

Grades 3-5 CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment where students may receive and district personnel may deliver quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by all is essential to achieving this goal.

Student rights and responsibilities are presented so that the focus is on positive student behavior.

Student Rights

The district is committed to safeguarding the rights given to all students under state and federal law. In addition, to promote a safe, healthy, orderly, and civil school environment, all students have the right to:

1. Take part in all district activities on an equal basis regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, or sexual orientation or disability.
2. Present their version of the relevant events to school personnel authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty in connection with the imposition of the penalty.
3. Access school rules and the code of conduct and, when necessary, receive an explanation of those rules from school personnel.
4. To be treated with fairness and respected by all students and adults in the school.
5. To receive a quality education in a safe environment which encourages learning and study and is free of distraction.

Student Responsibilities

All students have the responsibility to:

1. Contribute to maintaining a safe and orderly school environment that is conducive to learning and to show respect to other persons and to property.
2. Be familiar with and abide by all district policies, rules and regulations dealing with student conduct.
3. Attend school every day unless they are legally excused and be in class, on time, and prepared to learn.
4. Work to the best of their ability in all academic and extracurricular pursuits and strive toward their highest level of achievement possible.
5. React to direction given by teachers, administrators, and other school personnel in a respectful, positive manner.
6. Work to develop mechanisms to control their anger.
7. Ask questions when they do not understand.
8. Seek help in solving problems that might lead to discipline.
9. Dress appropriately for school and school functions.
10. Accept responsibility for their actions.
11. Conduct themselves as representatives of the district when participating in or attending school-sponsored extracurricular events and to hold themselves to the highest standard of conduct, demeanor, and sportsmanship.

Dress Code

Student appearance is primarily the responsibility of the students and their parents. We expect students to maintain the type of appearance that is not distracting to teachers or other students or that will, in any way, interfere with the learning of others. If a student's appearance is felt to be inappropriate, a phone call may be made by the nurse, teacher, guidance counselor or principal requesting a change of clothing for the child. We also ask that you do not send your child to school with brilliantly colored hair in celebration of events or holidays as this is, for this age group, a significant distraction to learning in the classroom.

The Nanuet School district dress code is:

No tube tops, halter tops, pajamas, plunging necklines (front and/or back), see-through garments, spaghetti straps, and or bare midriffs. Hats (except for medical or religious purposes) may not be worn in classrooms. Underwear should not be visible. Clothing should not include words or images that are vulgar, obscene, libelous, or denigrating to others on account of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability. Clothing should not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal or violent activities. Footwear that is a safety hazard (for example, flip-flops, Heelies or Wheelies) will also not be allowed.

Bus Rules

It is crucial for students to behave appropriately while riding on district buses, to ensure their safety and that of other passengers and to avoid distracting the bus driver.

1. **Follow the instructions of your driver.**
2. Be courteous to your driver and fellow passengers. No fighting, yelling, or throwing objects.
3. Bad language or rude behavior will not be tolerated.
4. No cell phones or other electronic devices should be used on the bus.
5. No eating or drinking on the bus.
6. Do not open bus windows without permission. When allowed to open windows, do not extend head, hands, arms or any object out of the window.
7. When leaving the bus, if you have to cross the street, always cross in front of the bus. Look both ways and wait for the driver to signal you to cross. Never attempt to return to the bus once you leave unless instructed to do so by the driver.
8. Students must always ride on their assigned bus. Students may not ride another bus unless given special permission by the office. Any student needing to go home with another student on a different bus must bring a note written by the parent indicating the request and identifying with whom the child will be going home. This signed note must be brought to the main office on the morning of that day. **This should only take place in an emergency.**
9. All students must get off the bus at their assigned stops.

Suspension from transportation

If a student does not conduct himself/herself properly on a bus, the bus driver is expected to bring such misconduct to the Principal's attention. Students who become a serious disciplinary problem may have their riding privileges suspended by the Principal or the Superintendent or their designees. In such cases, the student's parent will become responsible for seeing that his or her child gets to and from school safely. Should the suspension from transportation amount to a suspension from attendance, the district will make appropriate arrangements to provide for the student's education.

Students may be subject to disciplinary action when they:

Engage in conduct that is disorderly. Examples of disorderly conduct include:

1. Running in hallways.
2. Making unreasonable noise.
3. Using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar, or abusive.
4. Engaging in any willful act which disrupts the normal operation of the school community.
5. Trespassing. Students are not permitted in any school building, other than the one they regularly attend, without permission from the administrator in charge of the building.
6. Computer/electronic communications misuse, including any unauthorized use of computers, software, or internet/intranet account; accessing inappropriate web sites; or any other violation of the district's acceptable use policy and/or building procedures.

Engage in conduct that is insubordinate. Examples of insubordinate conduct include:

1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school employees in charge of students or otherwise demonstrating disrespect.
2. Lateness for, missing, or leaving school without permission.

Engage in conduct that is disruptive. Examples of disruptive conduct include:

1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school personnel in charge of students.

Engage in conduct that is violent. Examples of violent conduct include:

1. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon a teacher, administrator or other school employee or attempting to do so.
2. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or attempting to do so.
3. Possessing, displaying, or threatening with a weapon or what appears to be a weapon.
4. Intentionally damaging or destroying the personal property of a student, teacher, administrator, or other district employee or any person lawfully on school property, including graffiti or arson.
5. Intentionally damaging or destroying school district property.

Engage in any conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health, or welfare of others. Examples of such conduct include:

1. Lying to school personnel.
2. Stealing the property of other students, school personnel, or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function.
3. Defamation, which includes making false or unprivileged statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them.

4. Discrimination, which includes the use of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability as a basis for treating another in a negative manner.
5. Harassment, which includes a sufficiently severe action or persistent pervasive pattern of actions or statements directed at an identifiable individual or group which are intended to be, or which a reasonable person would perceive as, ridiculing or demeaning.
6. Threats or intimidation, which includes engaging in actions or statements that put an individual in fear of bodily harm.
7. Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing, or swearing.
8. Initiating a report warning of fire or other catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, or discharging a fire extinguisher.

Engage in misconduct while on a school bus. It is crucial for students to behave appropriately while riding on district buses, to ensure their safety and that of other passengers and to avoid distracting the bus driver. Students are required to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. Excessive noise, pushing, shoving, and fighting will not be tolerated.

Engage in any form of academic misconduct. Examples of academic misconduct include: Plagiarism, Cheating, Copying, Forgery, or assisting another student in any of the above actions.

Disciplinary Actions

Disciplinary action, when necessary, will be firm, fair, and consistent so as to be the most effective in changing student behavior. In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, school personnel authorized to impose disciplinary penalties will consider the following:

1. The student's age.
2. The nature of the offense and the circumstances which led to the offense.
3. The student's prior disciplinary record.
4. The effectiveness of other forms of discipline.
5. Information from parents, teachers and/or others, as appropriate.
6. Other extenuating circumstances.

As a general rule, discipline will be progressive. This means that a student's first violation will usually merit a lighter penalty than subsequent violations. Please see "Behavior Response Plan: Grades 3 through 5."