

Seaford High School

Code of Conduct

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Student Rights

The district is committed to safeguarding the rights given to all students under state and federal law. All district students have the right to:

1. 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.
2. Present their version to school personnel in connection with an event that might require a disciplinary consequence.
3. Access school policies, regulations and rules and receive an explanation of those rules from school personnel.

Student Responsibilities

All district students have the responsibility to:

1. Promote a safe, supportive and orderly school environment that is conducive to learning.
2. Respect others, respect the property of others and respect school property.
3. Maintain behavior free from all forms of harassment, bullying and/or discrimination.
4. Be familiar with and abide by all district policies, rules and regulations dealing with student conduct.
5. Attend school every day unless they are legally excused and be in class, on time and prepared to learn.
6. Work to the best of their ability in all academic and extracurricular pursuits.
7. React to direction given by teachers, administrators and other school personnel in a respectful, positive manner.
8. Work to develop mechanisms to control their anger.
9. Ask questions when they do not understand.
10. Seek help in solving problems that might lead to discipline.
11. Dress appropriately for school and school functions.
12. Accept responsibility for their actions.
13. Conduct themselves as representatives of the district when participating in or attending school-sponsored events/functions.
14. When a problem or situation arises that requires the attention of an adult, it will be reported to an adult.

PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT

The Board of Education expects all students to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, district personnel and other members of the school community, and for the care of school facilities and equipment. It is expected that all students conduct themselves in a manner that supports the intent of the Dignity for All Students Act; creating a safe and supportive school environment free of discrimination, bullying/cyberbullying and harassment. Conduct that creates a hostile environment at school and school-sponsored events is strictly prohibited. This conduct can include but is not limited to conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse that constitutes harassment and/or bullying. All violations of school rules apply to student behavior in school, on school property, on school buses and at school-sponsored functions, and student behavior off school property where such acts create or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment or where it is foreseeable the acts might reach school property. Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school, when they:

- A. Engage in conduct that is disorderly. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 1. Engaging in any willful act, which disrupts the normal operation of the school community.
 2. Using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar or abusive.
 3. Making unreasonable noise.
 4. Computer/electronic communications and personal device misuse, including but not limited to, any unauthorized use of cell phones, iPods, iPads or other portable devices, computers, software, or internet/intranet account; accessing inappropriate websites; or any other violation of the district's acceptable use policy.
 5. Trespassing. Students are not permitted in any school building, other than the one they regularly attend, without permission from the administrator in charge of the building.
 6. Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
- B. Engage in conduct that is insubordinate. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school employees in charge of students or otherwise demonstrating disrespect.

2. Lateness for, missing or leaving school without permission.
 3. Cutting detention.
- C. Engage in conduct that is disruptive. Examples include, but are not limited to:
1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school personnel in charge of students.
 2. Creating a loud disturbance.
 3. Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing or swearing.
 4. Falsely reporting a bomb threat.
 5. Conduct disruptive of the educational process or that substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom.
- D. Engage in conduct that is violent. Examples include, but are not limited to:
1. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon a teacher, administrator or other school employee or attempting or threatening to do so.
 2. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or attempting or threatening to do so.
 3. Possessing a weapon.
 4. Displaying what appears to be a weapon.
 5. Threatening to use any weapon.
 6. Intentionally damaging or destroying the personal property of a student, teacher, administrator, or other district employee.
 7. Intentionally damaging or destroying school district property, including graffiti or arson.
- E. Engage in any conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others. Examples include, but are not limited to:
1. Subjecting other students, school personnel or any person lawfully on school property or attending a school function to danger by recklessly engaging in conduct, which creates a substantial risk of physical injury.
 2. Lying to school personnel.
 3. Stealing or attempting to steal the property of other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function or stealing or attempting to steal anything that is school property.
 4. Defamation, which includes making false or unprivileged statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them.
 5. Discrimination, which means discrimination against any student by a student or students and/or employee or employees on school property or at a school function including but not limited to, discrimination based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.
 6. Harassment which means the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by threats, intimidation or abuse, including cyberbullying, that (a) has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being; or (b) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety; or (c) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury or emotional harm to a student; or (d) occurs off school property and creates or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, where it is foreseeable that the conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse might reach school property. For purposes of this definition, the term "threats, intimidation or abuse" shall include verbal and non-verbal actions. Acts of bullying and harassment that are prohibited include, but are not limited to, those acts based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.
 7. Bullying which means the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by threats, intimidation or abuse, including cyberbullying, that (a) has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being; or (b) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety; or (c) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury or emotional harm to a student; or (d) occurs off school property and creates or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, where it is foreseeable that the conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse might reach school property. For purposes of this definition, the term "threats, intimidation or abuse" shall include verbal and non-verbal actions. Acts of bullying and harassment that are prohibited include, but are not limited to, those acts

