

Mahoning County High School Code of Conduct

It is the responsibility of all students to follow the rules, regulations, and policies of the Mahoning County High School. This handbook provides each student with details of behavioral expectations. The intent of the Student Code of Conduct is to ensure a healthy learning environment by intervening in continual misconduct.

Each student will adhere to a high standard of behavior and will, at all times, display courtesy and civility to one another and to faculty and staff. Any behavior which disrupts the ability of another student to learn, or of a faculty to teach, cannot be tolerated. We expect our students to BE Respectful, Responsible, Honest, Motivated, and Kind.

The administration reserves the right to use its discretion in enforcing the rules. Due to a broad range of behaviors, varying circumstances, and a sincere desire to modify misbehavior, the administration will use prudence in assigning consequences when a student engages in behavior contrary to the Student Code of Conduct. **** These actions are guidelines and each infraction will be reviewed and handled individually according to the number of infractions a student has and the circumstances. Final decisions are at the discretion of the Administration.**

Types of Interventions for Behaviors that Violate School Policies and School Community Expectations:

Verbal Warning/Redirection: The teacher or staff person will warn the student verbally about his/her behavior and redirect his/her actions.

Written Warning: The teacher or staff person will write the student's action on a disciplinary referral, which is then given to the Coordinator who will determine the outcome.

Parent Notification: The parent or guardian will be contacted regarding the child's behavior(s).

Parent Conference: The parent or guardian will attend a conference with an administrator to discuss the student's behavior and consequences.

Referral to Counselor: The student will attend counseling sessions with the School Counselor, the number of sessions to be determined by the School Counselor.

Mediation: A mediator will be assigned as an impartial third party in appropriate situations to assist in problem-solving and help resolve the issues.

Meeting/Discussion with Coordinator/Administration: The student will meet with the Coordinator to discuss the student's behavior.

Lunch Detention: The student will spend his/her lunch period in the ISS room eating his/her lunch and doing the assigned activities.

Restitution: Compensation for loss, damage, or injury caused to another student or staff member.

In-School Suspension (ISS): The student will spend the school day in the ISS room doing school work and other assigned activities rather than attending his/her classes.

Police Notification: Offenses that violate the law may result in notification of law enforcement for possible official charges.

Student and/or Parent/Guardian Liable for Damages: If the offense involves breaking or damaging property then the student and/or parent/guardian will be responsible for paying the repairs or replacement of the property.

Community Service: The student may be assigned community service within the building for incidents involving destruction of school property or vandalism in the school.

Referral to Mahoning County Juvenile Court Services: In lieu of formal charges for offenses committed at school, mandatory parent/guardian and student participation in specialized court programming will be set by the school.

Behaviors that Violate the School Policies and School Community Expectations:

Level 1 Behavior: Conduct that disrupts the order of the classroom or school

Cheating: Using, submitting, or attempting to obtain data or answers dishonestly, by deceit, or by means other than those authorized by the teacher.

Disorderly Conduct: Engaging in minor physical or verbal altercations. Insulting, taunting, or challenging another person under circumstances in which such conduct is likely to provoke a violent or disruptive response.

Dress Code: Dressing or grooming in a manner which disrupts the teaching and learning of others as determined by MCHS Dress Code Policy.

Gambling: Playing any game or chance or skill for money or items of value.

Indecent/Objectionable Language: Using language that is socially unacceptable, offensive, or making improper gestures in the presence of others.

Littering: Throwing of paper, trash, or other materials on the floor inside the school buildings or grounds.

Food/Drink: No outside food or drink is permitted inside the building. During lunch, students must finish their food and drink. NO food or drink is permitted outside of the cafeteria.

Truancy, Class Cutting, and Tardiness: Unexcused absences, cutting class or arriving at school or class after the designated time.

Ohio Law defines truancy as, "missing school without an appropriate excuse from a parent or guardian." The law identifies two types of truancy:

A *habitual truant* is absent from school without a legitimate excuse for five or more consecutive days, seven or more days in one month, or twelve or more days in one school year.

A *chronic truant* is absent from school without a legitimate excuse for seven or more consecutive school days, ten or more school days in one school month, or fifteen or more school days in a school year.

Disciplinary Actions for Level 1 Behavior include but are not limited to:

verbal reprimand, special assignments, notification to parent(s), student mediation, written discipline note, conference with student and/or parent(s), temporary separation from peers, schedule changes, lunch

detention, in-school suspension, loss of class privileges, restitution, counselor referral, or administrative referral.

Level 2 Behavior: Illegal and/or serious misconduct (not health/life threatening)

Damage/Destruction of Property: Causing, attempting to cause, or threatening to cause damage to school or private property.

Extortion/Coercion: Obtaining or attempting to obtain money or property from an unwilling person or forcing an individual to act by either physical force or intimidation (threat).

Fighting: Engaging in physical conflict with another person, threatening serious harm to another person, or engaging in violent or turbulent behavior. We have a "no tolerance, door-to-door" policy, which means that if students engage in a fight, either in school, while walking to or from school, while being transported on the bus, or at any school function, both students will suffer disciplinary action.

Insubordination: Knowingly refusing to comply with reasonable school rule or with reasonable instructions of authorized school personnel, including repeated Level 1 violations and multiple offenses.

