



**Poplar School District
Anpétu Téča Academy
(New Day Academy)
Student Expectations/Guidelines
2026-2027**

“WHATEVER IT TAKES WE CAN, WE WILL”

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Welcome Students and Parents!

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to Anpétu Téča Academy! It is my pleasure to welcome both our returning students and those who are joining our school community for the first time. We are honored that you have chosen Anpétu Téča Academy as a place to continue your educational journey.

At Anpétu Téča Academy, we recognize that every student's path to success is unique. As Poplar School District's Grades 5–12 Alternative Learning Center, our mission is to provide a safe, supportive, and flexible learning environment where students are empowered to overcome challenges, build confidence, achieve academic success, and prepare for a positive future. We believe that every student deserves the opportunity to succeed, regardless of the obstacles they may have faced, and we are committed to meeting students where they are while helping them reach their fullest potential.

Strong partnerships between students, families, and school staff are essential to student success. We encourage open communication, mutual respect, and shared responsibility throughout the school year. Together, we can help students develop not only academically but also socially, emotionally, and personally as they prepare for college, careers, military service, or other post-secondary opportunities.

This document along with the student handbook has been developed to serve as a resource for students and families. It outlines important information regarding school expectations, attendance, academic requirements, student supports, behavior expectations, services, and other policies that contribute to a safe, respectful, and successful learning environment. We encourage students and families to review this and the student handbook together and refer to it throughout the school year.

The Poplar School District is committed to providing an educational environment that is welcoming, respectful, and free from discrimination. The District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or any other protected status in its educational programs, activities, services, or employment practices. This commitment is made in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and other applicable federal and state laws.

The name Anpétu Téča translates to "New Day," reflecting our belief that each day brings new opportunities for growth, learning, and success. Regardless of past challenges, every student can create a brighter future through perseverance, responsibility, and the support of a caring school community.

Thank you for being a part of the Anpétu Téča Academy family. We look forward to partnering with you during a school year filled with learning, personal growth, achievement, and new opportunities. Together, we will build a community where every student is valued, supported, challenged, and inspired to succeed. On behalf of our faculty and staff, welcome to Anpétu Téča Academy. We are excited to work alongside you as we will make this a successful and rewarding school year.

Sincerely,

Frank Gourneau III
Anpétu Téča Academy
Principal

General Information

The Poplar School District Student Expectations/Guidelines contains information that students and parents are likely to need during the school year. The primary High School and Middle School student's handbooks are the framework for all other information not noted here.

This document on Appétu Téca Academy provides details on the process, guidelines, expectations for student's that go from a traditional setting to a different learning environment, often for behavioral, academic, or social-emotional reasons, focusing on personalized support, high expectations, and pathways to success, sometimes requiring formal plans, parent involvement, and adherence to state/federal laws like IDEA for students with disabilities. These documents define the purpose, eligibility, programming features (small class sizes, flexible schedules, integrated support), and with a possible transition back to regular school, ensuring the placement isn't seen as punitive but as an opportunity.

- **Purpose:** To provide a supportive, non-traditional environment for students needing different approaches due to struggles in regular school, fostering academic growth and college/career readiness.
- **Referral Process:** Involves observations, assessments, and district input, often triggered by poor grades, truancy, social/emotional reasons, or disruptive behavior.
- **Eligibility:** Can include general education students and those with IEPs and 504s, though special education placements require an IEP team meeting to ensure appropriateness.
- **Program Features:**
 - Online Acellus Program, positive relationships, flexible scheduling, and challenging curriculum.
 - Focus on student strengths, career connections, and "whole child" support (academic, social, emotional including services provided by HPDP and other outside entities).
 - Emphasis on positive behavior protocols integrated into learning, not just exclusion.
- **Transition Plans:** Upon request there will be formal and informal, written plans for returning to traditional school, outlining steps, responsibilities, and timelines, requiring administration approval. It is all at the discretion of the administration.
- **Legal Safeguards:** Must ensure equal facilities, comparable curriculum, and adherence to laws like IDEA, preventing marginalized placement.

