

DR. KNOX MIDDLE SCHOOL

Student Code of Conduct

Revised October 11, 2016



At Dr. Knox Middle School, we recognize that each student and situation is unique and we will always strive to ensure that our school is a safe, caring and orderly environment in which to learn and work. As students age and mature, the expectations for acceptable behaviour will increase accordingly. The code of conduct at Dr. Knox Middle School is based on the following balance of rights and responsibilities.

Rights	Responsibilities
<p>Students have the right to learn.</p>	<p>Students have the responsibility to actively participate and be responsible learners.</p> <p>Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>attending classes consistently and being on time</i> • <i>coming prepared for class and ready to work</i> • <i>putting forth a strong effort and participating actively</i> • <i>staying focussed and not distracting others</i> • <i>completing assignments and staying organized</i>
<p>Students have the right to be respected.</p>	<p>Students have the responsibility to respect others (not to bully, tease, pick on, or harass others).</p> <p>Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>being polite and listening actively to others</i> • <i>being welcoming, kind and inclusive of others</i> • <i>being accepting and respectful of differences</i> • <i>being honest and trustworthy</i> • <i>being a helpful bystander, not a hurtful bystander</i> • <i>promptly reporting incidents of bullying, harassment or intimidation to a trusting adult</i>
<p>Students have the right to be safe.</p>	<p>Students have the responsibility to behave in a safe manner and to protect the safety of others.</p> <p>Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>walking calmly; no running in the hallways</i> • <i>staying in the designated areas</i> • <i>playing safely</i> • <i>reporting dangerous situations to staff, including possession of banned items</i>
<p>Students have the right to privacy and security of personal space.</p>	<p>Students have the responsibility to respect the property and privacy of others (students, staff and community).</p> <p>Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>not touching other people's property without permission</i> • <i>respecting personal boundaries</i> • <i>taking and sharing digital images and/or videos respectfully and with direct permission only</i>
<p>Students have the right to use student equipment and property.</p>	<p>Students have the responsibility to use the equipment and property according to all applicable rules and with care and respect.</p> <p>Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>cleaning up properly including garbage and recycling</i> • <i>asking before borrowing items</i> • <i>returning materials promptly and neatly</i> • <i>showing respect for spaces, furniture and equipment</i>

Responsible Use of Technology

We recognize that many students often use social media networks, cell phones and other devices to communicate with family and friends. These are helpful communication tools; however, these tools also present inherent risks to the safety and well-being of students if the technology is used inappropriately. If students choose to use social media networks, cell phones, iPods, laptops, tablets or other related technology equipment, they must abide by the school's Code of Conduct and School District 23's policy for [Student Use of Electronic and Social Media Communication \(Policy 486\)](#). Personal devices may only be used during instructional time at the discretion of the classroom teacher. If at any point, students' use of technology interferes with or distracts from the learning of others or the safety and well-being of others, schools may intervene and issue consequences in relation to the outlined school code of conduct and district policy. Schools will also not be held responsible for any misplaced, lost, stolen, or broken items brought to school by students.



Inappropriate Behaviours:

Inappropriate behaviour can consist of, but is not limited to:

- *interfering with the learning of others, including their emotional well-being*
- *rudeness, swearing, defiant behaviour*
- *acts of bullying, harassment, intimidation or retribution*
- *lack of respect for others including discrimination in any form, teasing and name calling*
- *spreading rumours and gossiping (in person and also electronically)*
- *physical violence including fighting (or play fighting)*
- *throwing objects (rocks, sticks, snowballs etc.)*
- *littering*
- *running in the halls*
- *public displays of affection in a romantic or sexual nature*
- *wearing clothing in violation of dress-code guidelines*
- *theft or property damage*
- *truancy and/or leaving school grounds without authorized permission*
- *possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances including but not limited to drugs, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vaporizers, lighters and/or other related paraphernalia*
- *possession or use of weapons*

Forms of unacceptable conduct cited above are only some examples and not an all-inclusive list.