Hazing: Doing any act or coercing anything, including the victim, to do any act of initiation upon any student or other organization that cause or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subject to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy.

Gang-Related Activity: Any gang related issues as any manner of grooming, hairstyle, clothing, jewelry, or other accessories that may indicate membership; use of gang slogans, hand signals, or nicknames that indicate affiliation or association with a gang are prohibited.

Obscenities/Verbal Abuse/Vulgarity/Threats: Directing abusive, obscene, vulgar, or threatening language, written or verbal, toward school personnel, or any member of the school community. This shall include use of obscene gestures and signs.

Disruptive Behavior: Engaging in any conduct for the purpose of disrupting or obstructing any lawful mission, process, or function of the school or a school-related activity.

Sexual Misconduct: Intentionally touching another person inappropriately or intimately, including any conduct involving sexual harassment.

Sexual Harassment: Such behavior, which will not be tolerated, can be defined in the following ways:

Verbal- the making of written or verbal sexual comments, jokes of a sexual nature, sexual propositions, or threats to another student or any authorized personnel.

Nonverbal or Gestures- the placement of sexually suggestive objects, pictures, or cartoons in the school environment, insulting gestures or sounds to another student or any authorized personnel.

Physical Contact- threatening to or causing unwanted touching or contact including patting,

pinching, pushing the body, or coerced sexual intercourse with another student or any authorized personnel.

Theft: Stealing or attempting to steal school or private property or participating in the theft or attempted theft of school or private property.

Trespassing: Being in a school building or on school grounds without permission or refusing to comply with a request to leave school premises.

Possession or Use of Alcohol or Drugs: The use or possession of any alcohol, drugs, chemicals, or other illegal substances anywhere on the premises by a student at any time is prohibited. The possession of drug paraphernalia is also prohibited. Students suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs will have the parent contacted. The parent/guardian will be instructed to pick up the student, where he/she will be informed of further disciplinary action. Those students who are court sanctioned maybe drug tested at any time if school officials suspect that a student is under the influence of alcohol or drugs. School officials are authorized to allow the use of trained dogs on school property for the purpose of detecting controlled substances. This activity may be carried out on a random or periodic basis and/or when reasonable suspicion exists. Furthermore, random searches of lockers, purses, and persons may take place to provide a safe environment for learning.

Use of Tobacco: Smoking, using, or possessing tobacco in any form. Even students over 18 may not possess tobacco products on school property. Possessing lighters or matches.

Electronic Devices: Students are prohibited from having in their possession any electronic device or interactive digital devices such as cell phones, iPods, mp3 players, earbuds, headphones, etc. Electronic devices must be stored in lockers once the student enters the building. Electronic devices are not permitted in the cafeteria. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Level 3 Behavior: Illegal and/or serious misconduct (life/health threatening)

Arson: Setting fire, or attempting to set fire, to a school building or property located on school grounds, or any property belonging to, rented by, or on loan to the school district, or property (including automobiles) of persons employed by the school, or in attendance at the school.

Assault/Intimidation/Harassment/Bullying: Students who engage in any form of hostile or quarrelsome behavior with another student, or with faculty or staff, including actions such as pushing or shoving, will face disciplinary action. Any intentional written, verbal, graphic, or physical act that a student or group of students exhibit toward another particular student/group of students more than once, that causes mental or physical harm to said student(s), which is sufficiently severe and persistent, so that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s), is considered bullying. Furthermore, cyber bullying is defined as repetitive, hostile behavior with the intent to harm others through the use of information and communication technologies, such as web sites, instant messages, cameras, phones, or iPods. Such behavior

will not be tolerated.

Bomb Threats/False Alarms: Making a knowingly false statement regarding the possession or location of explosive or incendiary materials, or activating the fire alarm system on school property, or reporting a fire when a fire does not exist.

Possession or use of weapons or dangerous instruments: Possessing, handling, transmitting, or using any kind of firearm, knife, razor, club, chain, or other look-a-like or replica object, or item which can be considered a weapon, or used as a weapon, or dangerous instruments including laser pointers. This includes bringing such items into the school or to a school-sponsored activity for another person. It includes having such items at one's desk, or placing them in a locker or vehicle, or hiding place on school property.

Sale of alcohol, drugs, or other chemical control substances: Selling drugs, mood-altering chemicals, or substances (including counterfeit or look-a-like substances), distributing any narcotics, drugs, controlled substances of any kind or alcoholic beverages, or other intoxicant on school property or at school functions. This includes selling such items on school property or at a school-sponsored activity.

Sexual Offenses: Committing any willful and/or deliberate act with the intention of gaining sexual favors, or further acts lewd or lascivious in nature, including acts of indecent exposure. Sexual offenses also include consensual or non-consensual sexual contact or conduct, and posting any inappropriate cell phone pictures, materials, or other pictures on the internet.

Vandalism/Theft: Substantial destruction, defacing, or theft of school or private property.

Inducing Panic/Verbal Threats of Violence: Disrupting school by use of violence, coercion, or threat. This shall include use of violence, coercion, or threat to incite others towards acts of disruption (individual or group related).

Endangering Safety of Students/Staff: Any conduct which imposes a threat to another person's life, health, or seriously disrupts or interferes with the educational process, including gang membership activity.