

Mount Sentinel Secondary School Code of Conduct

Mount Sentinel Secondary School - Statement of Purpose

The purpose of our code of conduct is to establish and maintain safe, caring, and orderly environments for purposeful learning and student success. Our code is built around the school's vision to "create a school culture where every student feels valued, connected, and empowered", which reflects the values of our school community.

The School Code of Conduct applies at school, during all school-organized or sponsored activities, on school buses, and any behaviour even if outside of school or school hours, (including online behaviour), that negatively impacts the safe, caring, or orderly environment of the school, and/or student learning.

Relationship to BC Human Rights Code

Mount Sentinel Secondary School promotes the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law - prohibiting discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression - in respect of discriminatory publication and discrimination in accommodation, service, and facility in the school environment.

Application of Code of Conduct - Conduct Expectations

Acceptable Behaviour

These expectations apply to behaviour at school, during school-organized or sponsored activities, and behaviour beyond these times (including on-line behaviour that negatively impacts the safe, caring or orderly environment of the school, and/or student learning).

Students will demonstrate:

Respect - Students are expected to show respect for self, environment, and others. They are expected to act in a responsible manner and be respectful of the rights of others at school and school activities wherever held.

Responsibility - Students are expected to gradually assume more responsibility for themselves, as individuals and members of society. They are expected to become more responsible for undertaking, organizing and completing their schoolwork and for contributing to and promoting a safe, caring, and orderly school environment.

Commitment - Students are expected to strive for personal excellence in all their school endeavors and comply with school expectations and rules for student work, attendance, behaviour, and deportment.

Attitude - Students are expected to participate willingly and diligently in their assigned work and to undertake school activities with a spirit of cooperation and fair play.

In addition, specifically at Mount Sentinel Secondary School:

Respect Yourself and Others:

- Address others politely and respectfully
- Treat one another with kindness and respect
- Keep your hands to yourself
- Assume positive intent in others
- Use the school washrooms as they are intended; use common areas to socialize or to have a quiet space
- Keep physical displays of affection appropriate for a school setting
- Dress appropriately according to the *School Dress Protocol*

Respect Learning and Teaching:

- Act in ways that allow for a productive class environment for yourself and others
- Only leave a classroom with teacher permission, one student at a time
- Take direction from teachers and other staff members
- Attend class regularly, on time, and from the start to the end of class
- Arrive to class prepared with necessary materials and supplies needed for learning

Respect the School Environment:

- Act in ways that feel safe to yourself and others
- Use appropriate language at school and at school sponsored activities
- Put all litter in the garbage containers
- Use garbage and recycling containers appropriately
- Treat the school building and property with care
- Use assigned lockers to keep classrooms, hallways and other common areas free of clutter from individual supplies, backpacks, and sporting equipment
- Drive safely and follow all driving rules, including the speed limits (10 km/h), as posted in and around the school

Unacceptable Conduct

Students shall not discriminate against others on the basis of Indigenous identity, race, religion, colour, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, family status, age, sex or sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, or physical or mental disability, or for any other

reason set out in the Human Rights Code of British Columbia, nor shall a student publish or display anything that would indicate an intention to discriminate against another, or expose them to contempt or ridicule, on the basis of any such grounds. **Racism and discrimination will not be tolerated in our school.**

- Behaviours that interfere with the learning of other, interfere with an orderly environment, or create an unsafe environment.
- Bullying, cyberbullying, harassing, intimidating, threatening, retaliating, discriminating, or violence.
- Illegal acts, such as possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances.
- Theft or damage to property.
- Retribution against a person who has reported an incident.
- Being in possession of a weapon or a replica weapon.
- Vandalism.
- Use of inappropriate language.
- Arriving late and unprepared.
- Leaving without communicating with the supervising adult or office.
- Open displays of sexual behavior.
- Defiant/rude/discourteous behavior.
- Repetitive inappropriate behaviors.
- Clothing that encourages sexism, racism, homophobia, or discrimination regarding gender identity, sexual preference, race, religion, or origin.
- Clothing that promotes direct or indirect messages or graphics referring to alcohol, drugs, gang culture, sex, weapons, violence, or profanity.
- Riding bikes, scooters, skateboards outside of designated areas and without a helmet on school property.
- Loitering in student vehicles or the parking lot at any time before, during, or after the school day. This includes the designated lunch break.

Note: Behaviours (both acceptable and unacceptable) cited in the code of conduct are examples only and not an all-inclusive list.

Use of Personal Digital Data Devices

Students only use personal digital data devices (any device that can access the internet) for instructional purposes and digital literacy appropriate to the student's age and developmental stage while on school property and during hours of instruction, aligned to our school's expectations related to personal digital data devices:

All Students (Grade 7 to Grade 12)

- Students are encouraged to leave personal digital data devices at home.
- Students have access to school phones should they need to contact their parents/caregivers. This can be done at the office or with the permission of the teacher in the student's classroom.
- Students may use personal digital data devices on the journey to and from school and during non-instructional times while at school. In doing so, students are encouraged to use them responsibly.

- Students who bring a personal digital data device to school must switch it off, put it on airplane mode, turn off notifications and store it in their locker during instructional time. Instructional times include assemblies and other school wide activities like fire drills.
- Students may access their devices before and after school and during school wide scheduled break times. All other times are device free times.
- The device should not be accessed for recreational use (music, social media, etc.) during instructional time.
- Photos, videos or audio recordings are to be taken only with permission of all parties and with the agreement of the supervising teacher.
- Personal digital data devices cannot be taken into formal assessment situations.
- Use of personal digital data devices on field trips and extra-curricular excursions will be specified by the teacher for the activity.
- Students in Grade 11/12 may use a personal digital data device during instructional time, for a specific task, for a specific time under teacher supervision and at the explicit direction of a teacher.
- Students may store their device on their person as required, with the teacher's and administration's advanced knowledge and permission.

