California Montessori Project

A parent's guide on Behavior Expectations and School discipline

Montessori curriculum encourages and supports students in the further development of the civic values and ethical behaviors that support them to become responsible and caring citizens, family members, and workers within society. Character education is interwoven throughout the curriculum. The Montessori philosophy and educational model emphasizes respect for all individuals which is a key component in building a strong community. Lessons in "Grace and Courtesy" begin at the earliest grades, and students have the opportunity to learn peaceful ways to work through their conflicts. When issues and misbehaviors do occur, a positive discipline approach, based on respectful, relevant and related consequences, is utilized.

"Averting war is the work of politicians; establishing peace is the work of education."

~Maria Montessori

Montessori Philosophy on Discipline:

- **Internal vs. External:** discipline comes from internal motivation. Children want to do what is best for themselves and their community.
- Children learn to take **responsibility** for their own **choices**.
- The **prepared environment** is the key to promoting self-discipline and independence.
- Students practice **"grace and courtesy"**.
- Teachers present lessons on **peace education**.
- The curriculum is international in its heritage and promotes a **global perspective** of mutual respect.



CMP's Response to Behavior Incidents

- Students are responsible for promptly reporting inappropriate, disrespectful, and unsafe behaviors to a staff member.
- Once observed or made aware of, staff member(s) will provide necessary intervention and assess the situation.
- Staff conduct an investigation of the incident which may include interviews with involved staff, students, and witnesses.
- Those involved are listened to and supported.
- Parents are notified of their child's involvement while maintaining all other students' confidentiality.
- Staff will determine appropriate administrative action. Which may include:

Pass to Recovery

Relocation of student

Conflict Resolution Process

Teacher Managed Incident Report

Office Managed Incident Report

Implementation of appropriate consequence(s)

Conferences with administration, parents and student are conducted when appropriate.

Response to Intervention parent/teacher meetings

Serious or habitual behaviors may result in suspension and/or expulsion.

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Behavior Expectations and Discipline

Love and Logic– A philosophical approach used to promote positive behavior choices by creating empathy and teaching responsibility.

The Nine Essential Skills for the Love and Logic Classroom:

1. Neutralize Arguing
2. Delayed Consequences
3. Empathy
4. Recovery Process
5. Developing Positive Student-Teacher Relationships
6. Set limits with enforceable statements
7. Use choices to prevent power struggles
8. Quick and easy preventative interventions
9. Guiding students to own and solve their problems

"When we give the gift of problem solving, we also give the gift of belief in one's own ability." ~Jim Fay

Bullying or Harassment

Any student, staff person or parent should report a suspected act of bullying or harassment. A form is available on-line or in the school office to fill out and give to the principal or dean.

Character Education and Peace Curriculum Utilized by Montessorians Jonathon Wolff and Sonnie MacFarland

CMP Adopted Monthly Character Traits:

*Respect
*Responsibility
*Self-Discipline
*Honesty
*Tolerance
*Forgiveness
*Courage
*Friendship
*Assertiveness
*Peacefulness

Each month these traits are taught during circle time, daily activities, lessons, role-playing, and assemblies.



"The Flower of Peace Model"

~Sonnie MacFarland

- Spirit of Love
- Basic Needs and Human Rights
- Awareness of Self, Community, Cultural and Environment.

"Peace is what every human being is craving for, and it can be brought about by humanity through the child."
~Maria Montessori

Jane Nelson's Positive Discipline

This method prepares children for responsible citizenship. It is a program that encourages the development of emotional intelligence and the important life skills and perceptions of capable people.

Key Elements:

- Classroom meetings
- Inappropriate choices can be a function of mistaken ideas of how to find sense of belonging and significance
- Natural and logical consequences
- Mistakes are opportunities to learn
- Children are given opportunities to contribute in meaningful ways
- Students help create classroom rules
- Students collectively solve problems to improve their community

CMP's Three Rules:
Be Safe,
Be Respectful,
Be Responsible

All behaviors fall into at least one of these areas, and students are asked to reflect on their behavior and which of these rules were not followed.