

# Student / Parent Handbook 2024-2025

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Revised 8/2024

### Ocean Academy Bright Harbor Healthcare

### **MISSION**

To foster a collaborative environment that is safe, calming, nurturing, and educational, where students develop active and creative minds.

# **VISION**

To provide a broad continuum of services proactive to community needs.

# **OCEAN ACADEMY - RESPONSIBILITIES**

It is the responsibility of Ocean Academy to provide an educational program that will enable its students to develop their potential to the fullest extent. Ocean Academy must provide the leadership to create a therapeutic environment that promotes the development of emotional, intellectual and social growth of its students. It is Ocean Academy's goal to have its students become self-sustaining and contributing members of society.

### **Contact Information**

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> Visit our website at: www.oceanacademynj.org http://instagram.com/oceanacademynj/

# **INTRODUCTION**

Ocean Academy is dedicated to serve its student population in a therapeutic setting that offers opportunities for growth emotionally, socially, and academically.

# SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Our philosophy is student centered. We believe that school is a place where:

- 1. abilities and interests are discovered and given opportunity for growth;
- 2. unexplored abilities are given encouragement; and
- 3. every student is offered a vision of new and wider fields of knowledge and experience that make all life richer and more satisfying.

Ocean Academy accepts the responsibility of coordinating the available resources of home, school and community in a mutual effort to guide every student's growth towards becoming a responsible individual who can function effectively in society.

# **SCHOOL GOALS**

The goal of Ocean Academy is to promote academic, social and psychological functioning in students that are classified and placed in our program by the student's home school district.

The intent of Ocean Academy is to serve as the agent of the sending district in providing an alternative educational setting and in keeping with the students' identified special education needs. Ocean Academy will facilitate the timely return of its students to the mainstream educational environment. This transition will be done as appropriate, giving the student the greatest opportunity for success.

#### **Specific Objectives:**

Implement each student Individualized Educational Program (IEP), recognize their strengths as well as their needs.

- 1. Support the student to prepare to return to the home school district with the attained capacity for adequate and successful academic, social and emotional functioning whenever possible.
- 2. Prepare the student for independent functioning as an adult in the least restrictive environment and most normalized setting available.
- 3. Maximize the academic potential of the students through the teaching of appropriate emotional and behavioral responses and providing appropriate individual instruction.
- 4. Involve the students, parents/guardians and other community supports in the planning and implementation of the students' educational programs.
- 5. Assist students in developing daily living skills and social competency.

# **ROLE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN**

Ocean Academy believes that the education of children is the shared responsibility of the school, the student and the parent(s)/guardian. To ensure the best possible educational results for each child, there must be effective communication between the home and school. We recognize the crucial role that parents/guardians have in shaping the character and values of their children.

By law, parents are entitled to be included in the development of their child's educational plan. Parent involvement in our school is always welcomed. Parents/guardians are also responsible for their child's punctuality, attendance, cleanliness and dress.

### **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

Ocean Academy has a variety of educational programs.

Students need to pass their courses to accumulate sufficient credit hours, as defined by their Individual Education Plan (IEP), to receive a High School diploma on graduation. Ocean Academy is committed to meet all the requirements and obligations of each students Individualized Education Plan as required by state statute.

#### Required Secondary Courses (Grades 9 – 12):

Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, World Language, Physical Education/Health, Financial Literacy and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Life Skills and Careers are content areas offered at Ocean Academy. Our requirements are subject to change based upon the students IEP. Students are permitted to participate in sports and clubs from their home school district. Ocean Academy provides behavior updates to coaches and club advisors as needed.

### PROGRESS REPORTS/ REPORT CARDS/GRADING SYSTEM

Progress reports and report cards are mailed home on a quarterly basis and provide parents/guardians with the child's academic and behavioral performance for the quarter and marking period.

# PARENTAL RIGHTS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g: 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records.

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.
- Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.
- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):
  - 1. School officials with legitimate educational interest;
  - 2. Other schools to which a student is transferring;

- 3. Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- 4. Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- 5. Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- 6. Accrediting organizations;
- 7. To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- 8. Appropriate officials in case of health and safety emergencies; and
- 9. State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

### **TREATMENT PROTOCOL**

**Goal:** To stabilize the student through psychiatric and mental health interventions in order for the student to function responsibly and effectively in a school setting.

