

Central Middle School Code of Conduct
2009/2010
Revised September 2009

Statement of Purpose

Central Middle School promotes the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law – prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation – in respect of discriminatory publication and discrimination in accommodation, service and facility in the school environment.

Expectations

The school expects that pupils to be neat, clean, punctual and diligent in their studies. The School Act states that pupils must comply with the regulations of the school and the code of conduct.

It is expected that students will model appropriate behavior and the modeling should be progressively more apparent as students mature. Because of the narrow band of ages that attend CMS, we will have similar expectations for both grade levels.

School Rules

All children have a right to a school environment that provides for both learning and safety. In order for the school to be a place where everyone can work and play cooperatively and harmoniously our rules focus on the three areas of Safety, Respect and Responsibility. Bullying is not tolerated and has been a focus of our staff for a number of years.

Students are guaranteed safety for themselves and others. They must be respectful of the rights and property of others. They must be responsible for their own behavior and belongings. Courtesy and good manners are expected at all times.

Students Expectations:

- use appropriate public manners
- show good sportsmanship and respect for people and equipment

- dress appropriately for the school setting: clothing with drug, alcohol and tobacco logos, shirts which bare the mid-drift and back, and baseball caps are not worn in the school.

- conform to the rules of the school. Students are subject to school discipline on the school premises, going to and returning from school, at all games and school functions.

Maintaining a safe environment:

- the school will treat seriously behavior or communication that discriminates based on race, color, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation (prohibited grounds set out in the BC Human Rights Code)

- students must walk inside the school building
- students must obey the persons on duty
- students are not allowed to bring knives, play guns or swords, firecrackers, explosive caps, laser pointers, matches, lighters, cigarettes or any dangerous toys or substances

Maintaining an appropriate school environment:

Students are not to bring/use:

- electronic games which contain sexual or violent themes
- cellular phones (may be used outside of the school)
- recorded music with inappropriate lyrics (sex/drugs/violence/profanity)
- magazines which contain advertisements depicting nudity or partial nudity
- magazines which depict weapons or violent themes

Maintaining a healthy environment:

- students are not to take food into the washrooms
- students are expected to wash their hands with soap whenever they use the washroom and at other times throughout the day
- students are asked to be sensitive to nut allergies, and help protect all students from contact with nuts & by products.

Maintaining an orderly environment:

- in the mornings, students are allowed in the school if they are abiding by the school rules
- students are expected to move quietly in the hallways with a minimum amount of noise
- students who stay for lunch must eat in the designated areas
- students who leave the campus during lunch must return in time to be ready for class
- students are expected to go straight home after school unless they are being directly supervised by a teacher

School Grounds

We are trying to educate children to understand that most conflicts can be solved without fighting. Supervision is scheduled to assist students in meeting the restorative practice model that we use at CMS.

- students must not “play” fight or wrestle
- students must play properly on the equipment
- students must play in a friendly and sharing manner
- students must not write on or damage any property

Out of Bounds

For safety reasons, students are not permitted in the following places unless accompanied by a staff member:

- office
- computer lab
- library
- gymnasium/stage
- storage rooms
- staff room
- phys. ed equipment room
- learning assistance room
- staff parking lots
- custodial rooms
- furnace rooms

Bullying

Harassment in any form will not be tolerated. Harassment may include bullying, violence and verbal assaults.

Definitions:

Bullying is recurring attempts to threaten, frighten, tyrannize, acts of implied or real aggression, verbal and/or non-verbal aggression, and/or social alienation where one individual attempts to exert power or control over another.

These acts may be but are not limited to the following: physical violence as defined below, mocking, name-calling, dirty looks, teasing, intimidating phone calls, racist or sexist comments, daring others, threats, coercion, extortion, gossiping, embarrassing, and social exclusion.

Violence is a harmful physical act directed against another individual or property.

These acts may be but are not limited to the following: pushing, shoving, spitting, kicking, hitting, threatening with any weapon, throwing anything at another person, defacing property, and stealing.

Initiatives and Consequences designed to decrease bullying incidences:

- Keep the front entryway clear of students
- Students to enter the school upon the bell in a quiet and orderly fashion
- Teachers will meet their students in the hallways in front of their classrooms after breaks
- Keep risk areas locked

Supervision: Supervisors will...

- be consciously aware at all times, scanning student behavior

- be aware and apply special consideration to students with special needs who are unable to comply with expectations due to having a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, or emotional or behavior nature
- watch for changed patterns or dynamics with students
- start supervision on time
- keep the main entryway clear at all times
- keep students out of secluded areas on the school ground

Problem Solving Strategies: We will...

- teach problem solving strategies (7 habits of Effective Teens, Restorative Practice)
- reinforce and refer to student problem solving boards outside
- encourage students to use supervisors when needed, and to know when it is needed
- encourage students to deal with issues when they happen, not several days later
- use the classroom meeting model in all classrooms
- communicate procedures for anonymous and confidential reporting of bullying incidents when necessary
- Steps to Respect anti-bullying program will be taught in each classroom each year
- Skills Streaming program will be taught to each student each year through the prep program
- Bullying information will continue to be sent home to parents in regular newsletters

Consequences

We will not tolerate fighting...all incidents, whether verbal or physical, must be dealt with in the following manner.

The system of behavior warnings are:

- teachers have systems in place to deal with the majority of the problems at the classroom level...these include classroom meetings, conflict resolution and conflict management training.

- students who are persistently disobedient, engage in bullying activities, refuse to do work or continue to interfere with the learning of others, are sent to the Principal to discuss the problem behavior and ways to deal with it.

- various types of limited attendance, behavioral contracts and/or suspension may result...these may include conflict resolution, restricted access on the playground, engaging in learning about bullying behaviors, referrals to the school counselor for anger management, recess and lunch times altered, in-school suspensions, out of school suspensions, suspensions to the Board.

If we reach a point where specific rules are required for specific children, cooperation between the home and the school will be sought as this is more beneficial to the student and has a greater chance of success for changing behavior.

The school and the board will take all reasonable steps to prevent retaliation against a student who has made a complaint of a breach of conduct

In Section ii of the School Act it states: If a decision of an employee of a board significantly affects the education, health or safety of a student, the parent of the student or the student may within a reasonable time from the date that the parent or student was informed of the decision, appeal that decision to the board.

The School Board has developed a bylaw to provide for appeals under this section. These appeal procedures may be obtained from the School Board Office.