

JERICO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Student Rights and Responsibilities

2021-2022

The Jericho Middle School Community includes students, teachers, support staff, administrators and parents. The responsibilities of this community are to:

1. Demonstrate honesty, respect and tolerance in dealing with others.
2. Assume responsibility for behavior and learning.
3. Encourage regular and prompt attendance at school.

Middle School students are an integral part of our school community. They have the right to come to school with the expectation that they will be in a safe environment. In order to maintain an orderly and inviting learning environment, students need to:

- Be courteous and respectful to one another as well as to all members of the school community.
- Use appropriate language and avoid racial, ethnic or religious slurs, or any language which might be offensive. This includes harassment, cruel or prolonged teasing, sexual references or physical contact.
- Proceed in the hallways, classrooms and outside grounds in a safe and appropriate manner.
- Arrive at school and move from class to class on time.
- Treat personal and school property with respect.
- Pursue studies honestly.
- Observe individual classroom rules.
- Follow all local, state and federal laws.
- Keep Jericho Middle School free of alcohol, drugs, gambling, playing cards, tobacco products, weapons (including but not limited to, knives of any kind, BB, pellet or paint guns), fireworks, stink bombs, itching powder, matches, lighters, explosives or any other item which could endanger the safety of others.
- Make dress selections that ensure each child's right to a comfortable and safe environment.

Jericho Middle School is defined as - any place under school authority such as classrooms, hallways, cafeterias, sporting events, offices, buses, field trips, and/or after-school activities.

We fully expect that all members of the Jericho Middle School will assume the responsibility to respect people, property, and school rules. For those who do not show such respect, disciplinary action will result. Suspensions and Superintendent's hearings are considered very serious consequences.

The community must be aware that the following actions are subject to severe disciplinary consequences:

Bullying in any form will not be tolerated. Bullying is when someone repeatedly and on purpose says or does mean or hurtful things to another person who has a hard time defending him/herself. **Examples of Bullying** (but not limited to):

Direct: Hitting, taunting, name calling, harassment . . .

Indirect: Rumors, exclusion, cyber bullying . . .

Jericho Middle School has adopted the following rules against bullying:

1. We will not bully others
2. We will try to help students who are bullied
3. We will try to include students who are left out
4. We will tell an adult at school and at home if we know that somebody is being bullied

Harassment – Jericho Middle School does not tolerate harassment in any form; a student who has a concern about a harassment incident should see a counselor or administrator immediately. Harassment based on a person's real or perceived race, color, gender, weight, religious practice, ethnic group, national origin, disability, sex or sexual orientation, should be reported to a counselor or administrator immediately. Sexual harassment includes sexual remarks or behaviors which are uninvited, unwelcome, or unpleasant to others.

The following are prohibited:

- Hazing or membership in exclusive groups/fraternities/sororities.
- Rough physical contact between students.
- Selling, passing, using or possessing alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or other controlled substances or drug paraphernalia on school property.
- Selling, using or possessing dangerous materials or instruments including weapons, fireworks, laser pointers, lighters and/or matches.
- Violent behavior/activity which endangers the health/safety of students on school property.
- Theft or vandalism.
- Arson, bomb scares and false alarms.
- Gambling and card playing is prohibited.
- Leaving campus at any time. Jericho Middle School is a closed campus.
- Tampering, interfering with, or inappropriately using electronic equipment, records and/or materials.

- Improper use of computer hardware, software and services.
- Distributing food and drink to select groups of students (cake, pizza, cupcakes, candy, etc.).
- Insubordination (refusing a reasonable request of an adult) that interferes with the health and safety of others, and/or disrupts the educational process.
- Selling any items without expressed permission of administration.
- Unexcused absences from school.
- Cheating and plagiarism.

In determining consequences for misbehavior, administrators, teachers, and counselors consider a student's history, specific circumstances and the impact of the misbehavior on the school community. Consequences can include, but are not limited to, warnings, parental contacts, apologies, detentions, restitution, denial of bus privileges and removal from extra curricular activities. This also includes athletics and field trips. Severe consequences include suspension and may include a Superintendent's hearing.