#### **Interventions:**

- 1. Students and parent/guardian will have the option to schedule a psychiatric evaluation with the psychiatric nurse practitioner, who will then become the treating provider as long as the student remains enrolled in Ocean Academy.
- 2. Once the psychiatric evaluation is completed, an initial treatment plan will be developed and <u>agreed upon by the parent(s)/guardian and the student</u>. It is possible that the plan may require the administration of psychotropic medication. It is necessary that all aspects of the treatment plan be agreed to and implemented.
- 3. The student will be seen by his/her school counselor a minimum of once a week for 30 minutes. If additional contact is needed, the student will be seen on an as needed basis. If additional mental health interventions are needed, the student and/or family can be referred to Bright Harbor Healthcare for individual and/or family therapy.
- 4. The student will be seen for medication monitoring appointments by the school psychiatric nurse practitioner as determined by the treatment team. The school nurse arranges these appointments and parent(s) are required to attend.
- 5. The student must accept and follow the behavior intervention plan to experience the best chance for success at Ocean Academy. This plan is a work in progress and will change as the student progresses.

### **SCHOOL RULES**

- 1. <u>No physical contact</u> of any kind with peers or staff: Assaults may result in police intervention and legal action.
- 2. Possession of weapons, drugs, or alcohol is illegal and will be reported to the police.
- 3. Possession of tobacco products and smoking on school property by minors is illegal. Cigarettes, E-Cigarettes/Vapes, lighters, matches, etc., will be confiscated.
- 4. Cell phones are **NOT** permitted. For the safety and security reasons students are not allowed to maintain cell phones in their procession.
- 5. Taking pictures or videos of another student is NOT permitted.
- 6. Appropriate school attire must be worn at all times.
- 7. There is no need for students to bring money to school. In addition valuables especially electronics are discouraged as well. They can be lost, stolen or damaged and the school cannot take responsibility for them.
- 8. In addition students are not permitted to trade, borrow or sell to one another.
- 9. Gambling, of any kind, is NOT permitted in school, on bus or on school grounds.

### **MORNING ENTRANCE PROCEDURE**

- 1. Students clothing, backpacks, and bags will be checked upon entrance to the building.
- 2. Items **not** related to a students' learning will be removed and returned at the end of the day.
- 3. Hats and sunglasses **must be** turned in upon entrance to the building and will be returned at the end of the day. Hats will NOT be permitted to be kept on their person.
- 4. Outside food/drink is allowed in sealed containers only, will be removed and placed in the kitchen for lunch time. Those entering the building with items such as open bottles or containers will be removed and thrown away.
- 5. A doctor's note is required if a student is to be on a special diet and bringing their own food into school.
- 6. Breakfast is served to students upon entering the building. **NO** food will be permitted outside of the cafeteria.
- 7. No toys or stuff animals are permitted in class.

### **HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION & BULLYING**

It is the policy of Ocean Mental Health Services, Inc. to maintain a learning environment that is free from harassment including sexual harassment. No student shall be subjected to harassment by staff members, students or outside vendors, which shall be defined as one who sells or provides goods or services to Ocean Academy.

It is a violation of this policy for any member of Ocean Academy staff, student body, or outside vendor to harass another person through conduct or communication as defined below ("Definition"). Violations of this policy or its related procedure shall be cause for disciplinary action.

#### Definition

Harassment shall be defined as tormenting, annoying, teasing, unwanted and unwelcome sexual advances, requests or demands for sexual favors, and/or inappropriate verbal or physical conduct made by a staff member, students or outside vendor to a student, when that conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the student's performance, or creates an intimidating or hostile environment.

Harassment, as set forth above, may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- 1. Verbal harassment or abuse
- 2. Pressure for sexual activity
- 3. Remarks with sexual or demeaning implications
- 5. Offensive jokes or cartoons
- 6. Obscene or offensive t-shirts, hats, pins, etc...
- 7. Using one's position of authority, along with implied or explicit threats to secure sexual favors
- 4. Unwelcomed physical/touching contact

Harassment, in addition to the more obvious forms of physical harassment (hitting, poking, punching, tripping, etc.) and intimidation, may also be manifest through, but is not limited to:

#### Peer pressure, Dares, Belittlement, Name calling, Threats, Social exclusion Teasing, Verbal Attacks, Spreading malicious rumors, Verbal challenges

Visual harassment may be manifest through, but is not limited to:

Derogatory, demeaning or inflammatory posters, cartoons, written words, drawings, novelties and gestures.

The Administration shall direct the development of procedures regarding the implementation of this policy. All staff members, students, and vendors shall be informed of this policy annually. The Administration shall also ensure that staff and students participate in educational programs on an ongoing basis relating to this policy, and the maintenance of an educational environment that is characterized by mutual respect, safety, and personal security. Individuals and groups shall be treated with equity and fairness.

