

CDG Middle School Code of Conduct

Purpose:

CDGMS Code of Conduct is presented so that students and their parents/guardians understand the behavioural expectations of teachers and parents in our school community. Students are encouraged to discuss any part of this code that may be unclear with their teacher, school administrator and parent/guardian. Parents are key partners in supporting the school's code of conduct. Parents are asked to be familiar with school policies and procedures and are encouraged to discuss expected school behaviours with their children.

The Code of Conduct allows our school to be a safe, caring and orderly environment for learning and working. Students have a right to be respected and supported in a safe and nurturing learning environment. However, students also have a responsibility to maintain that safe environment and respect themselves, others and school property.

Behavioural expectations apply both on school premises and during activities that are off school premises and that are organized or sponsored by the school. They can also apply beyond these times when student actions may negatively affect the safe, caring or orderly environment of the school.

Conduct Expectations:

Students are expected to adhere to a variety of acceptable behaviours to enhance their learning and support the school as a safe, caring and orderly place. These include:

Honesty and Integrity: Students are expected to be honest at all times with fellow students, staff, parents and others in our school community. Respectful words and actions build a reputation of integrity which is a very important quality. A reputation suffers as a result of lying, cheating or stealing. Disrespectful words and actions not only hurt a student but their friends, family, school and community.

Facebook and Other Social Networks: Many of the students at CDGMS have personal computers at home or have access to them elsewhere. More often than we would like, teachers, counsellors and administration are asked to intervene in conflicts between students that began, or took on a life of their own "via" internet email or Facebook accounts. We encourage students to make choices to use the social network sites and email services appropriately and to resist the urge to become "cyber-bullies" by speaking unkindly or spreading rumors. We also encourage parents to be vigilant in monitoring and supervising the length and kind of computer use of their children. Visit www.bced.gov.bc.ca/pubs.htm for further information.

Respect For and Safety of Others: Students are expected to treat others with consideration and respect at all times. They are to avoid situations that may lead to fighting, bullying or threatening behaviour. Students have a responsibility to inform their teachers or the school administration promptly of incidents of bullying, harassment or intimidation. Participation in play should take into account safety and appropriateness. Students should model fair play and courtesy as a participant or spectator in all sports and recreational activities while at the school or representing the school offsite. Every member of

the school community has a right to a safe and secure environment, to be treated with respect and to have safe passage, without interference, to and from school.

Appropriate Language: Students must use language that shows respect for staff, fellow students, parents and others in the school community. Name calling, put downs, swearing, crude and obscene language, written, implied or gestured is not acceptable. Offensive language upsets others and often leads to conflict. Self control around language and actions is necessary in public and is an important life skill.

Student Movement: Students will move calmly and in an orderly manner to school, on the school property and inside the school building. They will be respectful of activities in progress in other classrooms and will avoid jostling or pushing others in the hallways. Further, language should be appropriate, public displays of affection limited and play fighting not permitted. Upon entering school grounds bicycles and scooters must be walked, parked and locked. These guidelines are necessary to maintain safety and order.

Personal Appearance: Students are expected to wear clothing which is comfortable, clean, modest and conducive to a positive educational climate. Clothing should not be distracting to others (e.g. beachwear, spaghetti straps and other clothing that is too revealing). Tops: no spaghetti straps, three finger width for shoulders, no tummy showing, and no undergarments visible. Shorts/Skirts: mid-thigh, hem should be past fingers when arms are extended. Slacks/Pants: no undergarments visible. Clothing that promotes racism, sexism, violence and/or alcohol, drugs or tobacco products is inappropriate in the school. Hats and sunglasses are to be removed while inside the building. Personal appearance reflects one's judgment and respect for oneself and others. Inappropriate appearance or offensive wear can upset others and distract us from our educational purpose.

Care of school and personal property: Students will respect school and personal property, equipment and resources. Students are strongly discouraged from bringing valuables to school including: iPods, laptops, MP3 players, cell phones, expensive shoes and clothing. Valuables such as wallets, purses, etc. should be left in lockers where they are secure. If parents insist on sending their child to school with a cell phone it must be stored in the student's locker during the day. Cell phones are only permitted to be used after the school day has ended and only to be used outside the school building. With growing concerns around digital imaging and privacy we insist that students not bring cameras to school or use cell phone cameras on school property. Valuable items brought to school will be solely at the owner's risk: the school will not cover any losses. Care for school and personal property displays pride in the school and assists in maintaining a safe and secure environment.

Extracurricular Activities: Students are considered ambassadors of Chief Dan George Middle School when they are participating in field trips, extracurricular clubs and teams both at the school and in the community. All relevant school rules apply while being transported to, and engaging in, extracurricular activities and field trips. Maintaining school behaviour standards ensures a positive experience for all participants and assists in building a positive school reputation.

Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs: Students are not permitted to bring these items onto school property. The school promotes a healthy lifestyle and good judgment. The use of these items is illegal for students and potentially dangerous to your health and success in life.

Unacceptable Conduct:

Transgressions of the School and District Codes of Conduct will be dealt with in an appropriate and timely manner. Examples of transgressions would include:

Behaviours that interfere with

- the learning of others and the emotional well-being of others
- our safe and secure environment
- one's own learning (e.g. truancy)

Acts, such as

- bullying, harassment or intimidation
- physical violence
- retribution against a person that has reported transgressions

Illegal acts, such as

- possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances
- possession or use of weapons
- theft of or damage to property (i.e. vandalism)

Consequences for unacceptable behaviours

Consequences will vary based upon the seriousness of the transgression involved. Minor offenses are handled "on the spot" by staff. Often this will involve identifying the concern with instruction being provided to the students that reinforces expectations of appropriate behaviour in the future. Major offenses, many of which are listed above, will generally be dealt with by the school administration. Consequences in these cases are based upon factors that include: the nature of the transgression; the age of the child; and the previous history of the child's transgressions. It is recognized that grade six children are new to the middle school model and the increased behavioural expectations that exist. As students move up through the grades there is an increased expectation of students accepting greater personal responsibility and self-discipline. Typical consequences for major transgressions include, temporary loss of free time privileges, "time out" from class with temporary assignment to School Counselor and Youth Care Worker, in school suspension, or out of school suspension. In these cases parents/guardians are informed and meetings are often scheduled that include the student, a parent,

the school administration and other staff who may assist in supporting the student. The focus of consequences are meant to be preventative, instructive and restorative, rather than punitive.

Notification of Serious Breaches of District and School Code of Conduct

Serious transgressions of the School Code of Conduct will be referred to school administration. Those issues referred to the school administration (of a serious nature) will be communicated to various parties in the following way:

- Parents/guardians of student offender--in every instance
- Parents/guardians of student victim--in every instance
- Staff that support the offender and victim--in every instance
- School District Officials--as required by School Board Policy
- Police and/or community agencies--as required by law
- All parents of the school community--when deemed to be necessary to reassure members of the school community that school officials are aware of a serious situation or incident and are taking appropriate action to address it.