

ST JEROME SCIENCE ACADEMY STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Philosophy & Purpose: We Belong

Honouring human potential; academic, spiritual, creative, physical, emotional and social, is an educational goal of St. Jerome School. We believe if students develop in an atmosphere where they are valued and appreciated, there will be a greater potential for them to develop positive behaviour.

Our ultimate goal will be to have students strive to be responsible for their own behaviour, with the emphasis on respecting the dignity and self worth of all individuals in the school.

*That all persons are equal in: dignity, rights and responsibilities without regard to race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, physical disability, mental disability, age, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income or family status. We are all called to recognize the divine in each person. We are all children of God. "Love one another as I have loved you."
(John 15:12)*

The purpose of this policy is to assist in the development of a Christ-like, self-disciplined individual who is a responsible, contributing member at their school and in their community. We strive to remind students of our mission, philosophy, and procedures covering student conduct and expectations while attending St. Jerome School. Teachers will communicate expectations to their students in classroom discussions.

Expectations for Learning:

- All students have the right and responsibility to learn.
- All teachers have the right and responsibility to teach.

Expected Student Behavior:

School staff have the responsibility for establishing, maintaining, and facilitating a safe environment for learning. Each student at St. Jerome will be expected to:

- Show respect for the dignity and self-worth of the other students, staff, parents and guests.
- Use appropriate language in our school and on the school grounds. Show respect for personal and school property.
- Contribute to creating a productive and supportive learning environment.

- Contribute to creating a safe school for all students.
- Report inappropriate behavior and bullying to a school staff member.

We believe all students attending St. Jerome School will be able to meet these behavioural expectations, which contribute to a positive learning environment. The school's Positive Learning Environment Policy will be interpreted by the staff and the administration in a manner which they deem just, given the circumstances of each individual case.

Positive Learning Environment:

In conjunction with our Edmonton Catholic School District, and Section 12 of The School Act, the Positive Learning Environment Policy is based on the Catholic philosophy of love, caring, and respect of others in their pursuit of learning. The goal is to assist students to attend to this educational process and to develop positive attitudes. The following are the main elements of our policy:

1. Provide an opportunity for the student to practice decision-making skills.
2. Support students in the development of positive relationships with their peers.
3. Provide a safe and secure environment (both physical and emotional) whereby students are able to reach their personal potential.
4. Ensure students are aware of how to report repeated and hostile or demanding behavior by an individual in the school community where the behavior is intended to cause harm, fear or distress to one or more individuals in the school community, including psychological harm or harm to an individual's reputation (bullying). This includes speaking to a staff member (administrator, teacher, educational assistant) about their concerns.
5. Address all major incidents, defined as physical and/or emotional aggression against another student, any practices of illegal nature in our society, and actions of a defiant nature.
6. All staff is involved in student adherence to our *Positive Learning Environment Policy*.

The classroom teacher, employing a variety of classroom management strategies, will initially address inappropriate student behavior in the classroom. All misconduct will be documented, and parents will be notified by telephone or note when required.

If a student has difficulty recognizing his or her responsibilities in relation to the expectations set out, administration will intervene and respond with an appropriate action.

A Problem Solving Approach will be used by the administration to help each student:

- Identify and take ownership of the problem.
- Seek alternative solutions to the problem.

- Select the most appropriate solution to the problem.
- Communicate their positive behavior plan.

Depending upon the circumstances, parents may be notified by telephone and/or asked to come into the school to assist in the development of a positive behavior plan. The student will be invited to participate in the discussion and generate a solution to the problem.

The following are considered *Major acts of misconduct* and may result in suspensions of one to five days:

- physical or verbal aggression (include bullying)
- continuous disruptive behavior
- defiance of authority
- demonstration of harassment, intimidation, coercion, or force
- internet abuse / intimidation
- fighting
- behaviors that are dangerous to the safety of others
- intentional damage to property
- use of, and/or possession of a weapon
- theft
- discrimination (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 is forbidden if the denial or discrimination is based on race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, physical disability, mental disability, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation as per the Alberta Human Rights Act)

Procedures for In School Suspension:

- Parents will be notified by the teacher or administrator.
- The student will be placed in an appropriate space where he/she will be supervised by an administrator.
- A Problem Solving Approach by one of the administrators will be initiated, assisting the student in making better choices.
- A written letter of suspension outlining the circumstances will be forwarded to the parents.
- The student will meet with the teacher to discuss a positive entry back into the classroom the following day.

Procedures for Out of School Suspension:

- Parents will be notified by the administration.
- The student will stay home for 1-5 days and return with his/her parents.
- A written letter of suspension outlining the circumstances will be forwarded to the parents.

The implementation of the procedures as written in this Policy will always be carried out with an appreciation that each student and each situation is different. We will attempt to always act in the best interest of the student, the class, and the teacher in every situation.

In keeping with our Philosophy, the student will receive all the positive support we are capable of giving while still assisting the student to develop in a positive direction. As educators, we will focus on the strengths of all students, affirming their good and honoring their human potential.

In his letter to the Thessalonians, Saint Paul writes, "This is the will of God: that you be saints." (1 Thessalonians 4:3) God wants you to be holy. Your holiness is the desire of God, the delight of God, and the source of your happiness. To embrace who you were created to be and to become the-best-version-of-yourself is God's dream for you. Therefore, holiness is for everyone, not just for a select few (Rediscover Catholicism, Matthew Kelly, 2010).