



# JAMES IRWIN CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

*Committed to Character Development and Academic Excellence*

## **Academic Contract for 2024-2025**

James Irwin Charter High School is a school focused on preparing students for college and is based on the belief that all students will benefit from an academically rigorous program. James Irwin students must fulfill important academic requirements and take responsibility for their own learning.

1. James Irwin students are required to be full-time students enrolled in six courses each semester. Students are expected to complete all homework assignments excellently and turn them in on time. They must set aside and expect to spend at least two to three hours every night completing homework and studying their coursework. Academics come before any jobs, socializing, sports, or other extra-curricular activities.
2. Students are expected to:
  - Arrive at class with all necessary materials: textbooks, notebooks, paper, pens/pencils, and completed homework.
  - Be seated and ready to work when the bell rings.
  - Be active participants in the learning process by listening carefully, taking thorough notes, contributing positively to class discussions, and being respectful of the ideas of others and their learning.
  - Be responsible for their own schoolwork (plagiarism or copying another's work is unacceptable and will not be tolerated).
  - Be academically productive and take advantage of study hall time.
3. James Irwin Charter High School's curriculum is designed to prepare students for college. Therefore, students understand they will be expected to take the necessary college assessments, including, but not limited to, the ACT, PSAT/SAT, and AP exams, and to pay all associated fees.
4. When absent, students are expected to ascertain what was covered in class during their absence, to seek out other students who are excellent note-takers, and to complete missing assignments within the two days allowed for each day of an excused absence. Long-term assignments must be turned in upon the student's return to school. A student who exceeds the 14-absence limit (per semester) in any class will lose credit for that course. Parents/guardians must be committed to arranging vacations or other planned days when students will be absent around the school calendar. They must be careful to ensure their students will be present for all final exam dates during both semesters.
5. The expected student performance and the nature and number of assignments are demanding at James Irwin Charter High School. Students must complete academic requirements and take responsibility for their own learning. A student who has earned below 70% (C-) in a mathematics or foreign language class or below 60% (D-) in any other class may be assigned peer or after-school tutoring. A conference with the student, parent/guardian, and teacher(s) may be necessary to create an improvement plan. At a minimum, the student will be expected to make a serious effort to improve his/her grade by seeking support from the appropriate teacher during study hall and/or before or after school for six weeks or until the grade improves. Students with poor grades may be assigned to Saturday School, if available.  
**Students must have earned a minimum of 70% in mathematics or foreign language by the end of**

**the year to meet the prerequisite for the next level.**

- 6. The student is ultimately responsible for knowing the high school graduation requirements and for fulfilling those requirements.** Courses and requirements are fully described in the school's *Course Description Book*. Students may only make schedule changes for reasons limited to those outlined in the current *Student Handbook*. Schedule changes can only be made during the first three weeks of the fall semester and the first two weeks of the spring semester. After those times, students may not change their schedules or withdraw from a class and must remain in the class until the end of the semester.

To receive a James Irwin Charter High School diploma, a student must, during grades 9-12, complete 48 approved liberal arts credits to include the following courses:

English - credits  
History - 8 credits  
Mathematics - 8 credits (Starting with Algebra 1)  
Science - 6 credits (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)  
Foreign Language - 6 credits (3 consecutive levels of the same foreign language)  
Art - 1 credit.  
Music - 1 credit.  
Physical Education - 2 credits  
Character & Ethics - 1 credit.  
Speech & Language Development - 1 credit.  
Electives - 6 credits.

- 7.** Receiving mathematics credits begins with Algebra 1. If the student does not pass the Algebra 1 exam at the end of the spring semester, he/she must double up on mathematics courses later or become a fifth-year senior. Students are required to take Biology, Chemistry, and Physics to fulfill their science credit requirements for graduation.
- 8.** The State of Colorado has implemented new graduation guidelines for the Class of 2021 and beyond. Therefore, in addition to the above graduation requirements, students must demonstrate college or career readiness in English and mathematics based on **one (1)** of the following board-approved measures (see the current *Student Handbook* for score cut-points of each exam): Accuplacer, ACT, Advanced Placement (AP), ASVAB, Concurrent Enrollment (CE), or SAT.
- 9.** James Irwin Charter High School only uses semester grades for posting transcripts. First and second-semester grades **are not** averaged together. Instead, each semester class has a stand-alone grade permanently recorded on the student's transcript independent of previous semesters.
- 10.** If, at the midpoint or end of any semester, a student's academic average is below a "C-" or if an "F" is received in any course, the student may be placed on academic probation where all sports, clubs, field trips or other activity privileges may be modified or suspended to maximize academic success. The parent/guardian and student will be required to attend an administrative meeting to discuss strategies for success. To be released from academic probation, a student must earn at least a "C-" average and have no "F" grades the following term.

**By signing the Policy and Procedure Agreement, students and parents/guardians agree to the above contract. They are committing to following the spirit and letter of the policies and procedures herein and in the current *Student Handbook*.**