Contacts

Frank Gourneau
9-12 Principal/Title IX
768-6831

Coy Weeks
9-12 Assistant Principal
768-6818

Patti Jo Black
9-12 Assistant Principal
SPED/504
768-6812

Vonda Bighorn
School Secretary
768-6833

Demiree Russell
Family School and Support
768-6834

Thomas Olsen
New Day Teacher
768-6760

Bell Schedule

MONDAY-THURSDAY

Acellus Work 8:20-9:00

Break 9:00-9:10

Acellus Work 9:10-10:00

Break 10:00-10:10

Acellus Work 10:10-11:00

Break 11:00-11:10

Acellus Work 11:10-12:20

LUNCH 12:20-12:50

Acellus Work 12:50-2:00

Break 2:00-2:10

Acellus work 2:10-3:20

Cleanup 3:20-3:33

FRIDAY

Acellus Work 8:20-9:00

Break 9:00-9:10

Acellus Work 9:10-10:00

Break 10:00-10:10

Acellus Work 10:10-11:00

Break 11:00-11:10

Acellus Work 11:10-12:20

LUNCH 12:20-1:00

Acellus Work 1:00-2:20

Cleanup 2:20-2:28

1:00 P.M. RELEASE

Acellus Work 8:20-9:00

Break 9:00-9:10

Acellus Work 9:10-10:00

Break 10:00-10:10

Acellus Work 10:10-11:00

Break 11:00-11:10

Acellus Work 11:10-12:10

Cleanup 12:10-12:20

LUNCH 12:20-12:50

Acellus Program

Acellus is an online learning platform known for its flagship, accredited institution, offering a flexible, self-paced education with video lessons and personalized instruction via "Vectored Instruction" to adapt to student needs, catering to general education, special needs, and career/tech education. Students learn through engaging video lessons and interactive coursework, which prepares them for college or careers.

How Acellus Works

- **Learning Platform:** Students use the Acellus Gold platform for subjects like Math, Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies as well as various other classes to cover elective courses.
- **Personalized Learning:** "Vectored Instruction" identifies learning gaps and adjusts content difficulty, making it effective for struggling students or those with special needs. This proprietary technology identifies specific gaps in a student's understanding and provides targeted video lessons to fill those gaps before allowing them to move forward.
- **Self-Paced:** Students can learn at their own pace with on-demand, high-definition video lessons. It is highly important that students complete their daily and weekly goals to keep pace with graduating. Courses are available 24/7, allowing students to set their own schedules and progress through material as quickly or slowly as needed outside of the classroom setting.

Key Programs & Features

- **Parent Access:** Parents can monitor student progress on their own profile. If this is requested, please reach out to administration for access.
- **Special Education:** Courses are designed to be achievable for students with special needs, integrated with IEPs.
- **Career & Tech Ed (CTE):** Offers specialized training in fields like STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) for high-tech careers.
- **Curriculum:** Offers over 400 courses, including core subjects (Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies), electives, Advanced Placement (AP), and Career & Technical Education (CTE).

Rules/Guidelines

1. No cell phones are allowed during Acellus work. Cellphones must be turned in when entering the classroom. Cellphones are permitted during your break period. Once break period commences, cell phones need to be turned in.
2. Must be always working on Acellus. It is important to hit daily goals in each class. Once daily goals are hit in every class you may continue to work in a class of your choice that is available on your profile.
3. Attendance is very important. Please make sure that we are in class and ready to learn.
4. Instructions and/or directions from the teacher, para, substitute, and administration will be always followed.
5. We encourage students to put in time outside of school as well especially if they miss a day to make sure, they stay on course to reach their weekly goals.
6. With prior parent's approval if a student reaches their daily goals with passing grades in all classes they may leave for the day. If a day was missed during the week, then they cannot leave at all during the week as missing that day set them behind. This is created as an incentive to get students to class every day of that week and complete their daily goals with passing grades.
7. Students will need to make continued progress on weekly goals and be in regular attendance. Failure to do so could result in being dropped from New Day Academy
8. Students must still follow and maintain the rules and regulations outlined in the student handbook.

**STUDENTS WHO CHOOSE NOT TO FOLLOW RULES/GUIDELINES
ARE SUBJECT TO BEING PLACED ON A CONTRACT AND/OR OUT OF
SCHOOL SUSPENSION**

Poplar High School Graduation Requirements

A student must complete the following 22 units.

