

## DISCIPLINE POLICY

The behavior of students attending Sacred Heart School is expected to be exemplary of Christian values. Such a code of conduct dictates that the students show the proper respect for themselves, others, and property. Our discipline code is one that encourages self-discipline, having as a by-product self-understanding and self-esteem. Therefore, it is imperative that parents, teachers, and principal have the same high expectations of the students' behavior.

- In order to grow educationally, socially, and emotionally, children need to be in an environment in which there are concerned adults who set firm, consistent, positive limits while providing warmth and support for their appropriate behavior.
- In guiding the child's growth in the habits of virtue and in Christian discipline, the positive is emphasized. The child must be free to choose one form of behavior or another and to take upon him/herself the consequences of that chosen behavior. The ultimate goal is for the student to take personal responsibility for all of his or her behavior in terms of respecting each other.
- The philosophy of Responsive Classroom approach is used throughout the school. Firm, fair and consistent guidelines for disciplinary actions are utilized. Students are asked to reflect upon their behavior in terms of respecting each other and their teachers. Students are asked to take personal responsibility for their actions. Natural consequences are given for infractions of behavior.
- Parents are asked to have a realistic viewpoint regarding their child's behavior.
- We all make mistakes. Sometimes even the best student can make bad or poor choices regarding their conduct. Cooperation between home and school is necessary if the child is to learn and grow.
- Any student may be excluded from Sacred Heart School for committing offenses against any of the statutes of Massachusetts law.

In accordance with the stated philosophy of the school, which emphasizes deep respect for the human dignity and uniqueness of every individual, each student will be considerate of the rights of others in all interactions. All students are expected to cooperate with the spirit and policies of the school which are designed to foster mature development and personal responsibility. This requires courtesy in all personal relationships, promptness in fulfilling obligations, concern for the environment, and many other factors which the students' sense of appropriateness will indicate to them. The Principal and Leadership Team reserve the right to determine the appropriateness of an action if any doubt arises. Items such as, but not limited to, questionable books and pictures, white-out, knives, guns, matches, cigarettes, radios, pagers, laser lights, palm pilots, or anything that detracts from a learning situation are not allowed at school at any time. The use of, iPods are allowed by the Middle School while doing homework at ASP. Game boys, etc. are not allowed at school at any time. Cell phones are not allowed at any time during the school day. The School Administration, in accordance with state laws, determines the appropriate disciplinary measures to be taken concerning the presence of these items in the school. **Items taken away from students are returned to the parent(s)/ guardian(s) on the last day of the school year.**

## **Detention Policy**

Detention is issued due to chronic misbehavior or a breach of school rules. Students are allowed to have a snack and a beverage. They may also use the bathroom before detention begins. Detention is meant to be a reflective time for the student. The room is quiet, hands are on the desk and the student looks forward. Reflective questions: Why am I here? How can I change my behavior? What can I do to make things a more positive experience? The day, date, and time of the detention are at the discretion of the teacher/Principal who monitors the detention. Detention takes precedence over appointments, practices, lessons, tutoring, ballgames etc. At the end of each marking period all students are given a fresh start.

## **Suspension**

A student who is given an in-school suspension is required to work on assignments with an aide or a designee of the Principal. A student who receives an out-of-school suspension is not allowed on school grounds during the time of their suspension. A student with an out-of-school suspension receives failing grades for all work missed during this time.

## **Expulsion**

Expulsion is an extremely serious matter. Students who pose a threat to themselves or to others may be expelled from Sacred Heart School. Students who have been expelled are not allowed to return to the school without prior permission from the Principal. Students whose parents have violated the Parents as Partners agreement in this handbook may also be excluded from Sacred Heart School.

Please refer to the Sacred Heart School Discipline Policy for specific information regarding policy on specific discipline issues. A copy is posted on the school website pg 23.