

CDGMS CODE OF CONDUCT

Purpose:

CDGMS Student Code of Conduct is presented so that students and their families understand the behavioural expectations of our school community. Students are encouraged to discuss any part of this code that may be unclear with their teacher, school administrator and families. Families are key partners in supporting the school's code of conduct and 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 at or 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 always honest 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 because of lying, cheating, or stealing. Disrespectful words and actions not only hurt a student but their friends, family, school, and community.

Social Media: Many of the students at CDGMS have personal computers at home or have access to them elsewhere. More often than we would like, teachers, learning support services and administration are asked to intervene in conflicts between students that began, or took on a life of their own "via" messaging, email, or social media 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. Students are not permitted to take and post pictures of other students on school property or field trips. School administrators may intervene at times when student actions negatively affect the safe, caring and learning environment of the school.

Respect For and Safety of Others: Students are expected to always treat others with consideration and respect. 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 consider 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. These guidelines are necessary to maintain safety and order.

Personal Appearance: CDG School's Dress Policy supports equitable access and is written in a manner that does not reinforce stereotypes and that does not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of any group based on race, sex, gender identify, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, or body type.

- The intent of a dress policy is to set expectations to assist students, staff, and parents in decision-making with respect to clothing, it is not intended to be prescriptive nor punitive, but to provide a level of clarity so that correction or discipline is not required.
- The dress policy is intended to incorporate individual preferences for students and their families to dress in the manner they choose. Individual choice is however tempered by a responsibility to recognize that a school is a learning and working environment, and as such, students are expected to dress in a reasonable manner.
- Clothing should be comfortable and allow a student to participate safely in activities such as physical education, explorations, and science experiments. Clothing should demonstrate a respect for the school community.
- Articles of clothing that promote alcohol or drugs, which display offensive language or images, or that encourage sexism, racism or bigotry are not acceptable in our school. Clothing bearing direct or indirect messages or graphics referring to gang culture, sex or pornography, weapons or violence will not be permitted.
- The followings are the guidelines for school attire:
 - clothing and accessories cannot pose a safety concern or conceal one's identity
 - specific attire may be required for a variety of classroom settings such as Exploration, PE, labs, etc.
 - clothing must cover undergarments
- When there are differences in perspective, all involved have a duty to seek common understanding in a mutually respectful manner. Ultimately the school administration has the responsibility to apply the dress policy when necessary. If any person dresses in an inappropriate manner, the student should be advised personally and discretely.

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. 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 before or after the school day has ended and only to be used in the MPR or outside the school building, not at lockers or in hallways. 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. Students found responsible for damaging personal or school property will be responsible for covering costs.

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 (including E-cigarettes or related Paraphernalia): 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

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 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 referral to Learning Support Teachers or Youth Care Worker, in school

suspension, or out of school suspension. In these cases, families are informed, and meetings are often scheduled that include the student, a family member, 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:

- Families of student offender--in every instance
- Families 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 families 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.