



While our “Code of Conduct” (below) lists a variety of unacceptable behaviours and processes in place to address inappropriate conduct, we expect our students not merely to comply with the “bottom line”, but rather to act in a socially responsible manner and contribute positively to the school environment and community-at-large . . . and we’re pleased to see countless examples of that positive school spirit at Monterey on a daily basis! In this regard, we work proactively on furthering the development of students’ personal and social responsibility, with our vision in this regard encapsulated by our “STORM” acronym:

Keep Safe
Think Team
Own Your Actions
Show Respect
Make A Difference

Code of Conduct

Purpose: While we proactively foster the development of students’ personal and social responsibility toward the characteristics encapsulated in our “STORM” acronym (see above for details), we also have basic expectations in order to establish and maintain a school environment that is as safe and conducive to learning as possible, free from discrimination, harassment, drugs, and violence. The following “Code of Conduct” exists to clarify these expectations as well as processes in place to address misconduct:

Expectations: Students are expected to behave in a manner that respects oneself, others, and the environment. Unacceptable conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Behaviours that disrupt the learning environment
- Behaviours that jeopardize the safety of oneself or others
- Use of language or gestures that are offensive or inappropriate in a school environment
- Acts of dishonesty or defiance toward those in a position of authority
- Inappropriate clothing, text, and images. In that regard:
 - Text and graphics/symbols/images on clothing or elsewhere should not represent products, activities, or ideologies that are offensive and/or inappropriate at school
 - Tops (shirt, etc.) & bottoms (pants, shorts, skirts) need to overlap one another
 - When indoors, avoid wearing items impeding eye contact (i.e. hat brims, hoods, sunglasses)
- Pop and caffeinated drinks (and other junk food) are discouraged, and if brought to school, must be of personal-portion size (i.e. max. 500 ml), unless for a teacher-coordinated class celebration
- Theft or damage to property, including graffiti
- Acts of discrimination, as defined by the *BC Human Rights Code* which, to “promote a climate of understanding and mutual respect where all are equal in dignity and rights”, specifically prohibits discrimination based on factors such as race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital or family status, physical or mental disability, age, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity
- Violation of our expectations regarding the use of digital technology. In that regard:
 - Use of digital technology must be in accordance with district regulations for acceptable use of digital technology (see District Regulation 5131.9 regarding “Student Acceptable Use of Electronic Communication Systems in Schools” at www.sd61.bc.ca for details)

- Digital devices (i.e. computers, chromebooks, iPads, laptops, cellphones, iPods, etc.) may only be used during the school day when permitted by a supervising staff member for particular purposes, and used for those purposes only
- At all other times, “pocket-sized” devices (i.e. cell phones, iPods, etc.) must be off (e.g. no sounds) and locked in the student’s own locker*
- Personal electronic devices (as with other possessions) are brought to school at students’ (and their parents’) own risk of loss, theft, or damage, and the school will not be responsible for the cost of repairs or replacement
- Possession of weapons, alcohol, tobacco, or drugs
- Acts of harassment, intimidation, or physical violence
- Being a “bystander” to significant misconduct - that is, being present in a manner that actively or passively supports or encourages conduct that is unsafe, illegal, or harmful to people or property
- Acts of hostility and/or acts or threats of retaliation toward anyone reporting a concern

While the above list states a number of unacceptable behaviours, we expect our students *not* merely to comply with the “bottom line”, but rather to act in a socially responsible manner and contribute positively to the school environment and the community-at-large, with older students demonstrating increased maturity and providing a good example to younger students.

Consequences: When addressing inappropriate behaviour, we generally provide students with opportunities and guidance to take responsibility for their actions, fix and learn from their mistakes, and resolve issues in a constructive manner. In determining the consequences for violations of our code of conduct – ranging from community service, mediation, and problem-solving conversations, to confiscation and/or restriction of items at school, to behavioural goal-setting and tracking logs, to detentions and suspensions – the nature, severity, and frequency of a student’s misconduct, individual factors relevant to that student (i.e. maturity, personal/family circumstances, special needs, etc.), and the student’s level of constructive engagement in restorative processes and collaborative problem-solving, are all taken into consideration.

Notification: Depending on the nature, severity, and frequency of the behavioural concern(s), school personnel may notify a student’s parents/guardians of incidents of misconduct by telephone, email, or other means. School administration will send a formal letter to a student’s parents/ guardians and the Associate Superintendent regarding any out-of-school suspensions. Police and/or other agencies will be notified of known or suspected misconduct as required by policy or law, or if their involvement is deemed by school administration to be warranted in addressing an incident or concern.

*Parents/Guardians: If you need to communicate with your child during the school day (i.e. to check-in or make logistical arrangements), please refrain from calling/texting your child directly; rather, if you have a message for your child, please contact the school office at 250-598-4589. Conversely, students wishing to contact their parents or others during the school day are expected to seek permission from a staff member to do so on a school phone rather than using a personal electronic device during the school day. In general, we ask that you make your arrangements in advance of the school day or after school, so that student routines are not interrupted during the school day and our middle school youth further develop their organizational skills and independence.