

North Shore Schools

CODE OF CONDUCT (STUDENT VERSION)

INTRODUCTION:

All students at North Shore Schools are expected to make sure that everyone is treated with kindness, respect and equality. We believe that each person should be encouraged to be responsible for his/her behavior and that our schools should be a safe and caring place for all students.

In June of 2012, the New York State legislature adopted a law called the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA). This law must be followed by every school and student in NYS. The purpose of this law is to make sure that all students have a safe and supportive environment that is free from harassment and discrimination based on someone's race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic origin, religion, religious practice, disability, sex, sexual orientation, and gender. In order to achieve this goal, this Code of Conduct should be adhered to by all students, school personnel, parents and visitors when at school or on school property.

By clearly defining the expectations for acceptable conduct, identifying possible consequences and making sure that discipline, when necessary, is given promptly and fairly, the district hopes to ensure that all of our schools will be in conformance with NYS law and be safe and caring learning environments.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

All students have the right to be treated fairly with respect and dignity on an equal basis regardless of race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity), or sex. Under the DASA legislation, our school is required by law to ensure that these rights are protected.

All students have the responsibility to:

- Be respectful to everyone. I.e. treat others the way you would want to be treated.
- Contribute to a safe and orderly school environment by following all school rules.
- Be a person of good character. Have the courage to do what's right and be a good citizen (Stand up for what is right!).
- Attend school every day (unless legally excused) on time and be prepared to learn.
- Use good communication skills. I.e. control your anger, choose words carefully, and think before you act.
- Dress appropriately for school and school functions.
- Take responsibility for their own education. I.e. Ask questions when you don't understand something, be prepared, and seek help if you need it.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR:

All students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately and with regard for the rights and welfare of other students, school personnel, school property and other members of the school community. The rules of conduct listed below are to make sure that all individuals are safe and the rights and property of others are respected.

Students who violate these school rules will be required to accept penalties for their behavior.

Students will face consequences, including possible suspension from school when they:

1. Engage in bullying or harassing behaviors.

- a) Discriminate, and/or harass on the basis of race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, sex, gender, sexual orientation, or disability, and thereby significantly interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, conduct, and/or mental, emotional, or physical well-being.
- b) Bully (physically, verbally, socially) or cyber-bully (taking place in or effecting the school environment).
- c) Intimidate, harass, tease, taunt, haze, and/or threaten to hurt another student or adult.

2. Engage in disorderly behavior.

- a) Run or scream in the hallway, lunchroom, auditorium, bathroom, or any classroom in the building.
- b) Use foul language, including cursing, swearing, or sexually suggestive language or rude hand gestures.
- c) Misbehave on a school bus. This includes following the instructions of the bus driver at all times.
- d) Trespass onto school property without permission from the administrator in charge of the building.
- e) Engage in any behavior that interferes with the normal activities of the school community.
- f) Misuse computer/electronic communications, including using (without permission) computers, software or internet accounts, using inappropriate websites, or any other inappropriate use of technology.

3. Engage in conduct that shows disrespect to any child or adult in the school, or that is disruptive to the school.

- a) Fail to listen to direction of the principal, teachers, or any school employees in charge of students.
- b) Leave the classroom or school building without adult permission and/or supervision.
- c) Failure to report to an assigned detention.

4. Engage in violent behavior.

- a) Hit, kick, punch, bite, scratch, or do any type of physical harm to another student or any adult in the school building.
- b) Carry a weapon into the school including any object that can harm another person or that is seen as dangerous by the administrator of the school.
- c) Threaten to use a weapon or to commit an act of violence (i.e. hit, kick, punch, scratch).
- d) Damage or destroy personal property of another student or of an adult. This includes graffiti and destruction of school materials.

5. Engage in dangerous behavior that affects the safety or health (mental or physical) of others.

- a) Lie to an adult in school.
- b) Steal the property of the school or any person in the school.
- c) Make false statements about others that could harm their reputation.
- d) Smoke or use, possess, distribute, sell or exchange alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs on school property.
- e) Inappropriate using or sharing of prescription and/or over-the-counter drugs.
- f) Gambling.
- g) Selling, using, or having obscene material.
- h) Indecent exposure.
- i) Making a false report of fire or other catastrophe, misuse of 911, or discharging a fire extinguisher without cause.
- j) Using abusive language, cursing or swearing.

