be set up with the Head of School to discuss the policy.

Office Phones: Students may use the office phone to make calls when necessary.

### **Physical Education**

All student-athletes participating at SSCV in their discipline's full time program will receive 1.0 credit of PE per year towards their required credits for graduation.

### **PowerSchool (PS)**

PowerSchool is the database system that ECS uses to allow parents and student-athletes to access grades and attendance online. PowerSchool can be accessed from the Eagle County Schools website.

### **PTA**

VSSA has an incredibly active PTA in which all parents, teachers, and staff are invited to participate. Our goals are:

1. To develop and maintain open communication between parents, teachers, student/athletes, school administration and coaches
2. To promote a cooperative effort in educating and providing athletic opportunities for the student/athletes
3. To provide support for each entity to create a positive environment among the VSSA community

### **Re-application to VSSA**

Any VSSA student-athlete who is repeatedly on the *Academic Concerns List*, is unable to adhere to the SSCV athlete expectations or Codes of Conduct at VSSA or SSCV may be asked to reapply for the upcoming school year.

### **School Color and Mascot**

School colors are royal blue, white, and black. The school mascot is Lloyd the Yeti.

### **Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment is unacceptable whether between students and students or adults and students. Any behavior that is unwanted or that makes another person uncomfortable can constitute harassment. Student-athletes should immediately report this type of behavior to the Head of School.

### **Student Printing**

Students are not allowed to print to the staff printer in the teacher lounge due to confidentiality. All printing should be done outside of VSSA or all assignments can be emailed. **\*See Teacher Lounge**

### **Study Hall**

Student-athletes will be assigned a designated classroom while scheduled in a Study Hall. Study Halls are an opportunity to avoid extra homework by completing assignments. Study Halls will be run with an expectation of "library like silence".

### **Student Recourse Communication Model**

In the instance where a student-athlete does not understand or disagrees with an assignment, a grade, or a teacher decision or policy, the following steps should be taken.

1. Student discusses the issue directly with the teacher.
2. Student brings new information or perspective to discuss an issue directly with the teacher.
3. Student initiates the concern with their advisor, and advisor either coaches the student that the issue is not worthy of complaint, or the advisor mediates a solution with the teacher.
4. Students who disagree with teacher and advisor initiate the concern with Principal.
5. Student's parent initiates a discussion with student teacher or advisor
6. Student's parent initiates a discussion with Principal. Decisions of the Principal are considered final but a parent may appeal a Principal's decision to the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services of Eagle County Schools.

### **Teacher Lounge**

Students will not be permitted, under any circumstances, to enter the teacher's lounge in the back of the office. This is a FERPA violation as sensitive student documents are printed on the machine in that room.

### **Technology**

#### **Laptops**

All student-athletes are required to have a laptop. Mac's or chromebooks are recommended and students must abide by the Eagle County Schools Technology Policy.

The laptops should be visibly marked with the student-athlete's name. The student is responsible for their laptops and it is recommended that they keep their laptops with them throughout the day, as well keeping them in protective cases when not in use. Sharing of laptops is discouraged unless academically necessary.

VSSA is an academic environment; movies and video games are not to be watched on campus, unless part of an academic assignment. I-pods may be on campus but kept in backpacks or lockers, unless approved by teacher for use.

#### **Online Class**

Classes that are required by VSSA but are in conflicting scheduled times will be reimbursed up to \$300.

**Technology Use - Suggested Time and Restrictions**

The American Academy of Pediatrics has published a technology use guide which we will reference at VSSA. This table (below) encourages students to avoid the negative aspects of technology while accepting that they hold value as learning tools. This is also a useful reference for parents and allows technology enforcement in your home to be emphasized by an outside organization rather than 'coming from the parent'.

Developmental Age	How Much?	Non-violent TV	Handheld devices	Non-violent video games	Violent video games	Online violent video games and or pornography
0-2 years	none	never	never	never	never	never
3-5 years	1 hour/day	✓	never	never	never	never
6-12 years	2 hours/day	✓	never	never	never	never
13-18 years	2 hours/day	✓	✓	limit to 30 minutes/day		never

Please contact Cris Rowan at [info@zonein.ca](mailto:info@zonein.ca) for additional information. © Zone'in February 22, 2014

**Internet Use**

Student-athletes are expected to use the Internet for educational purposes related to classroom activities. Users are expected to abide by the ECS Technology Agreement. These include, but are not limited to avoiding web pages or email that contain abusive, bullying, obscene, vulgar, defamatory, confidential, or threatening information.

**Think Tank**

The Think Tank is what VSSA has dubbed the library. The Think Tank is used for students who have a free period as well as a place to engage in continuous learning. Students who are unable to use their time productively in the Think Tank will be scheduled into a classroom instead.

**Website**

VSSA utilizes 3 websites:

Our main page can be found at <http://www.eagleschools.net/schools/vail-ski-and-snowboard-academy> Information on VSSA can also be found at the SSCV website (<http://www.skiclubvail.org/academics>). It is home to staff biographies, student forms, VSSA history, college counseling information and more.

**Withdraw/Fail**

Student-athletes can withdraw from a course with the College Counselor. Please refer to the calendar for drop dates. After those dates any changes need to be teacher initiated, otherwise a W/F (withdraw/fail) will be placed on the permanent transcript. Exceptions are made only with the Head of School.

**Yeti Times Newsletter**

A regular e-mail newsletter outlining events, issues and upcoming calendar activities is available by sending an email request to the Office Manager. Please email pictures from competitions, news about athletic and academic events, and information that would be helpful for our school community to know. In addition to being an information resource, we want it to be a place to celebrate and highlight our wonderful student-athletes. Head of School (HOS) updates will also be regularly sent throughout the year.



## Acknowledgement of VSSA Handbook

Please turn into your Advisor by August 20th, 2017

**Student-Athlete Name:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Academic Suspension Policy
- Academic Dishonesty
- Attendance & Absences
- Campus Boundaries
- Cell Phones
- Code of Conduct
- Compassionate Community Pledge
- Dress Code
- Due Date Extensions
- Late Assignments
- Power School
- Re-application to VSSA
- Student Recourse Communication Model
- Technology Pledge

Please initial that you have specifically read these areas in detail.

*I, \_\_\_\_\_, am signing this handbook and initialing these pledges confirming I have read, understood and agree to the Vail Ski & Snowboard Academy's policies and guidelines. I understand that if there is any failure to abide by the handbook consequences will occur.*

**Parent(s) Name:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Academic Suspension Policy
- Academic Dishonesty
- Attendance & Absences
- Campus Boundaries
- Cell Phones
- Code of Conduct
- Compassionate Community Pledge
- Dress Code
- Due Date Extensions
- Late Assignments
- Power School
- Re-application to VSSA
- Student Recourse Communication Model
- Technology Pledge

*I, \_\_\_\_\_, am signing this handbook and initialing these pledges confirming I have read, understood and agree to the Vail Ski & Snowboard Academy's policies and guidelines with my student. I understand that if there is any failure to abide by the handbook consequences will occur for my student.*