

SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

INTRODUCTION

In keeping with the Department of Education's School Code of Conduct, Sir John A. Macdonald High School has reviewed its Discipline Policy. The review committee was comprised of students, parents, community members, staff members and school administration. This policy will be reviewed annually in collaboration with stakeholder representatives.

The Halifax Regional School Board believes:

- It is the right of all students and staff to learn, teach, work and interact in a safe, secure and healthy environment, free from any form of violence, intimidation, threat, abuse or mistreatment.
- Student learning is maximized in positive, inviting, safe and caring school environments where all members of the school community demonstrate standards of behaviour consistent with the principles of respect, responsibility and rights.
- A proactive approach to discipline is the most effective method of achieving a school climate that is conducive to both teaching and learning.
- Behaviour is learned; therefore, behaviour can be influenced and acceptable behaviours can be taught and learned.
- Selection of appropriate consequences will acknowledge that punishment, in and of itself, does generally not have long term benefits for students.
- School codes of conduct help individuals develop self-discipline and the ability to co-operate with others.
- Discipline in the positive sense encourages students to understand the fundamental values that are essential to the well-being of both the individual and society, and to accept responsibility for the consequences of their actions.
- Pro-active approaches to discipline and consequences will be appropriate for each individual student.
- Inappropriate behaviour will never be ignored; appropriate action will always be taken.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The expectations for appropriate behaviour defined in the Nova Scotia School Code of Conduct apply to all school members. To support safe, secure and healthy school climates, all members of our school communities must abide by three universal principles:

- ❖ It is expected that school members will show respect for the rights, property and safety of themselves and others.
- ❖ It is expected that school members will accept personal responsibility for their behaviour in order to maintain a safe and productive learning environment.
- ❖ It is expected that school members will honour the rights of others through learning and demonstrating appropriate behaviour in the context of social responsibility.

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOURS

Minor misconduct is defined as behaviour which interrupts the orderly operation of any school activity, regardless of where it may occur. Some examples of minor misconduct are: creating minor disturbance in or out of class, off-task behaviours, or tardiness. Engaging in behavior which interrupts the orderly operation of the classroom, the school, the school grounds, halls or other areas used for school activities will be addressed in a manner consistent with the School Code of Conduct by individuals responsible for such