Access to the Internet will consider equity and hardship to foster connection with peers and access to opportunities for personal achievement.

The use of personal digital data devices for students with disabilities or diverse abilities will be outlined in students' Individual Education Plans, such as the use of assistive technology on personal digital devices at school to support student accessibility, communication, and autonomy and to facilitate participation and promote accessibility. This includes supporting the use of personal digital devices that monitor and support medical necessities.

District Code of Conduct

The School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) (SD8) Code of Conduct has been established to maintain a safe, caring, and orderly learning environment.

SD8 believes in the interactive roles required to achieve safe and caring schools and believe that responsibility for safe and caring schools is shared among many partners. It is the shared responsibility of students, staff, parents/guardians and the broader community (school community), to demonstrate positive conduct while attending any school or District related activity, at any location.

All members of the school community are expected to comply with the purpose and spirit of the BC Human Rights Code, including not engaging in discriminatory conduct on the basis of race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age.

All members of the school community have an obligation to:

- Support learning;
- Promote safety;
- Respect self, environment, and others, and;
- Model courtesy, compassion and respect.

All members of the school community must refrain from engaging in any in-person or digital communication or behavior that is:

- Interfering with the learning and working of others.
- Bullying, cyberbullying, harassing, intimidating, threatening, retaliating, discriminating, or violent.
- Unsafe or illegal, including the possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances, or the possession of weapons or replicas.

The use of personal digital devices will be restricted at schools to promote learning and engagement. Students' use of any personal digital data devices (any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or to access the internet, such as a cell phone or a tablet) will be used for instructional purposes and digital literacy appropriate to the student's age and developmental stage while on school property and during hours of instruction. The use of personal digital data devices by students will support accessibility and accommodation needs, medical and health needs, and equity to support learning outcomes.

The District considers the conduct of any member of the school community that adversely affects the school environment to be a breach of the District Code of Conduct and to warrant appropriate forms of response or intervention. If the safety or educational program of others is compromised, or if there is an ongoing failure to meet the expectations of the Code of Conduct, a range of consequences will follow. Whenever possible, incidents will be resolved by discussion, mediation and restitution.

SD8 further believes that the effective management of student discipline, congruent with our philosophy, is a necessity to establish safe and caring environments that foster learning, school connectedness and healthy living. SD8 believes that schools are places where students are free from harm and places for students to form strong relationships. Prevention and intervention strategies applied at the school level and supported at the District level are the foundations of a safe and caring school in which students learn to solve problems in peaceful ways, to value diversity and to support human rights.

Retaliation Prevention

All reasonable steps will be taken to prevent retaliation against a student who has made a complaint of a breach of a code of conduct.

Breaches of the Code of Conduct - Consequences

Student discipline takes place in the context of informed decision-making.

Administrators will consider many factors including the age and maturity of the student, social capacity, learning needs and prior related events when determining consequences for actions that violate the Code of Conduct. Breaches of the Code of Conduct include but are not limited to disrespectful or defiant behaviour towards staff, academic dishonesty, theft, inappropriate use of technology and social media, and bullying of other students.

Disciplinary action, wherever possible, is restorative rather than merely punitive. The school will treat seriously any behaviour that discriminates based on Indigenous identity, race, religion, colour, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, family status, age, sex or sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, or physical or mental disability.

Repetitive or severe unacceptable behaviour may result in increased severity of subsequent disciplinary action. The age and maturity of students are considered when determining appropriate consequences.

Special considerations may apply to students with special/diverse needs if these students are unable to comply with a code of conduct due to having a disability/diversity of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional, or behavioural nature.

Consequences are always thoughtful, fair and consistent; learning focused to prevent a reoccurrence of the offense and restorative.

The range of disciplinary actions that applies to breaches of the Code of Conduct may include but are not limited to the following:

- School or community service;
- Restorative justice or formal apology;
- In-school suspension or school suspension, and;
- Referral to a specialized service or program.

Where appropriate, consequences will involve the student in determining a corrective plan of action. Administrators consult and work closely with parents throughout the process in determining ways to support students who have breached the Code of Conduct.

In some cases, violation of school district policies may also be a violation of the Criminal Code of Canada and result in a police investigation.

Notifications for breaches of the Code of Conduct may involve communication with:

- Parents/guardians of the student in breach of the Code of Conduct;
- Parents/guardians of the victim(s) where appropriate;
- School staff and district personnel where appropriate;
- Police and/or other agencies, as required by law, and;

- School community, when deemed necessary, to reassure members that the school officials are taking appropriate action.

The following [administrative procedures](#) apply:

- **AP 3309 - Student Suspension**
- **AP 3310 - Illegal Use of Drugs and Alcohol**
- **AP 3311 - Vandalism**
- **AP 3312 - Possession of Weapons or Explosives**
- **AP 3401 - Student Assessment and Promotion**

What Should I Do If...?

If you have been affected by, or know of others who have been affected by, bullying, alcohol, drugs, harassment, violence, and/or weapons, it is very important that you talk to a parent/guardian, school administrator, teacher, counsellor, or make an ERASE report so that others can help solve the problem. Disclosed information about other students is considered confidential.

Date Reviewed: June 2024