



Keep Safe

Think Team

Own Your Actions

Show Respect

Make A Positive 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. We also 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. Older students are expected to demonstrate increased maturity and provide a good example to younger students. Unacceptable conduct includes, but is not limited to:

1. Behaviours that jeopardize the safety of oneself or others
2. Use of language, gestures, images, and/or symbols considered offensive or inappropriate in school environment
3. Acts of harassment, intimidation, or physical violence while on a school-related activity and/or toward any member of our school community
4. Behaviours that significantly disrupt the learning environment such as:
  - a. Refusal to move, in a non-disruptive a manner, to an alternate location/activity when directed by staff to do so
  - b. Not remaining in this alternate location in a non-disruptive manner until permitted by staff to return to one's regular location and try again
5. Acts of discrimination, as defined by the *BC Human Rights Code* which, in order to "promote a climate of understanding & mutual respect where all are equal in dignity and rights", specifically prohibits discrimination based on factors such as race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, marital or family status, religion, physical or mental disability, age, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity
6. Wearing clothing, text, and images that:
  - a. Promotes drugs or alcohol
  - b. Displays offensive or discriminatory language or images
  - c. Poses potential risk to one's physical health or safety (e.g. inappropriate footwear in PE)
7. Pop, caffeinated drinks, and other junk food are discouraged. If brought to school, it must be a personal-portion size (i.e. max. 500 ml), unless for a teacher-coordinated class celebration
8. Possession of weapons (note: unless brought to school with a teacher's permission for a specific pre-authorized purpose, a knife brought to school by a student will be considered a weapon)
9. Possession, selling, distributing or being under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco (including e-cigarettes or vaporizers), and/or materials or devices to use these substances
10. Theft or damage to property, including graffiti
11. Digital devices (i.e. computers, Chromebooks, iPads, laptops, cellphones, iPods, earbuds, etc.):
  - a. May only be used during the school day when permitted by a supervising staff member and for particular purposes
  - b. Except during class-time for pre-authorized and supervised use by a staff member, "pocket-sized" digital devices (i.e. cell phones, iPods, earbuds etc.) must be off (e.g. no sounds) and locked in the student's own locker
  - c. Parents/Guardians, please refrain from calling/texting your child directly. If you need to communicate with your child during the school day (i.e. to check-in or make logistical arrangements), please contact the school office at 250-598-4589; 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

- d. Students needing to contact their parents, guardians, 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
12. Duplicity or lying to a staff member
13. Violation of our expectations regarding use of digital technology; in that regard, the following is forbidden:
  - a. Unauthorized photography (including video) or posting of images/video by students
  - b. Online harassment, including disparaging comments about anyone in our school community
  - c. Purposely accessing or posting material that is inappropriate at school
14. Personal electronic devices (as with other possessions) are brought to school at the students' (and parents') own risk of loss, theft, or damage. The school is not be responsible for the cost of repairs or replacement
15. Going off-campus or to any unauthorized location without staff member permission
16. Being a "bystander" to significant misconduct, for example, being present in a manner that actively or passively supports or encourages conduct that is unsafe, illegal, or harmful to people or property
17. Words of hostility, threats and/or acts of retaliation:
  - a. Toward anyone reporting a concern, and/or
  - b. In relation to how the concern was addressedNote that (whether online or in person) making comments to or about peers involved in or reporting misconduct will be viewed as a form of harassment or retaliation

## **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 consequences for violations of our code of conduct, we take into consideration the nature, severity, and frequency of the student's misconduct, degree of premeditation and other individual factors (such as maturity, personal/family circumstances, extraordinary needs, etc.) as well as the student's level of constructive engagement in restorative processes and collaborative problem-solving. Consequences may include, but are not limited to:

- Problem-solving conversations
- Mediation and conflict resolution
- Community service
- Confiscation and/or restriction of items at school
- Behavioural goal-setting and/or tracking logs
- Detentions and/or loss of permission to participate in a special activity/event/fieldtrip/etc.
- Various tiers of suspension

## **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 also inform and 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.