**Reporting** – Any student, who alleges harassment by a staff member, another student, or by an outside vendor working for the school, may report the incident to the Principal or Counselor. That person shall have the responsibility to bring the complaint to the attention of the Principal or the designee within the day the report is made, or as soon as practically possible.

The Principal or Administrator and Counselors shall have the appropriate training in complaint investigations and the implementation of follow-up procedures. The due process rights and rights to confidentiality of all parties shall be respected during the investigation. The parents, police and any other appropriate agency shall be informed by the Principal.

**Remediation and discipline** – If any investigation by the Administration, Police or any other State Agency substantiates a charge as described in U.S. Title IX and N.J.A.C. 6.4, against a student, that student shall be subject to disciplinary action, which shall be implemented consistent with the seriousness of the offense and/or whether there is a pattern of substantiated offenses. Disciplinary action may range from a documented conference with parent or guardian, required counseling, or suspension, consistent with student disciplinary practices and procedures as outlined in this student handbook.

If an investigation by the Administration, Police or other State Agency substantiates a charge against a vendor, it shall be subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to suspension and/or cancellation of existing contract(s), debarment from future contracting, removal of personnel from the school/worksite or notification of police and any other appropriate agency (e.g. The State Division of Youth and Family Services).

**Notification -** Notice of this policy and procedures shall be circulated to all students, staff and parents, and incorporated into the student and staff handbooks.

**Prevention of Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying -** The Administration shall ensure that appropriate educational programs shall be conducted for the staff and students regarding the nature of harassment and its prevention. Appropriate curricula shall include learning outcomes which relate to appropriate interpersonal behavior.

# **ANTI-BULLYING POLICY**

Our school does not tolerate bullying in any form. All members of the school community are committed to ensuring a safe and caring environment which promotes personal growth and positive self-esteem for all.

1. What is bullying?

Bullying is an act of aggression causing embarrassment, pain or discomfort to another:

- it can take a number of forms: physical, verbal, gesture; extortion and exclusion.
- it is an abuse of power; individuals or groups may be involved.
- 2. Some examples of bullying include:
  - any form of physical violence such as hitting pushing or spitting.
  - interfering with another's property by stealing, hiding, damaging or destroying it.
  - using offensive names, teasing, or spreading rumors about others or their families.
  - using put-downs, belittling others' abilities and achievements.
  - writing offensive notes or graffiti about others.
  - making degrading comments about another's culture, religious or social background.
  - hurtfully excluding others from a group.
  - making suggestive comments or other forms of sexual harassment.
  - ridiculing another's appearance.
  - forcing others to act against their will.
- 3. If we are bullied:
  - we may feel frightened, unsafe, embarrassed, angry or unfairly treated.
  - our work, sleep and ability to concentrate may suffer.
  - our relationships with our family and friends may deteriorate.
  - we may feel confused and not know what to do about the problem.

4. What do we do to prevent bullying?

As a School Community we will not allow cases of bullying to go unreported, but will speak up, even at risk to ourselves.

This requires Administrators to:

- model respect for all students and staff and provide a vision for the school of acceptance and support.
- consistently enforcing a discipline policy that promotes learning the correct behavior and has no tolerance for bullying.
- take all reports of bullying seriously.
- facilitate safety by providing needed security measures.

This requires Teachers and Staff to:

- be role models in word and action at all times.
- be observant of signs of distress or suspected incidents of bullying.
- make efforts to remove occasions for bullying by active patrolling during supervision duty (recess, lunch and restroom.)
- arrive at class on time and move promptly between lessons.
- help victims without placing the victim at further risk.
- report suspected incidents to the appropriate administrative staff.

### **TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 1. To treat students with respect and care as individuals
- 2. To provide students with an orderly classroom
- 3. To provide the necessary discipline and model appropriate expectations
- 4. To provide appropriate motivation
- 5. To teach students the required content

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 1. To treat others with respect and care as an individual
- 2. To attend classes regularly
- 3. To be cooperative and not be disruptive
- 4. To study and do their work (success = effort)
- 5. To learn and master the required material
- 6. Follow the core principles Safe, Happy, Alert, Respectful, Kind, Sensible.

### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

"In order to receive a state endorsed High School Diploma, educationally handicapped pupils must meet all State and local High School graduation requirements as defined by their Individual Education Plan (IEP)."

