

26-27 Family Handbook, Major Changes Summary

Topic	LY 25-26 Handbook	May 2026 Draft	Final SY 26-27 Handbook
Overall Organization	Handbook evolved over many years with topics added as needed, resulting in duplication and inconsistent organization.	Reorganized into four major chapters with a new district-wide structure.	Final layout refined for readability, logical flow, and separation of district policies from campus-specific procedures.
Classical Liberal Arts Philosophy	Classical mission emphasized primarily in the introduction and selected academic sections.	Expanded philosophical framework throughout the academic chapter.	Classical principles are now woven throughout the handbook, including academics, discipline, technology, fine arts, and student formation, to more fully reflect the mission of Great Hearts.
Code of Conduct	Narrative discipline sections with offense lists contained largely in an appendix.	Initial redesign of offense categories and disciplinary framework.	Complete overhaul of the Code of Conduct with streamlined offense levels, clearer categories of misconduct, improved consistency, and greater administrative flexibility.
Levels of Offenses	Offenses were lengthy, repetitive, and sometimes difficult to classify consistently.	Categories consolidated and simplified.	Levels I–III were comprehensively rewritten into broader behavioral categories with clearer examples and more consistent consequences, making the Code easier to administer across campuses.
ISS / OSS Expectations	Suspension language was spread throughout the handbook and sometimes ambiguous.	Draft clarified progressive discipline.	Final language clearly defines administrative expectations for ISS and OSS, participation restrictions during suspension, and alignment with disciplinary hearings and expulsion procedures.
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	No guidance regarding student use of generative AI or AI-assisted academic work.	Initial AI language introduced.	New AI policy establishes that AI is strictly prohibited and integrates AI misuse into the academic honesty framework.

Academic Honesty	Focused primarily on plagiarism and traditional cheating.	Expanded to include technology misuse.	Academic dishonesty now explicitly addresses AI-generated work and modern forms of academic misconduct while preserving teacher discretion.
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