



STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

At St. Augustine school we believe we are unique and worthy individuals and God calls each of us to work together in love, hope and courage in our school community. All students, staff, and families of St. Augustine will be provided with an inclusive, welcoming, caring, respectful, safe, and Catholic learning environment that promotes the well-being of all and fosters support for achieving this goal. Catholic Faith and values are taught, learned, modeled and practiced. Discipline is a shared responsibility between the home and school. Together, we teach accountability, responsibility and respect. We demonstrate responsibility in the choices we make. We believe that by striving for understanding we provide for an environment that stimulates growth and accepts differences. We affirm that pursuant to the Alberta Human Rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, students and staff members are protected from discrimination. More specifically, discrimination refers to any conduct that serves to deny or discriminate against any person or class of persons regarding any goods, services, accommodation or facilities that are customarily available to the public, and the denial or discrimination is based on race, religious beliefs, color, gender, physical disability, disability, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation. We maintain forgiveness as a basic belief of our Catholic faith that must be lived in our school, community and home. We believe showing respect for ourselves, each other and our environment provides for harmony and personal growth. We celebrate our accomplishments and cherish that each person brings gifts, talents and interests to our community to develop and share. We affirm that the rights set out in the Alberta Human Rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms are afforded to all students and staff members within St. Augustine School. Together we seek excellence!

EXPECTATIONS FOR APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

Expectations of students and school rules are outlined at the beginning of the year and are regularly reviewed with students. Students are expected to conduct themselves according to the requirements set out in Section 12 of the Alberta School Act (2015):

"A student has the responsibility to

- Attend school regularly and punctually
- Be ready to learn and actively participate in and diligently pursue their educational program,
- Ensure that their conduct contributes to a caring, respectful and safe environment,
- Respect the rights of others in the school,
- Refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means,
- Comply with the rules of the school and the policies of the board,
- Co-operate with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services, and
- Account to their teachers and other school staff for their conduct."

St. Augustine School is committed to providing students with a school environment that is both safe and conducive to learning. We are dedicated to teaching students appropriate behavior

towards themselves and others. We expect students to behave in an appropriate manner, which does not interfere with the learning or behavior of others. We believe that people perform better when they know what is expected of them. Students are to conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful. In addition to information in the sections of this handbook on *dress and personal property*, gum, head gear, sunglasses, electronic devices, games, physical contact between students or anything that might interfere with teaching or learning is not allowed. **Cell phones must not be operated inside the building during school hours without the permission of a teacher.** School-wide expectations are communicated to our students by teachers in classroom discussions, by school administration in assemblies, during morning announcements and through the school agendas. We have set behavioral guidelines for the school as a whole and have asked each teacher to set programs and procedures designed to maximize student learning and responsibility. Since each teacher has a different style, specific expectations and procedures will vary from class to class.

CONSEQUENCES FOR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

We concentrate on positive behavior and attitudes; however, there are times when a student has difficulty recognizing their responsibility as a student. In such cases, we have outlined a number of possible consequences for behavior. When a student behaves inappropriately, they can expect that the staff member present (teacher, administrator, teacher assistant, support & caretaking staff) will apply the most appropriate action. One or more of the following can be expected to occur:

- Verbal reprimand
- Restriction of privileges and activities
- Detention of student
- Parental involvement
- Parent-student conference with school staff
- Verbal or written apology by student
- Problem solving, monitoring or reviewing behavior expectations
- Replacement or repair of damaged property
- Temporary exclusion of student from class
- Bus suspension for students riding the bus
- In-school suspension
- Out-of school suspension
- Referral to Attendance Board
- Behavior contract
- Involvement of outside agencies
- Involvement of Police
- Expulsion.

As might be expected, the more serious the behavior, the more severe the consequence. The nature and circumstances of the incident, as well as frequency of misbehavior, and age of student are also considered.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

The following are considered major forms of misbehavior and will be dealt with severely whether they occur within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means. Consequences and events will take into consideration unique student attributes such as age, maturity and individual circumstances. Examples will include the following components: preventative procedures; supportive procedures for minor breaches of conduct; and fair, corrective interventions to address major breaches of conduct.

Bullying

Bullying is repeated and hostile or demeaning behaviour by an individual in the school community where the behaviour is intended to cause harm, fear or distress to one or more other individuals in the school community, including psychological harm or harm to an individual's reputation.

Bullying of students could result in an immediate suspension from school. As well, the police may become involved in the investigation of bullying incidents. Bullying is defined in law as "the repeated intimidation of others by the real or threatened infliction of physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted or emotional abuse." Any person who repeatedly bullies a minor (under the age of 18) in a public place could be subject to a \$250 fine. Students can report any bullying they see or experience to an adult at home or school. All claims will be investigated.

Defiance

Any act of defiance, that is, refusing to comply with a reasonable request from a staff member, can result in an immediate suspension.

Physical / Verbal Abuse or Harassment

Physical abuse of any type to anyone will result in an immediate suspension. Verbal intimidation or harassment will also result in an immediate suspension. At St. Augustine, there is no such thing as "play fighting" – and therefore this will not be considered an acceptable excuse for physical contact with another student. Police may be involved if this is deemed to be appropriate by school administration.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Students who choose to watch or encourage other students in a physical fight might also be suspended from school. The fact that they have an audience encourages those students who are fighting to continue the conflict, as they do not want to "lose face" in front of their peers. Thus, the spectators are viewed by school administration as being a major contributing factor to the continuation of the fighting, and they will be treated accordingly.

Improper or Profane Language

The use or display of improper or profane language could result in a suspension from school. Students who use profane language in addressing a teacher will be suspended from school.

Vandalism

Vandalism to school property will result in an immediate suspension and/or community service* depending on the circumstances. Students will be expected to pay fully for any damages caused deliberately or through carelessness.

