

CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE

The area of student discipline is one that directly affects the safety of all students as well as academic achievement. It is an area that needs attention and reflects the combined responsibilities of everyone in order to maintain a productive learning and social environment. Helping to establish a desirable teaching/learning situation is the work of many people: parents, students, school counselors, teachers, administrators, and members of the Board of Education.

Normally, each classroom teacher handles student conduct. However, if student behavior becomes so disruptive in class and the normal procedures and instruction are adversely affected, the student will be sent to the school counselor or the assistant principal's office where further corrective measures may be taken. If a pattern of disruptive behavior develops, we will notify parents of the offenses and actions taken. Unacceptable behavior may result in exclusion from school trips and/or participation in extracurricular activities.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Tenakill Middle School Student Council adopted the following Code of Conduct in 1997:

Philosophy: Tenakill Middle School believes that it is essential to help students realize that their own attitudes and acts are directly related to their school experiences and that of their classmates. All students can behave in ways that improve the social relationships of the school and facilitate learning.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Safety is a constitutional right. Students, teachers, school staff, and parents need to work together to see that these rights are maintained and obeyed by everyone in our school district. The rights and responsibilities of the Tenakill Middle School students are described below:

Students have the right to:

- * a free public education
- * equal protection under school policies and regulations
- * a safe and orderly school environment in which to learn

Students have the responsibility to:

- * obey school policies and procedures and the school authorities who enforce them
- * respect one another
- * treat school property and the property of others with respect
- * act in a way that does not interfere with the rights of others and is not harmful to the health and safety of others

APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

Students will:

- * arrive on time prepared for the day's work and complete assignments as required
- * exhibit self-respect and show consideration toward teachers, staff members, substitutes, parents, school volunteers, paraprofessionals, and fellow students
- * use school property and equipment with care
- * use considerate and safe behavior in classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, lunchrooms, and during recess
- * use appropriate language and behavior at all times
- * wear clothing that is presentable and does not interfere with the educational process
- * ask for teacher assistance when necessary
- * demonstrate responsibility while participating in or attending school-sponsored events on school grounds or elsewhere
- * respect the efforts of others by assuming responsibility for their own work

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

Students will not:

- * disturb any class or person within the school by being disrespectful or by refusing to obey any staff member or substitute
- * break school or classroom rules (i.e., running in the halls, throwing objects, fighting, gum chewing, defacing school property)
- * harm any student by verbal or physical abuse, extortion, or destruction of personal property
- * commit any criminal act in or on school property
- * bring alcohol, tobacco, vapes, illegal drugs, or weapons to school
- * use insulting, profane or offensive language, or make obscene remarks or gestures

- * wear clothing with sexist pseudo-humor or containing inappropriate language
- * use cell phones, media players, video games, tablets, or personal computers without permission from a teacher or administrator. Any devices authorized to use cannot be used to compromise student integrity by cheating, copying, or plagiarizing, or allowing others to benefit from their work through such acts. Cell phones must remain turned off and kept in student backpacks and out of sight for the duration of the school day.

CONSEQUENCES

It is expected that each student will accept the responsibilities included in the Tenakill Middle School Code of Conduct. The following disciplinary action(s) have been established and may be used as needed.

Offenses not related to student/staff safety and well-being or destruction of school property:

- * verbal warning
- * detention
- * conference with school counselor
- * parent/teacher conference

Offenses related to student/staff safety and well-being or destruction of school property (in addition to those stated above and contingent upon the severity of the offense):

- * referral to the administration
- * exclusion from extracurricular activities
- * school/community service hours
- * school probation
- * school suspension or expulsion

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING (POLICY #5512)

Recognizing that a safe and civil environment is necessary for pupils to learn and achieve high academic standards, acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying are prohibited at Tenakill Middle School. This means any gesture or written, verbal, or physical act that:

- * Is motivated by an actual or perceived characteristic;
- * A reasonable person should know will have a damaging effect on pupils or property; or
- * Will cause disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

Considered with their level of development, maturity, and demonstrated capabilities, pupils are expected to conduct themselves with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other pupils and school equipment. They are required to conform to the reasonable standards of socially acceptable behavior, respect the person, property, and rights of others, obey constituted authority, and respond to school district teaching, support, and administrative staff.

Concluding whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a determination based on all of the facts and surrounding circumstances. An appropriate consequence will be determined after meaningful consideration of these factors. Consequences and appropriate remedial action for pupils who commit acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying may range from behavioral interventions, up to and including, suspension or expulsion.

Please refer to the District Policy #5512, which is posted on the District website, for further information and/or details regarding the above, as well as reporting and follow-up procedures.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment is prohibited by law. Sexual harassment shall consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when made by any member of the school staff to a pupil, when made by any member of the school staff to another member, or when made by any pupil to another pupil or staff member.