Specific courses are defined each year at the annual review of each student's IEP. Students who earn a diploma are eligible to participate in their sending districts' graduation exercises. Students will receive a diploma from their sending district regardless of whether or not they participate in their home school graduation ceremony.

### **CLINICAL SERVICES**

### COUNSELING

Every student enrolled in the school is assigned a school counselor. The services provided by the counseling staff includes: individual, group and family counseling, case management and coordination of community resources, as indicated by the student's IEP. Emergency services and crisis intervention are available for those students requiring immediate intervention throughout the day.

### **PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES (PE)**

Ocean Academy has weekly psychiatric services available to the school. These PE evaluations serve as the foundation and basis for our treatment plan for helping your child. In treating your youngster, your presence during the initial and follow-up visits is absolutely necessary as inevitably you will have questions about medications, symptoms, side effects, etc. These are best answered face-to-face with the doctor, school nurse and therapist.

### **OCCUPATIONAL AND SPEECH THERAPY**

These services are provided as identified in the student's IEP.

### SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

Services are available if deemed necessary for a student to receive Substance Abuse Counseling.

# PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

According to New Jersey Administrative Code 6:29-4.1, all students must participate in, and pass, Physical Education and Health Education each year, in order to receive a High School Diploma.

Students are excused from Physical Education only with:

- 1. An exemption from the Child Study Team as noted in the IEP.
- 2. A medical exemption from their doctor.
- 3. A doctor's note stating the nature of the injury or illness, the date the student is eligible to return to participation and any restrictions on activity upon returning to Physical Education class.
- 4. A written excuse from the School Nurse (valid for <u>one day</u>).

### **ATTENDANCE POLICIES**

Regular attendance in class is a necessary condition for receiving a thorough and efficient education. In order for a student to satisfy the minimum requirements of each course, he or she (and his/her parents) must comply with the provisions of the school's attendance policy. The attendance policy of Ocean Academy distinguishes between excused absences and unexcused absences.

#### Excused Absences

Excused absences are hospitalization, prescribed home convalescence, chronic illness (as defined by law N.J.A.C. 8:28 3-5), religious holidays, court appearance and death in the family, all of which must be verified upon the student's return to school.

If a student is unable to attend school, the following procedure must be followed or absences will be considered cuts:

1. Parent or guardian must telephone the school in the morning to report a student's absence.

- 2. Upon the student's return to school, a note signed by a parent/guardian stating the date(s) and reason for the absence must be brought to the homeroom teacher. A student has two (2) days to present a parent note for his/her absence.
- 3. Policy requires that students who are sent home by the school nurse, suspected of having a communicable disease, must return to school with a note from their doctor, stating that they are no longer contagious and may return to school.

#### **Unexcused Absences**

Unexcused absences are absences for reasons such as common illness, college visits, family vacation, and family emergencies, up to the limits established in the attendance policy.

### **CREDIT LOSS AND PROMOTION DUE TO ABSENCES**

#### **Unexcused Absences:**

#### Limit: Full year: 18 Absences

Course credit and promotion may be withheld if the student exceeds the eighteen-day limit.

#### **Consecutive School Absence**

Written notification upon five (5) consecutive school day absences will be issued to the sending district; this could lead to the district terminating enrollment.

#### Tardiness

A student who is tardy must sign in at the office. Chronic lateness will be dealt with accordingly.

#### **Early Dismissal**

A student must present to the Principal a parent/guardian note indicating the date, time and reason for early dismissal, as well as a phone number where the parent/guardian may be reached. This early dismissal note must also include the means by which the student will be transported.

The school recognizes five (5) valid reasons for early dismissal from school:

- 1. Illness after arrival at school, certified by the school nurse.
- 2. An appointment with a physician/dentist.
- 3. A personal or family emergency.
- 4. A driver's test with verification of the appointment.
- 5. A mandated court appearance.

#### Leaving School or Class

No student may leave the building without the permission of the Principal. Students may only leave the building during their supervised lunch period or supervised school related experiences.

#### **Elopement Policy**

- 1. Students who leave the premises without permission will be subject to apprehension by the police. Students who leave the school without permission will face disciplinary action.
- 2. Parents/guardians will be notified of the elopement.

3. No student may leave a class without the teacher's permission and a pass in hand. This also includes the lunch period and physical education classes at our alternate location

# SCHOOL POLICIES

#### **Distribution of Literature by Students**

The Principal must review all printed material in advance. The Principal reserves the right to prohibit the distribution of printed materials, which are not protected by the right of free expression. The Courts have established limits on the rights of individuals to access students on school property.