- k) Hazing (Intimidation). Trying to get someone to do something by using intimidation, peer pressure, and/or threats to leave them out of any school sponsored activity, organization, club or team.
- l) Misbehaving on the school bus (i.e. pushing, shoving, fighting, screaming, vandalism, or throwing items out of a window).

6. Engage in academic misbehavior

- a) Cheat on a test or assignment.
- b) Copy the work of another student or source without permission.
- c) Changing grades or records without permission.
- d) Assisting another student in any of the above actions.

CONSEQUENCES:

The logical consequences for the above student misbehavior(s) may include the following:

- a) A conference with a staff member, administrator, or both to serve as a warning.
- b) A letter of apology to be written by the child and signed by the parent/guardian of the child.
- c) A phone call by either a staff member or an administrator to the child's parent/guardian.
- d) A written notice to both student and parent/guardian.
- e) Detention.
- f) A formal behavior contract (agreement) to be developed by school personnel with parental input.
- g) Removal from an activity (i.e. bus, after school club, classroom, etc.)
- h) Suspension (short or long term) from an activity.
- i) Suspension from school (short-term, long-term, or permanent).

If an incident is considered to be an act of bullying, discrimination, or harassment, the principal will consult the Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC). If the act is found to be an act of bullying, harassment and/or discrimination, a formal incident report will be completed, signed by the principal, and appropriate disciplinary measures taken. There is an assigned Dignity Act Coordinator for each elementary school of the district.

DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

All students with disabilities are expected to follow the above Code of Conduct. The North Shore Central School District is required by law to follow the Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) of students with disabilities and must handle all disciplinary cases under IDEA and Article 89.

GLOSSARY

The following are definitions for some of the terms used in this document:

“Bullying” is unwanted aggressive behavior that is done on purpose and has the potential of being repeated over time. By going after someone to make him/her feel bad, the bully has a real or perceived sense of power. Bullying usually involves the following characteristics:

- An imbalance of power: children who bully use their power, such as physical strength, getting hold of embarrassing information, or popularity, to control or harm others. The imbalance of power can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- Intent to cause harm: the person bullying has a goal of causing harm.
- Repetition: bullying behaviors usually happen more than once or have the possibility of happening more than once.

Examples of bullying include, but are not limited to:

- Physical bullying (hitting, punching, shoving, kicking, pinching, spitting, tripping, pushing, taking or breaking someone's things and making mean or rude hand gestures).
- Verbal bullying (teasing, name-calling, inappropriate sexual comments, taunting, threatening to cause harm, using vulgar or abusive language, cursing or swearing, as well as slurs that refer to race, color, weight, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability).
- Social bullying (leaving someone out on purpose, spreading rumors about someone, gossiping, forming cliques, telling other children not to be friends with someone, and embarrassing someone in public).

“Cyber-bullying” is when you use technology, like email, instant messages, cell phones, blogs, chat rooms, pagers, and gaming systems, to purposefully make someone feel bad or feel threatened.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Sending hurtful, rude, or mean text messages, or emails to others.
- Spreading rumors or lies about others by text message or email or posting on social networking sites.
- Creating or sharing pictures, websites, videos, or social media profiles, including fake profiles that embarrass, humiliate or make fun of others or impersonate someone else.

“Consequence” is something that happens as a result of an action. One's actions have reactions!

“Dignity Act” is a New York State law that says that all students should be respected and treated fairly at all times by other students and adults and should not be made fun of or excluded because of their race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex.

“Discrimination” is not being respectful or fair to someone because of his or her race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex.

“Employee” is any person who works in or for the school.

“Harassment” is when someone bothers another person by verbal threats, threatening gestures, or intimidation, thereby causing a student to fear for his/her physical and/or emotional safety.

“Hazing” is when someone forces a person to do something dangerous or embarrassing in order for him/her to be accepted into a group.

“Intimidation” is frightening someone in order to make him/her do something.

“School Property” means any area in and around the school, which is used by the school, including the playground, the bathrooms, hallways, lunchroom, athletic fields or the school bus.

“Taunting” is making fun of, insulting, or heckling another person.