

Seaford Middle School Code of Conduct

At Seaford Middle School we are committed to providing a safe, supportive and orderly school environment where all individuals are treated with respect and students receive a quality education without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, staff members, parents and visitors to our school is essential to achieving this goal. Our expectations for conduct are based on the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty, and integrity. The information on these planner pages will serve to inform you about many important aspects of our District Code of Conduct.

Student Rights

Seaford Middle School students have rights as members of the school community. Students have the right to:

- Participate in all district activities on an equal basis regardless of their actual or perceived race, weight, color, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, gender, sex, sexual orientation or disability.
- Present their version to school personnel in connection with an event that might require a disciplinary consequence.
- Have access to school policies, regulations and rules and, if necessary, have the rules explained by school personnel.

Student Responsibilities

All Seaford Middle School students have the responsibility to:

- Promote a safe, supportive and orderly school environment that is conducive to learning.
- Respect others, respect the property of others and respect school property. Maintain behavior free from all forms of harassment, bullying and/or discrimination.
- Be familiar with and obey all district policies, rules and regulations about student conduct.
- Attend school every day, be in class on time and be ready to learn.
- Work to the best of their abilities in all academic and extracurricular areas.
- React to directions given by teachers, administrators and school personnel in a respectful manner.
- Work on a way to control their anger and seek help.
- Ask any questions when they do not understand.
- Seek help in solving problems.
- Dress appropriately for school functions.
- Accept responsibility for their actions.
- Conduct themselves as responsible representatives of the Seaford Middle School when participating in or attending school events/functions.
- When a problem or situation arises that requires the attention of an adult, it should be reported to an adult.

Essential Partners

Seaford Middle School students should seek assistance from:

- Parents/persons in parental relation
- teachers
- guidance counselors, social worker, psychologist, nurse
- support staff
- administrators
- Superintendent/Central Office Administrators
- Board of Education

Student Dress Code

Dressing appropriately for school and school functions is very important. In order to be sure that Seaford Middle School students are dressed appropriately, a student's dress, grooming and appearance including hair style/color, jewelry, make-up and nails shall:

- Be safe and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process.
- Not include garments such as tank tops, tube tops, net tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, plunging necklines and see-through garments.
- Cover underwear with outer clothing.
- Include appropriate, safe footwear at all times (no sandals or flip-flops).
- Not include headgear or visors in the classroom except for medical or religious reasons.
- Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, discriminatory, libelous, or that denigrate others on account of race, color, weight, religion, religious practice, national origin, ethnic group, gender, sex, sexual orientation or disability.
- Not promote/endorse use of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs and/or encourage illegal or violent activities.

Prohibited Student Conduct

Seaford Middle School students are required and expected to act in a manner that is respectful of the safety and rights of others and their property. This applies to behavior in school, on school property, on school buses and at school sponsored functions. Students shall not:

- Engage in conduct that is disorderly.
- Engage in conduct that is insubordinate.
- Engage in conduct that is disruptive.
- Engage in conduct that is violent.
- Engage in any conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others.
- Engage in misconduct while on a school bus.
- Engage in any form of academic misconduct.
- Engage in any off-campus misconduct that creates or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, where it is foreseeable that the misconduct might reach school property; or endangers the health, safety or morals of students or staff within the school.
 1. Cyberbullying
 2. Threatening, hazing or harassing students or school personnel over the phone or through other electronic media.
 3. Using message boards to convey threats, derogatory comments or post pornographic pictures of students or school personnel.

Disciplinary Consequences

Disciplinary consequences, when necessary, will be firm, fair and consistent so as to be most effective in changing student behavior. Students who are found to have violated the Code of Conduct may be subject to the following consequences:

- Oral warning
- Written warning
- Written notification to parents
- Detention
- Suspension from transportation
- Suspension from athletic participation
- Suspension from social or extracurricular activities
- Suspension of other privileges
- Removal from classroom by teacher
- In-school suspension
- At-home suspension - short term
- At-home suspension - long term
- Permanent suspension from school

A **Privileges Denied List** policy exists at Seaford Middle School. This policy prohibits students who accumulate detentions or who have been suspended from participating in after school activities, clubs or athletic events, attending non-curricular assemblies and field trips, obtaining hall passes (except for emergencies) or participating in any student activity that is offered as a privilege. Students will be informed of their inclusion and the duration of their placement on the Privileges Denied List.

Disciplinary and Remedial Consequences for Bullying, Harassment and/or Discrimination

Seaford Middle School is committed to the prevention of bullying, harassment and/or discrimination and supports the development of measured, balanced and age-appropriate responses to the bullying, harassment and/or discrimination of students by students on school property, including school functions, with remedies and procedures which focus on prevention, intervention, education and discipline. Remedies will be measured, balanced, progressive and age-appropriate and will take into consideration the nature and severity of the offending student's behavior, the developmental age of the student, the previous disciplinary record of the student and other extenuating circumstances, and the impact the offending student's behaviors had on the individual who was physically injured or emotionally harmed. Responses will be reasonably calculated to end the harassment, bullying and/or discrimination, prevent recurrence, and eliminate the hostile environment. Successful intervention **may** involve remediation.

Reporting Incidents of Bullying, Harassment and/or Discrimination

Students who have been bullied, harassed and/or discriminated against, parents whose children have been bullied, harassed and/or discriminated against, or other students who observe bullying, harassing and/or discriminating behavior are encouraged and expected to make a verbal and/or written complaint to any school personnel in accordance with the training and guidelines provided, as well as any applicable district policies. (Refer to BOE Policy 0115, Dignity for All Students Act, BOE Policy 0100, Equal Opportunity; and BOE Policy 0110, Sexual Harassment.)

Reports of bullying, harassment and discrimination will be promptly investigation in accordance with District policies and procedures.

Retaliation by any school employee or student against any individual who, in good faith, reports or assists in the investigation of harassment, bullying, and/or discrimination is prohibited under law.

The Dignity Act Coordinator for the Seaford Middle School is Mr. Thomas Burke, Assistant Principal located at 3940 Sunset Avenue, Seaford, NY 11783. His telephone number is 592-4203.

Questioning Students

Any Seaford Middle School official authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty on a student may question a student about an alleged violation of law or the District Code of Conduct. School officials will tell all students why they are being questioned.

Searching Student Property

The Seaford Middle School Administration may conduct a search of a student's belongings based on information received from a reliable source. A search of the student's belongings will be considered a last resort after attempts have been made to enlist the student's cooperation. Students will be told why their property is being searched.

Searching Lockers, Desks and Other School Storage Places

Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy with respect to these places, and school officials retain complete control over them. This means that student lockers, desks, and other school storage places may be subject to search at any time by school officials, without prior notice to students and without their consent.