Major Infractions:

The school's administration will become involved with students regarding major infractions of the Code of Conduct (i.e. smoking including e-cigarettes and vapourizers, drugs, alcohol, fighting/physical violence, weapons, vandalism, acts of intimidation or retribution and overt or repeated defiance). Parents will be contacted and informed of disciplinary procedures involving their own children. A suspension may occur as a result of a major violation. The RCMP will be contacted if necessary and an indefinite suspension may result. Such incidents will be dealt with in accordance with School Board Policy and Regulations on Discipline. In a report of illegal or dangerous acts, the school reserves the right to search a student, locker, phone, vehicle and belongings.

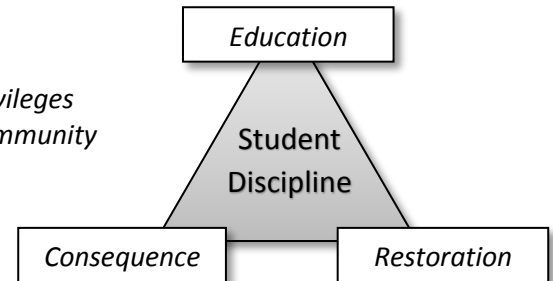


Consequences for Unacceptable Conduct:

Consequences will be applied in a fair and consistent manner, with consideration given to individual rights, responsibilities, age, maturity and individual needs of the student. Frequency and severity of the behaviour will also influence the school's response. Whenever possible, consequences will be preventative and restorative rather than punitive in nature.

Some examples of consequences for inappropriate behaviour include:

- *review of the expectations and a timeout/reflection opportunity*
- *review of the expectations, written assignment and/or loss of privileges*
- *restorative acts to repair harm and/or give back to the school community*
- *parents are notified*
- *meeting with parents*
- *consultation with police and/or fire department as needed*
- *definite suspension (up to and including ten school days, in school or at home)*
- *indefinite suspension (in excess of ten school days). Indefinite suspensions are referred to the Board's District Suspension Review Committee*



Students are expected to abide by the school code of conduct when travelling to and from the school and also during extra-curricular activities. Accordingly, students may be disciplined for violations which occur off of school property and outside of instructional hours if such violations adversely affect students or the operation of any school.

Safe and Caring School Environments:

Are free from acts of:

- *bullying, cyber-bullying, harassment and marginalization*
- *threat and intimidation*
- *violence in any form*
- *abuse in any form*
- *discrimination in any form including race, colour, gender, gender identity and expression, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, ancestry or national origin*
- *retribution against a person who has reported incidents*

Do not tolerate the presence of:

- *theft and vandalism*
- *intoxicating or banned substances*
- *weapons or replica (toy) weapons and explosives*
- *intruders or trespassers - all visitors to the school must first report to the office*



Notification

As circumstances warrant, administrators or teachers have a responsibility to advise other parties following a behaviour incident:

- *parent of a student exhibiting major behaviours*
- *parent of a student who has been involved in conduct-related incidents*
- *District staff including Assistant Superintendents, Safe Schools Team Members and Superintendent of Schools*
- *Ministerial agencies and/or School Resource Officers (RCMP)*

Dr. Knox Middle School Code of Conduct has been structured to align with and adhere to the standards outlined in:

- *The School Act 85(1.1) 168 (2) (s.1) Provincial Standards Ministerial Order 276/07, effective October 17, 2007*
- *BC Human Rights Code, (SD 23 Policy 450 and Regulation No. 450 - Discrimination Toward and by Students)*
- *Central Okanagan School District Policy 455 and Regulation 455 - Discipline*
- *Central Okanagan School District Policy 486 - Student Use of Electronic and Social Media Communication*
- *BC Ministry of Education: Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools A Guide (Nov. 2008) and Developing and Reviewing Codes of Conduct: A Companion (Aug. 2007), both found at <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sco/>*

Please refer to our Student/Parent Handbook for other important procedural information at Dr. Knox Middle School.