

St. John Lutheran School
Defiance, Ohio

Code of Conduct

I. Purpose and Philosophy

The right and responsibility of St. John Lutheran School is to insist on an atmosphere that is conducive to the learning/instructional process. The entire school setting including classrooms, cafeteria, playground, gymnasium, restrooms, and hallways must be a place where students are free to pursue their educational training in a positive learning environment. The code of conduct is also applicable when St. John Lutheran School is being represented in any school activity off the school premises. We seek to teach Christian attitudes of respect for others and the property of others, self-control, politeness, and orderliness. Our school philosophy of discipline will mirror Christ and His teachings through the application of Law and Gospel to discipline situations. We seek to provide a school where children may "...grow in wisdom and stature before God and men."

Cooperation between parents/guardians and teachers is essential when discipline difficulties are encountered. Christian Attitudes, self-control, and Christian behavior can only be achieved with the active support of parents/guardians. If problems occur, teachers will work with both parents/guardians and students to resolve these difficulties. Every effort will be made by teachers and the administration to apply the proper discipline to the specific situation.

The code of Conduct is posted in the school cafeteria. A copy of the Code of Conduct is available in the school office to interested parents/guardians, students, and school personnel.

II. Consequences of Misconduct

Students forfeit their privileged to an education at St. John Lutheran School if the student's continued presence in school will be of no substantial benefit to him or if his continued presence in school will be injurious to the health, morals, or education of other pupils or the welfare of the school. Possible consequences of misconduct include, but are not limited to, the following list. Consequences will be applied according to the seriousness of the offense, not necessarily in the following order.

1. Counsel and verbal reprimand from school authorities.
2. Loss of privileges for students, writing assignments, or "community service".
3. Contact with a parent by note or phone.
4. Intervention plan worked out with parent, students, and school authorities.
5. After school detention.
6. In-school suspension.
7. Out of school suspension.
8. Expulsion from St. John Lutheran School.

III. Procedures for Dealing with Misbehavior

The following procedures will be followed for dealing with misbehavior according to the seriousness of the offense, not necessarily in the following order.

1. The teacher will give Christian Counsel, guidance, and consequences attempting to resolve the problem with the student.
2. If unsuccessful, the teacher will inform parents of the disciplinary problem and the concern the teacher has for the child.
3. If the situation does not improve, the teacher will consult with the principal. The principal will provide Christian counseling, reprimands or other disciplinary action and will notify parents of the continuing problem.
4. The principal has the authority to suspend any pupil whose presence in school is detrimental to the best interests of himself or of the other students and of the school. Written notice of such action shall immediately be sent or given to the parent or guardian and student. A student and/ or a parent has the right to a hearing before the principal in the case of suspensions. Students will be held responsible for all schoolwork missed due to suspension.
5. A student may be expelled from school upon the recommendation of the Discipline Committee if the student's continued presence in school will be injurious to the health of morals or education of other pupils or the welfare of the school. The parent or guardian shall be informed in writing by the principal of such a decision. A student and/or a parent has the right to appeal an expulsion before the Board of Christian Education.

IV. Discipline Committee

A committee consisting of 3-4 members will meet as necessary to make recommendations for disciplinary action in cases of serious misbehavior. The committee will consist of the principal, a pastor, and one member of the Board of Christian Education. Teacher(s) involved will be consulted. Meetings will be called by the principal. This committee will have the authority to expel a student from St. John Lutheran School.

Guidelines

V. General

Students will show respect for those in authority and all adults in general. Students are expected to cooperate with teachers, pastor(s), and all other school/church personnel. Students are expected to observe the Code of Conduct of St. John Lutheran School whenever in the building, on the grounds, or representing the school at off site activities.

1. Disrespect for those in authority shown by attitudes, words, or actions will result in disciplinary action. The following behaviors may result in detention, suspension, or expulsion.
2. Students are not to make noise or act in any manner that would interfere with a teacher's ability to conduct class or an activity.

3. The use of profanity or coarse and vulgar language will not be tolerated.
4. Offenses such as fighting, cheating, or stealing will be treated with serious disciplinary action.
5. Physical and/or verbal abuse of another student such as kicking, punching, name calling, etc.
6. Liability for any willful destruction of school/church property or damage that occurs as a result of failure to observe rules will be the responsibility of involved students and their parents/guardians.

Proper Freedom of Expression

While students are encouraged to exercise their freedom of expression in the proper setting, the rights of others and the school must also be protected. Therefore, the distribution of obscene, libelous, or other inappropriate literature is prohibited on school or church property.

VI. Possessions

1. Knives, firearms, explosive devices, or similar devices are not permitted at school.
2. I Pods, cell phones, MP3 players, electronic devices, and other disruptive devices may not be used during school hours.
3. Gum chewing or eating of candy on school grounds is prohibited except with teacher consent.
4. Possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, or other unauthorized drugs on school premises or at school related activities on or off site is prohibited.
5. Sale and distribution of drugs, alcohol, fireworks, or other illegal devices is prohibited and will be dealt with serious disciplinary action which may include suspension or expulsion.
6. Unauthorized medications, both prescription and over the counter, are prohibited on school premises or at school related activities. (See also: Overseeing the Non Emergency Oral Administration of Physician Prescribed Medication)

Building

1. Students are not permitted to arrive at school without teacher or principal authorization before 8:15 a.m. Bus delivery is the only exception to this rule. Students who do arrive prior to 8:15 a.m. should immediately report to the Tiger's Den or will be escorted to same by school personnel. Parents will be charged at the appropriate rate for this care.
2. Students are not allowed in classrooms before 8:30 am or after 3:30pm except with permission and adult supervision.
3. Students are not to loiter in the hallways or restrooms.
4. Students are not to run in the building except in the gymnasium as may be directed for an activity.