It should be noted and pointed out that the First Amendment does not protect libelous material. Libelous material is false information about a person that is damaging to the person's reputation in his/her personal or business life. Publication of libelous material may result in a lawsuit by the person who has been libeled.

It should also be noted that New Jersey law prohibits the distribution on school property of partisan political literature supporting or opposing candidates, or public questions in any general, municipal or school election.

The Principal may reasonably control the time, place and manner of the posting or distribution of literature on school premises for the purpose of maintaining order and safety.

#### Fire, School Security and Safety Drills

Fire Evacuation and Security Drills will be conducted monthly.

At least one (1) fire evacuation drill and one (1) security drill shall be conducted per month during school hours at the Ocean Academy school throughout the school year, including the Extended School Year (ESY) program. Types of security drills include, but are not limited to, the following: lockdown, active shooter, non-fire evacuation, shelter-in-place and bomb threat. All drill and evacuation activities shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures specified in the Emergency Operations Plan for Ocean Academy. Students shall familiarize themselves with the designated evacuation routes for each room within the school. All students shall fully and appropriately participate in all drill and evacuation activities. Students shall demonstrate appropriate behavior and adhere to all staff directives throughout the duration of all drill and evacuation activities. If a student(s) fails to appropriately comply with drill/evacuation activities and/or staff directives during a drill/evacuation activity, the student may be subject to administrative disciplinary charges.

#### Electronic Devices: Cell phones/Camera Phones; IPod//Radios/CDs/Electronic games, etc.

<u>ALL</u> electronic devices, including but not limited to the ones listed above are <u>NOT PERMITTED</u> in school. We do understand that some students have a long ride into/from school and use these items during your ride; you may continue to do so. If you bring one of these items into the building, it will be surrendered upon entry to the main office and returned to you at the end of the day. All devices will be locked up for the day. If you bring an electronic device into the building and are in possession of it during the school day, it will be taken from you and your parent/guardian will need to retrieve it. If there is a need for you to contact your parent/guardian, please know that your counselor may assist you to do so.

Any items including electronics deemed to be detrimental to the education process will be secured for the day.

#### Restraint

In the event that a student places himself/herself, staff or peers in physical danger through self-abuse, violent behavior or elopement, the student may be physically restrained. Physical restraint occurs only when all verbal intervention has been exhausted. Ocean Academy staff are trained and certified in CPI Nonviolent Crisis Intervention through the Crisis Prevention Institute, as well as having a Certified Trainer on staff.

#### **Dress Code**

Our dress code includes neat, clean and wearing of appropriate clothing that does not interfere with the educational process or create a safety hazard during the school day. The Principal will determine proper dress and reserves the right to discipline any student who is not dressed properly. Students dressed inappropriately will be offered appropriate clothing. If your child refuses to change, a phone call may be made to you to bring them appropriate clothes or your child may be driven home to change. The following list may serve as a guide to inappropriate and unacceptable school dress:

- 1. Clothing that is extremely ragged, brief, transparent or tight.
- Clothing that exposes; such as halter-tops, transparent tops, or short blouses and tank tops (for boys or girls). NO short skirts or dresses.
  Pants below the hips, must be secured with a belt. NO underwear showing. (a belt will be "loaned" to your child for the day, if it is deemed necessary)
- 3. Clothing with large holes or tears, or those that allow undergarments to be exposed.
- 4. Clothing, personal belongings covered with graffiti, gang colors and symbols, are not permitted.
- 5. Clothing that displays indecent, vulgar, distracting or offensive writings, pictures and/or slogans, promotes alcohol or illegal substances are also not permitted.
- 6. Articles that are considered dangerous or could cause damage to other students or property, such as chains, spikes, cleats, pins, certain types of rings, or other paraphernalia.
- 7. Hats, bandanas or head coverings of any kind worn to school must be removed upon entering the building unless authorized by the Principal.
- 8. NO pajama pants.
- 9. Beach flip-flops, bare feet and slippers are not considered to be safe footwear.

### BEHAVIOR CODE & STUDENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

#### All students must:

- 1. Communicate with fellow students, staff and visitors with respect and courtesy.
- 2. Refrain from all illegal, violent, dangerous or disruptive behavior.