4 units of English Language Arts

3 units of Mathematics

3 units of Social Studies (including a $\frac{1}{2}$ unit of Civics or Government)

2 units of Science

2 units of Health Enhancement with $\frac{1}{2}$ unit each year for two years

1 unit of Arts

1 Unit of Career and Technical Education

6 units of Electives

($\frac{1}{2}$ unit of economics or financial literacy with the 2 units of social studies, the 2 units of mathematics, or the 1 unit of career and technical education. *Effective for 2026 Graduates and beyond)

Graduating with Honors: One honor cord for 3.0-3.49 and two honor cords for 3.5-4.0

SB 18 Bill:

For students (with an educational disruption at any point in their high school career) who meet the state minimum high school credit requirement for graduation, as set forth in Chapter 55 by the Montana Board of Public Education but will not meet the local requirement, the district must award the student a diploma.

STATE OF MONTANA GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

20 Credits

The following 13 units shall be a part of the 20 units required for all students to graduate:

4 units of English Language Arts

2 units of Mathematics

2 units of Social Studies (including a $\frac{1}{2}$ unit of Civics or Government)

2 units of Science

1 unit of Health Enhancement with $\frac{1}{2}$ unit each year for two years

1 unit of Arts

1 Unit of Career and Technical Education

($\frac{1}{2}$ unit of economics or financial literacy with the 2 units of social studies, the 2 units of mathematics, or the 1 unit of career and technical education. * Effective for 2026 Graduates and beyond)

Frank Gourneau
Principal
Poplar High School

This behavior/attendance/educational contract is required by the Poplar High School/Anpétu Téča Academy for (Student Name) while enrolled at Poplar High School/Anpétu Téča Academy starting on (Date). The following student plan will be monitored by the Parent/Guardian (Name), New Day Para, New Day Substitute, and the Principal/Assistant Principals. (Student Name) will be expected to abide by the following rules, recommendations, and daily schedule:

Rules:

1. Always follow all school rules/discipline policies.
2. Treat all students and school personnel with respect.

Daily Schedule:

1. Be at school from 8:20 am until 3:33 pm on regular days, 8:20 am until 2:28 pm on Fridays, and 8:20 am until 12:17 pm on early outs, a minimum of 4 out of 5 days
2. Call ins must have documentation provided such as doctor's slips otherwise just calling in is still considered an unexcused absence.

Acellus Progress

1. Must show daily progress on Acellus by hitting daily goals of all classes.
2. Must show weekly progress on Acellus by hitting weekly goals of all classes.

I understand that any violations of this contract will result in (Student Name) being dropped from Poplar High School/Anpétu Téča Academy and not being reenrolled. Any noncompliance behavior that results in not complying with instructions will result in (Student Name) being sent home immediately resulting in an unexcused absence. Continued unexcused absences could also result in (Student Name) being dropped from Poplar High School/Anpétu Téča Academy and not being reenrolled. This contract will be monitored at least every two weeks, possibly weekly and failure to follow contract will result in being dropped and not being re-enrolled.

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Student _____ Date _____

Administrator/Teacher _____ Date _____

(The following contract will be implemented at the discretion of the administration for students failing to complete coursework, habitual attendance problems, behavior problems, etc.)

Poplar School District

PO Box 458, Poplar, Montana 59255

Superintendent

Keith Erickson

Phone: (406) 768-6602

9-12 Principal

Frank Gourneau

Phone: (406) 768-6831

9-12 Associate Principal

Coy Weeks

Phone: (406) 768-6818

SPED Director

Patti Black

Phone: (406) 768-6812

The mission of Poplar Schools, in cooperation with parents and community, is to develop exemplary citizens through enthusiastic and knowledgeable guidance and instruction in a culturally enriched environment.

Permission for Early Dismissal After Completion of Daily Goals and Attendance Requirement

To Parent/Guardian,

This letter serves as written permission for my child, _____, to be allowed to leave school early on days when their assigned daily academic and behavioral goals have been completed to the satisfaction of their teacher or designated school staff and when they have maintained attendance for at least four (4) out of five (5) school days.

I understand that this early dismissal is contingent upon confirmation from the school that all expectations for the day and the attendance requirement have been met. I also acknowledge that this permission applies only after such confirmation has been given.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Please feel free to contact me if additional information or clarification is needed.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Frank Gourneau

Principal

Poplar High School/Anpétu Téča Academy