- based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.
8. Cyberbullying which means harassment or bullying as defined above, where such harassment and bullying occurs through any form of electronic communication.
 9. Intimidation and/or threatening, which includes engaging in actions or statements that put an individual in fear of bodily harm.
 10. Hazing, which includes an induction, initiation or membership process involving harassment which produces public humiliation, physical or emotional discomfort, bodily injury or public ridicule or creates a situation where public humiliation, physical or emotional discomfort, bodily injury or public ridicule is likely to occur.
 11. Selling, using, distributing or possessing obscene material.
 12. Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing or swearing.
 13. Smoking a cigarette, electronic cigarette (e-cigarette), cigar, pipe or using chewing or smokeless tobacco.
 14. Possessing, consuming, selling, distributing or exchanging alcoholic beverages or illegal substances, or being under the influence of either. "Illegal substances" include, but are not limited to, inhalants, marijuana, synthetic cannabinoids, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs and any substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs."
 15. Inappropriately using or sharing prescription and over-the-counter drugs.
 16. Gambling.
 17. Violation of an individual's civil rights.
 18. Indecent exposure, that is, exposure to sight of the private parts of the body in a lewd or indecent manner.
 19. Initiating a report warning of fire or other catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, or discharging a fire extinguisher.
 20. Selling, using or possessing fireworks or other dangerous items.
- F. Engage in misconduct while on a school bus. Students are required to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. Excessive noise, pushing, shoving and fighting or other conduct in violation of the Code of Conduct will not be tolerated.
- G. Engage in any form of academic misconduct. Examples include, but are not limited to:
1. Plagiarism.
 2. Cheating.
 3. Copying.
 4. Altering records.
 5. Assisting another student in any of the above actions.
- H. Engaging in 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. Examples include, but are not limited to:
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

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

Seaford High 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 investigated 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 High School is Ms. Jessica Sventoraitis, Assistant Principal located at 1575 Seamans Neck Road, Seaford, NY 11783. Her telephone number is 592-4313.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

The Board of Education is committed to the prevention of alcohol and illegal substance use/abuse. The term illegal substances shall include, but not limited to, inhalants, marijuana, synthetic cannabinoids, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin and steroids. This policy describes the philosophy of the District and the program elements the District will use to promote healthy life styles for its students and to inhibit the use/abuse of alcohol and other substances.

No student may possess, sell or distribute or use, or be under the influence of alcohol and/or illegal substances on school grounds or at school-sponsored events. Furthermore, no student may possess, sell, distribute or use drug paraphernalia on school grounds or at school-sponsored events.

Additionally, the following persons shall be prohibited from entering school grounds or school-sponsored events: any person exhibiting behavior, conduct or personal or physical characteristics indicative of having used or consumed alcohol and/or other illegal substances or any person whom school personnel have reasonable grounds to suspect has used alcohol and/or other substances.

Any staff member observing students possessing and/or using alcohol and/or illegal substances on school grounds or during school-sponsored events shall report the incident immediately to the Building Principal or other appropriate staff members who shall then take immediate action. Any alcohol or illegal substances found shall be confiscated immediately, followed by notification of the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student(s) involved and the appropriate disciplinary action taken, up to and including suspension and referral for prosecution. In its effort to maintain an alcohol and illegal substance-free environment, the District shall cooperate to the fullest extent possible with local, state and/or federal law enforcement agencies.

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION BY STUDENTS IN CONNECTION WITH SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

The Board of Education has determined that the use of alcohol by students in connection with school events represents a particularly serious threat to the health and welfare of students. The consumption of alcohol by students prior to or during

all school-sponsored events or on school property is strictly prohibited. Any student who appears to be under the influence of alcohol shall be subject to the provisions of the written policy. Nothing herein contained shall preclude school administrators from disciplining a student pursuant to the Education Law and the Code of Student Behavior in addition to the provisions hereof, or referring any person attending school events to police agencies who is disruptive or disorderly.

In order to promote a safe, supportive, healthy and productive environment in connection with school events, the District implements the following testing policy with respect to students suspected of consumption of alcohol.

- a. Any school personnel who have a reasonable suspicion that a particular student has consumed alcohol prior to a school event may recommend to the administrator in charge the use of breathalyzer testing to determine such consumption. Reasonable suspicion shall be based on objective criteria including, but not limited to, admissions, reliable statements of others, alcohol on the breath, impairment of motor control and other outward signs of alcohol use or intoxication.
- b. The District shall maintain an appropriately calibrated breathalyzer testing device and shall provide for training of appropriate employees in its use.
- c. A student present at a school event who is believed to have consumed alcohol prior to or during the event will be discretely excluded from the school event and escorted by the school official to a secure location. A trained school official shall administer the test. The student will be granted an opportunity to be heard concerning justification for the positive test result. After due consideration of the student's rationale, the school official shall make an immediate determination whether to exclude the student from the event. If alcohol use has been determined, the student's parents or person in parental relation shall be immediately notified. Students identified as having consumed alcohol shall be detained under observation until a parent or person of suitable age and discretion is available to transport the student. The student's behavior shall be referred to the school Principal and/or Superintendent of Schools for further action pursuant to Section 3214 of the Education Law. Test results may be considered in making a determination whether to proceed further. If the student is insubordinate or disorderly or his/her conduct otherwise violates the provisions of the code of Student Behavior, school administration may also proceed thereunder.
- d. In the event that a student refused the administration of a breathalyzer test, he/she will be presumed to have consumed alcohol. The matter will then be processed in the same manner as if a positive breathalyzer test result had been obtained, and the student may be excluded from school-related activities and other school events.

As noted above, the possession, transportation, and distribution of alcoholic beverages during or in connection with school events are strictly prohibited. Any student determined to have possessed, transported or distributed alcoholic beverages or to be under the influence of alcohol at such activities shall be subject to immediate suspension and further discipline as provided in Section 3214 of the Education Law of the State of New York and Code of Student Behavior.

In addition to any other penalties provided by law or by the Code of Student Behavior, the building principal may, for a violation of this policy, prohibit the student from attending or participating in the prom and/or the graduation ceremony, although the student would still be entitled to receive his/her diploma if the student is otherwise entitled to it.

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