DETENTION

Detentions take place in school. They may be scheduled after the school day or during a student's lunch/social period. (Students will take their lunch in the detention room). They may be assigned by a student's subject teacher or by an administrator and may be given for a number of periods or days contingent upon the severity and frequency of the misbehavior. Parents will be notified of after-school detention(s).

SUSPENSION

Students whose conduct threatens the health, safety and welfare of others will be suspended from school and school related activities. In addition, students with serious or repeated incidences of misconduct will be suspended and will not be permitted to participate in field trips, special school activities and/or extracurricular activities.

Students assigned to In-School Suspension (ISS) are carefully supervised and are expected to complete all class assignments that day. Students who are assigned out-of-school suspension are the responsibility of their parents during the suspension time period. Students are responsible for all class work and/or homework assigned during the period of suspension. When assigned an out-of-school suspension, students are not permitted on school property.

SUPERINTENDENT'S HEARING

A Superintendent's hearing may result when other methods of discipline have failed to bring about the desired change in a student's behavior or when the severity of an incident may necessitate a more harsh consequence. A hearing is guaranteed under Education Law and governed by guidelines which are available through the Superintendent's office and the State Education Department.

ADDENDUM

DRESS REQUIREMENTS

Thank you for wearing:

- Clothing that does not interfere with the educational environment
- Clothing that is not a safety hazard
- Clothing that covers the midriff
- Clothing that does not show any undergarments.
- Clothing that does not depict violence, drugs, alcohol, sexual activity, weapons, and/or profanity.
- Clothing that does not promote exclusion. (A group of more than seven students is not permitted to wear clothing or accessories designed for a select group of individuals within our population.)

Appropriate dress is one of the necessary components to create a safe and well-managed school environment that is free of distractions and conducive to learning. Parents have an important role in helping their children make appropriate decisions regarding the safety and well-being of themselves and their peers. As a result, we would ask that Jericho Middle School parents carefully monitor what their child wears to school each day. Students should dress comfortably for school and at the same time, meet the standards of attire set for a learning environment.

Any child dressed inappropriately will be asked to call home and request that a parent bring a change of clothing to school. If this is not possible, a student will be asked to wear a clean shirt supplied by the school. These requirements are made with the best interest of your child in mind.

We anticipate your cooperation and thank you for helping us make the school environment comfortable for everyone.

POLICY FOR EXCLUDING STUDENTS FROM FIELD TRIPS

Attendance on a field trip requires that students be able to conduct themselves in a reasonable manner. Occasionally, a student will present prior behavior that will cause us to consider whether or not the student should be included on the trip.

The Principal has the right to exclude a student from a field trip if the student has one of the following:

1. More than one suspension from school (either in-school or out-of school suspension).
2. More than three disciplinary referrals to the assistant principal for the school year.
3. Documented behavior that indicates that a student would be difficult to

- supervise during a trip outside of the school building. This can include poor conduct grades from three or more subject teachers on a report card.
4. Two or more recorded incidents of bus conduct violations.

Parents can be notified of the trip from which their child will be excluded up to and including the day of the trip.

CONSEQUENCES

The primary purpose of discipline in the school setting is to change behavior. While the extent and nature of the consequence imposed on a student for failing to fulfill the expectations described above are not rigidly prescribed, consequences will be reasonable, fair, consistent, equitable and, most importantly, effective.

The following are examples of consequences that may be given:

- Verbal warning
- Written warning
- Parent contact
- Detention or removal from an activity
- Restitution of property
- Suspension from transportation
- Suspension from extracurricular activities
- In-school suspension
- Teacher removal from class
- Out-of-school suspension

Important: While students have a right to present their version of events before consequences are given, it is assumed that students who are involved in circumstances that may lead to a violation of the Code of Conduct or building policies, will notify school personnel so that these circumstances can be remediated before any infraction of the Code of Conduct takes place. There are no circumstances that would excuse a violation of these policies.