



High School Student Memorandum of Understanding

As a leading creative youth development organization, SAY Sí is committed to creating a premier, inclusive, dynamic and nurturing educational environment for San Antonio's youth through dedication to: Creativity, Leadership, Equity and Community. In order to do this, **SAY Sí students must observe all program policies.**

Community Member

- Students must model good behavior; respect themselves, others, and the programs' (as well as other students') materials and supplies.
- Drugs, weapons, and abusive language [including music] **are not permitted at SAY Sí.**
- **No visitors** are allowed in the SAY Sí classrooms at any time. The safety of our spaces takes everyone's involvement and care. Special cases (such as foreign exchange programs/shadowing) *must be approved ahead of time.*
- Work areas must be cleaned daily before leaving.
- Students are not allowed to leave campus for any reason without staff permission.
- Students are expected to conduct themselves professionally and honor SAY Sí's core values.

Studio/Company Member

- Students must attend **8 hours** of studio sessions a week during the school year and 10 during the summer.
- Each student must log in and track their hours.
- All students must complete project assignments in a timely manner.
- Students are required to participate in and expected to attend every exhibition/production.
- SAY Sí students must have reliable transportation to and from SAY Sí.
- **Students must submit a copy of their report card every grading period.**
- Student meetings on Monday are **mandatory.**
- All students must be a positive and productive influence in the studio building empathy as a leadership trait.

Artist

In order to graduate from the SAY Sí program students must commit to the following:

- Portfolio creation & development
- Development of a resume, short artist profile (or biography) and artist statement
- Participation in at least two college visits
- Completion of the FAFSA
- Application to at least three postsecondary institutions
- Application to at least four scholarships
- Notification of college acceptances and financial aid awards
- Completion of senior thesis exhibit and presentation
- Registering to vote as soon as eligible
- Permission to track postsecondary education data (see *National Student Clearinghouse heading below*)

Other Requirements

Academics: Students are expected to prioritize their education and maintain grades that reflect their best efforts. If a student is struggling to maintain their grades, it is their responsibility to communicate with instructors if time is needed to focus on school and improve their grades. It is at the instructors' discretion to decide whether the student can take a short leave of absence or will need to leave the program and reapply at a later time. Students who fail to maintain a C average in their academic studies *and who fail to meet with staff regarding such issues* will be suspended from the program until the next grade period. **All students must submit their academic report cards at the end of each grading period.** Failure to do so is grounds for dismissal from SAY Sí.

Equipment: The use of the SAY Sí printers, copier, art materials and equipment [shop and media] should be

limited to projects that fall within the context of the program. Use of the SAY Sí printers, copier, art materials and equipment for personal use is prohibited unless preauthorized by instructors or Program Director.

Annual Review: Students are required to have an annual review and self assessment for continual learning and improvement. The annual review will be based on attendance, performance, and attitude and will be used to gauge the student's continuation in the program.

Parents are welcome to reach out to instructors regarding student progress/performance at any time throughout the year.

Communication: In order to ensure that students are able to take full advantage of the benefits of SAY Sí, it is imperative that parents and students maintain clear lines of communication with instructors and/or the program director. This includes, but is not limited to, changes in contact information (i.e. address, phone number, email address, schools etc.), issues with attendance, scheduling conflicts, family emergencies and other issues families feel are important to share with SAY Sí staff.

Disciplinary Action

Disregard of the policies stated in this MOU will result in the following: First, the student is warned. Second, a meeting is called with the student and parent. Third, if the problem persists, the student will be dismissed from SAY Sí. For violations regarding grades, attendance, or behavior a student may be put on probation with a period of observation for improvement.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) serves as an agreement between SAY Sí, the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) and these signatures represent that all parties have read and agree to all terms outlined.

Rules are made for the protection and wellbeing of the student body, and to promote the ideals of scholarship, character and professional behavior. SAY Sí pledges to provide the highest caliber of training possible in the arts. In return, SAY Sí expects its policies to be honored. SAY Sí wants to train the best artists possible; therefore, the signatures of the student and program staff are required on this form, signifying understanding and agreement with the above rules. Student and parent/guardian signatures also gives SAY Sí permission to utilize identification information such as birthdate and/or Social Security Number to access student's postsecondary information through National Student Clearinghouse's Student Tracker.

Probation

A student on probation must adhere to the policies, improve performance and will be closely supervised for the entirety of the next trimester. Violating probation will result in dismissal. Based on the student's performance status and history of communication, a conference may be called to appeal dismissal under extenuating circumstances. Any leniency given is at the program instructors' and program director's discretion and will require a second probation period. Second violation of probation will result in automatic dismissal.

National Student Clearinghouse

As part of SAY Sí's commitment to our students and parents, SAY Sí will be using the National Student Clearinghouse to access student college enrollment and completion information. This information is for internal use only and will be used to measure the success of our programs' college readiness initiatives. SAY Sí will use birthdate and/or Social Security Number to access this information through the National Student Clearinghouse Student Tracker. **SAY Sí does not share this personal identification information with outside parties.**

Parents/Guardians are expected to

- Assure that students have reliable transportation to and from SAY Sí
- Attend exhibitions and productions
- Ensure students fulfill the requirements of this MOU
- Participate in a financial aid workshop, including completion of student's FAFSA
- Contribute to a community of support for SAY Sí as *able*: including volunteerism and/or fundraising

Please sign and return this page to the SAY Sí program director.



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Signature Agreement

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Student Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Program Director: _____ Date: _____

Artistic Executive Director: _____ Date: _____