*Community service occurs when a student is assigned to do work to assist any of the adults in the school (i.e.: teachers, custodians, support staff). This is for a specific number of hours in a specified period of time.

Theft

Theft of property, either from the school or from another person is strictly prohibited and will result in a suspension. Restoration of the stolen property is mandatory. In some instances, cases of theft would be referred to the police.

Illegal Drugs or Substances

Possession or use of illegal drugs or substances on school property or in sight of school property will result in an immediate suspension and may lead to expulsion from the school. In cases of drug use, the police will be involved in the investigation and charges could be laid.

Behavior Dangerous to Self or Others

Students who engage in reckless or dangerous behavior will be suspended from school. If appropriate, the police will also be involved in the investigation.

Weapons

Possession of a weapon or presentation of any object meant to threaten or intimidate will result in an immediate suspension. Any weapons brought to school will be confiscated and turned over to the police. Police may be involved if this is deemed to be appropriate by school administration.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This rule also applies to toy knives and guns. Simulated weapons will be treated in the same fashion as real weapons. They have no place in a school environment.

Repeated Violation of General Expectations

Repeated violation of general expectations or a continual disregard of classroom rules will result in an out-of-school suspension

There will be a continuum of supports to correct unacceptable behaviour as well as supports available to those students impacted by inappropriate behavior. Consequences and events will take into consideration unique student attributes such as age, maturity and individual circumstances. Examples will include the following components: preventative procedures; supportive procedures for minor breaches of conduct; and fair, corrective interventions to address major breaches of conduct. Parents will be involved and working with school staff and administration will develop an intervention plan to best suit the needs of the student.

Responsibilities

Students learn best in a positive learning environment. We expect students, staff and parents to recognize their responsibility in developing student behavior and conduct.

STUDENTS

In addition to expectations for behavior laid out in the Alberta School Act, we expect that students will:

- Attend school regularly and punctually
- Be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue the student's education.
- Ensure that their conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging
- Respect the rights of others in the school
- Refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means
- Comply with the rules of the school and the procedures of the District;
- Cooperate with everyone authorized by the District to provide education programs and other services;
- Be accountable to the student's teachers and other school staff for the student's conduct, and,
- Positively contribute to the school and community.
- Assume responsibility for their actions and choices
- Seek help from staff to assist in problem solving
- Respect and celebrate our Catholic identity.

STAFF

Staff assist students in being the best they can be. Staff will:

- Educate students fulfilling the mandate of the Alberta Education curriculum, the IB curriculum and our Catholic faith
- Discipline consistently, maintaining dignity and respect

- Demonstrate and model mutual respect and Catholic values
- model inclusive language and behaviors at all times
- Maintain open communication
- Review conduct policy with students
- Communicate classroom expectations
- Recognize diversity and individual differences
- Respect confidentiality.

PARENTS

Parents play a vital role in developing student behavior and conduct. In accordance with expectations laid out in the Alberta School Act. A parent has the right to choose the kind of education that shall be provided to his/her child and as a partner in education, has the legislated responsibility to:

- Make decisions respecting their child's education,
 - Take an active role in their child's educational success,
 - Ensure that their child attends school regularly,
 - Ensure that their conduct contributes to a caring, respectful and safe environment,
 - conduct themselves in a manner which upholds the dignity and worth of all members of the school community
 - Cooperate and collaborate with school staff to support the delivery of specialized supports and services to the child,
 - Encourage, foster and advance collaborative, positive and respectful relationships with teachers, principals, other school staff and professionals providing supports and services in the school.
 - Engage in the child's school community.
- In addition, we expect that parents will:
- Send children to school rested, well fed, appropriately dressed and mentally ready to participate in learning
 - Inform the school about essential information
 - Review our conduct policy with their children and ensure their children's understanding
 - Monitor homework assignments and assist when necessary
 - Work with the school to resolve student behavior issues as they pertain to their child
 - Assume responsibility for their child's behavior.

WORKING TOGETHER

The partnership between home and school is vital to student success. Please read this over with your child(ren) and discuss it carefully.

STUDENT OWNED DEVICES POLICY

St. Augustine believes in providing students with an educational environment that will engage and empower them as 21st century learners. To this end, student's grades one to six, are permitted to use student-owned devices on our wireless network under the following conditions:

- Only students who have a signed acceptable use form allowing them to use the Internet are able to access the network.
- Students are accountable for their behavior and activity while using our wireless network.

- Students are responsible for the security and safety of their own devices.
- The school is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items.
- The school will not provide technical support for student-owned devices.
- Failure to follow the procedures for using student-owned devices or the network could result in a loss of privilege, confiscation of the device, or other sanctions, depending on the circumstances.

Owning a device is NOT a requirement. It is not necessary for students to buy or use any devices.

- The use of personal devices and the wireless network is for class time and under teacher direction and supervision only.
- The use of the network and personal devices is for educational use only, not for social use.
- Devices must be fully powered prior to using them at school to avoid loss of time, management issues and overloading of electrical outlets.
- Sharing of devices is only permitted if students are working together. Students should not allow other students to use their personal devices.
- Use of cameras and videos is permitted under teacher supervision only. No school pictures or videos of any kind may be posted on any social media or personal sites.
- Teachers will review netiquette with students.
- Teachers have the right to determine how, when and to what extent student-owned devices may be used in their classrooms.
- Teachers and administrators have the right to “search” the device if they have reason to believe that the device has been used inappropriately.
- Student devices will work from the “Cloud” and will follow the same internet safety precautions and sites as if they were wired in the lab. In other words, sites like “Facebook” will not be available for student use while at school.
- **ABSOLUTELY NO – TEXTING, GAMING OR SOCIAL NETWORKING OF ANY KIND.**