#### Staff Intervention:

Ocean Academy utilizes a 4-step intervention process to address disruptive behaviors within the classroom. If a student acts out in the classroom, the intervention process is initiated in the following order until the issue is resolved:

- 1. The classroom teacher will attempt to verbally refocus the student.
- 2. The teacher may ask staff to remove the student from the classroom until the student is able to refocus.
- 3. School counselors or other staff members will meet with the student to help de-escalate behavior and return the student to class.
- 4. Student will be referred to Principal when all attempted interventions fail.

#### Interventions may also include:

- 1. Physical restraint, as needed, to prevent injury to student or staff or damage to property.
- 2. Confiscation of illegal or dangerous objects.
- 3. Referral to Principal for immediate Substance Abuse assessment as needed (mandated by N.J.S.A. 18A-40-4.1
- 4. Referral to Principal for police intervention as needed.

All rules apply on school grounds, school trips, and at school sponsored community activities and on transportation to and from school.

#### **Behavior Conference consequences may include:**

- 1. Loss of privileges, computer free time
- 2. Phone call home to parents
- 3. Write up to district and parent regarding behavior concerns
- 4. In/Out-of-school suspension.
- 5. Legal action

#### Items illegal for students on school grounds include, but not limited to:

- 1. Firearms or deadly weapons (N.J.S.A. 2c:30-5.3) firearms, knives, metal knuckles, studded leather bands, razor blades, tear gas, pepper spray, etc.
- 2. Controlled Dangerous Substances (N.J.S.A. 24:21-2 and 24:170-25.09) including anabolic steroids, alcohol, etc.

Violations of this nature can be cause for termination from the program as well as criminal charges.

#### **TERMINATION**

If a student continues to violate program rules and demonstrates no motivation to comply, a meeting will be convened with the Child Study Team and family to discuss termination from Ocean Academy.

# **DISCHARGE POLICY**

#### PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to clearly describe the discharge procedure for Ocean Academy.

#### POLICY:

It is the policy of Ocean Mental Health Services, Inc. to develop discharge procedures for Ocean Academy that are in compliance with the NJ Department of Education.

#### DISCUSSION:

The discharge/termination plan of each student is directly related to the fulfillment of their goals and objectives. Students will be deemed ready to return to district when the educational and therapeutic staff, along with the school district, agrees on their readiness.

Students who have made a poor adjustment to Ocean Academy as evidenced by severe and chronic behavior management problems, and students whose academic and/or vocational needs cannot be met by Ocean Academy resources, will be terminated only after a thorough review of in-program alternatives and in consultation with the student, CST, and parents/guardians. Parents/guardians and CST will be notified in writing that a termination decision is being considered at least two weeks prior to termination (15 calendar days).

The decision to terminate a student will be made by the Ocean Academy staff in consultation with the sending school district.

A meeting to discuss the student's termination will be held and will include the Ocean Academy Principal and teacher, CST members from sending district, parents/guardians and the student. A termination plan will be developed which will include:

- 1. Reviewing and updating the IEP.
- 2. Educational program needs of the student.
- 3. Mental health needs of the student.
- 4. Discussion of appropriate alternatives.
- 5. Implementation plan for termination, i.e. what will be done, when and by whom.

The student, parent/guardian and CST will be notified in writing of the decision to terminate, which will include a summary of the termination planning meeting. Ocean Academy will assure that the parent/guardian of the student is apprised of procedural safeguards as per N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2 All parents/guardians will receive fifteen (15) days written notification prior to any educational issues requiring them to be informed, give consent, or participate.

### **BEHAVIOR MOTIVATION PROGRAM**

Ocean Academy uses the following program to support change of an individual's environment in ways that increase the likelihood that certain behaviors will occur. Therapists and counselors work with students to increase a desired behavior or decrease an undesired behavior.

#### It's Game Time:

Each student will be given a color for the week.

Tickets with coordinating colors will be given to students during each class period to reinforce participation, appropriateness, and overall behavior in each class.

Additional opportunities to earn tickets or rewards can be given for transitioning, ignoring negative behavior and going above and beyond expectations.

At the end of each class period students will be able to turn tickets in for an earned reward. Students will start with a clean slate each class period.

#### **Reward Card Program:**

Students will each be given a reward card with 30 hole punch opportunities.

During homeroom students will choose a reward they want to earn up to a \$20 value. Rewards can include Amazon Items, 20 Sea Dollars, etc. which can be saved for a later date for an item of higher value. Lunch with a staff member includes food bought from an outside establishment in the area.

At the end of each day students will earn 1 hole punch for earning a level 4 (72 points or above in the points system) for that day.

When 30 hole punches are reached a student can redeem their card and select a reward.