5. Students are not to tamper with or activate fire alarms. In an emergency, the student should report the concern to the school office or other adult personnel as soon as possible.
6. Students who initiate a bomb threat will be dealt with by law enforcement and may result in expulsion.
7. The telephone is for emergency use only. Permission for use of the telephone must be received from the teacher, principal, or other responsible adult.
8. At the end of the school day students must do one of the following:
 - a. Report to the bus loading area and wait in an orderly fashion for their bus. Bus students will always be monitored by an adult.
 - b. Proceed to the Tiger's Den and report in to the responsible adult.
 - c. Report to after school activities such as extracurricular activities, help sessions, detention halls, and the like which will be under adult supervision. Students must remain in the designated room(s) where the activity is scheduled to be held.
 - d. Proceed to the designated parent pick up point and remain there in an orderly fashion until a parent arrives or it is 3:45 p.m. At 3:45 p.m. school personnel will escort those students not yet picked up to the Tiger's Den Christian Childcare Center. Parents/guardians will be responsible for any charges that may be incurred when students are taken to the Tiger's Den Christian Childcare Center.
 - e. Proceed out the designated doorway to walk home.
 - f. No student should be in the building or on school grounds after 3:45 p.m. unless involved in activities described above in (a), (b), or (c).

Cafeteria

1. Disorderly conduct will not be permitted in the cafeteria.
2. Students may not share or trade food.
3. All lunch food must be consumed in the cafeteria.

Gymnasium

1. Students in grades 5-8 must wear an appropriate change of clothing for physical education classes, including T-shirt, socks, shorts, and shoes specifically for use in the gym. For all other grades, shoes are to be for gymnasium use only. Gym shoes must be worn.
2. Any student using the gymnasium must have adult supervision.
3. Students must receive permission to use athletic equipment.
4. No beverages may be taken into the gymnasium.

Playground

1. No one is permitted on the playground before school except during the recess period of 8:15a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
2. Bicycles must be walked on the playground.
3. All play is to be done safely. Pushing, shoving, and other forms of disrespect will result in disciplinary action. Games that involve tackling or wrestling are prohibited. No kicking of playground balls.
4. No organized team games are to be played on the playground except under adult supervision.
5. Retrieving play equipment, such as balls, from the street or neighboring yards must be approved and supervised by an adult.
6. Skateboards, scooters, roller skates, in line skates, frisbees, and hard balls are not to be brought to school.
7. Snowball throwing is prohibited on school premises. Climbing and sliding on snow piles on the school premises is prohibited.
8. No students are allowed on the playground after school dismisses unless supervised by adults.

Gang Activity

St. John Lutheran School recognizes that a school must create a safe environment in which learning can take place. The presence of gangs within a school disrupts that environment by threatening the safety of the students and causing disruption to the academic process. Gang activities also create an atmosphere of intimidation in the entire school community. In order to ensure safe and violence free schools, the Board of Christian Day School establishes the policy that gangs and gang activities are prohibited in St. John Lutheran School.

A gang is any identifiable group or club who display or communicate membership in that group and whose purposes include the commission of illegal acts or the violation of disciplinary rules of St. John Lutheran School. In accordance with the safe school act of 1994, no student on school property, to or from school, at any school activity shall:

1. Wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign, or other item that evidences or reflects membership in, or affiliation with any gang.
2. Engage in any act that furthers the interest of any gang, or gang activity, including but not limited to:
 - a. Soliciting membership in, or affiliation with any gang.
 - b. Soliciting any person to pay for "protection" or threatening any person, explicitly or implicitly, with any other illegal or prohibited act.
 - c. Painting, writing, tattooing, or otherwise inscribing gang related graffiti, messages, symbols or signs on one's self, school property, or persons property.
 - d. Using hand gestures for gang "signing".

- e. Engaging in violence, extortion, or any other illegal act or other violation of school property.
 - f. Soliciting any person to engage in physical violence against another person.
3. In determining, as part of the application and enforcement of this policy, whether acts, conduct, or activities are gang related, school officials will exercise discretion and judgment based upon current circumstances in school, neighborhoods, and community.
4. Students who violate this policy shall be subject to suspension and/or expulsion (See also: Suspension and Expulsion Policy), in addition to applicable criminal and civil penalties. School administrators will confiscate materials and report any acts of gang related activities to local law enforcement authorities and parents and/or guardians.
5. The removal of gang related graffiti shall be a priority in maintenance of school property. After police notification, all such graffiti on school or personal property shall be removed or covered within twenty-four hours of its first appearance to school officials, or as soon as possible, unless time is needed to obtain replacements for damaged items. School officials will work closely with local law enforcement officials in controlling gang related activities.

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