

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

St. Francis of Assisi has a focus on welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments. Our rationale for the code of conduct matches the School Act. The code has been developed by the school community with input from parents, staff and students and is communicated and reviewed annually.

Section 12 of the Province of Alberta's School Act states: "A student shall conduct himself or herself so as to reasonably comply with the following code of conduct:

- a) **be diligent in pursuing the student's studies;**
- b) **attend school regularly and punctually;**
- c) **co-operate fully with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services;**
- d) **comply with the rules of the school;**
- e) **account to the student's teachers for the student's conduct;**
- f) **respect the rights of others.**

PHILOSOPHY

We believe that we are unique and worthy individuals, and God calls each of us to work together in love, hope and courage in our school community. We strive to provide a safe environment where each person is accepted as a worthwhile individual and is treated with respect, dignity and fairness by all staff members and students.

BULLYING

Students have multiple venues to report bullying by first asking the bully to stop and then telling an adult at the school about the behavior. Bullying is repeated and hostile or demeaning behavior by an individual in the school community where the behavior 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. The school will respond to unacceptable bullying behaviors within the school, during the school day or by electronic means. Based on individual needs, the policy will contain a continuum of supports to correct unacceptable behaviors. 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. Francis of Assisi.

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, colour, gender, physical disability, mental disability, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation.

EXPECTATIONS

Expectations for student behaviour will be stated in the following areas:

- 1) classroom expectations
- 2) school-wide expectations

At the beginning of each school year, each classroom teacher, together with his/her students, will develop a list of expectations and consequences with regards to behaviour within a given classroom. These

expectations and consequences will be communicated to all parents and guardians at the first reporting period (generally held in September).

As part of our appropriate school-wide behaviour expectations, the staff has established guidelines for conduct in the hallways, washrooms and playground. The school staff and students identified five major offences that will be dealt with in a judicious manner to maintain order in the school.

The five major offences are:

- **physical and/or verbal abuse including “play fighting”**
- **swearing or offensive body language**
- **defiance or disobedience**
- **continual classroom disruptions**
- **deliberate damage of school property**
- **bullying within the school, during the school day or by electronic means.**

CONDUCT CYCLE

The following Conduct Cycle deals with the process that has been developed in order to hold students accountable when committing any of the listed offences.

The following steps will be used in **most** cases. However, if an offense is deemed to be serious or a person’s safety is at risk, these guidelines **may not be followed** in step-by-step fashion. This decision will be made in consultation with school administration.

While students are on the conduct cycle, they will be restricted from participating in activities that would be considered “privileges” or extracurricular. Students may be allowed to attend curricular based field trips at the discretion of the classroom teacher or administration.

Students who are involved in incidents of inappropriate behaviour, whether they go on the conduct plan or not, should expect an immediate consequence for their inappropriate behaviour. The consequence will be determined at the discretion of the classroom teacher and/or administration.

Consequences will take into consideration students attributes such as age, maturity and individual circumstances. Including prevention, support and fair corrective interventions.

A continuum of supports will be provided to students who are impacted by inappropriate behavior as well as those who engage in inappropriate behavior.

CONSEQUENCES FOR MAJOR OFFENCES:

Severe breach of conduct will be suspended in accordance with Section 12 of the School Act.

1. In-School Suspension
 - Students lose lunchroom, recess and extra-curricular privileges during this suspension.
2. Out-of-School Suspension
 - 1-5 days at home
 - Meeting/discussion with students and parents before reinstatement.
3. Out-of-School Suspension (Greater than five days).
 - District personnel (School Operation Services) involved prior to reinstatement or expulsion.
4. Recommendation for Expulsion

PARENT EXPECTATIONS:

Parents have a role to ensure that their conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment.

CELL PHONE POLICY/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

It is encouraged that students not bring any cell phones, cameras and/or electronic devices into the school. If for any reason these items are brought into the school, they must be turned off and not played with during school hours. These devices/electronics will be confiscated immediately and returned to the student at the end of the day. If this continues, the devices may be returned to parents directly or returned at the end of the school year. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with this matter.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Ensuring that students grow in appropriate conduct is a shared responsibility between the home and the school. It is essential that together we teach accountability, responsibility, self-respect and respect for others. When student behavior is such that it does not respect others or the learning environment, school staff and parents have the responsibility to help the student grow in realizing the effects of their actions and in accepting and learning from appropriate consequences. Working together, we can promote a positive environment where each individual can flourish.