

JAMES THOMSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CODE of CONDUCT

James Thomson Elementary School has the responsibility to provide and ensure a safe and positive climate for learning. Our Code of Conduct provides a broad framework of behavioral expectations for students. It is expected that all members of the school community will uphold the underlying principles of the school code which include respect for self, others, property, and the environment.

Our Code of Conduct shall apply to all students during any school activity and will hold students responsible for their conduct on the way to and from school or at a school activity. Conduct by any student that adversely affects school climate or operation, shall be considered a breach of the Code of Conduct, warranting appropriate forms of intervention. The Code of Conduct recognizes that as children grow and mature, they are more able to make appropriate decisions and to be responsible for their actions.

I) Statement of Purpose

The Purpose of our Code of Conduct is to communicate to all members of our school community a clear understanding of the behavior expectations we have for our students.

*We provide James Thomson students with a safe and caring learning environment.
We expect James Thomson students to respect our school, to respect others
and to respect themselves.*

II) Conduct Expectations

Acceptable Conduct supports a positive learning environment.

While at school, going to and from school (including on buses), and while attending any school function at any location it is expected that students will:

- Act in a safe and kind manner.
- Keep their hands and feet to themselves.
- Attend school and classes regularly and punctually.
- Apply themselves to the best of their ability in all aspects of their education.
- Treat all people with respect and consideration.
- Follow the directions and reasonable requests of staff members.
- Remain on the school grounds during the day unless they have permission from a parent and have checked in with the office prior to leaving.
- Play in the designated areas during recess and lunch.
- Be respectful of the thoughts, feelings and heritage of others.
- Respect the rights and property of others.
- Show respect for the building and playground equipment
- Report to a responsible adult, incidents of threats, bullying, harassment, or intimidation.
- Use of district-owned and personal electronic devices in a courteous, responsible and ethical manner.

Unacceptable Conduct interferes with a positive learning environment.

Some examples of unacceptable behaviors include:

- Interference with the learning of others.
- Use of inappropriate or abusive language.
- Bullying, cyberbullying, threatening, harassing, intimidating, or assaulting in any way, any person within the school community.
- Theft of or damage to property.
- Any efforts to cause harm or discriminate against, thereby violating the Human Rights Code.
- **The Human Rights Code** states: discrimination occurs when someone is treated differently and poorly because of their race, color, class, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital or family status, physical or intellectual disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, criminal conviction, political belief or lawful source of income.
- Use of district-owned or personal electronic devices or technology to engage in any of the above, especially if it has an impact on the school environment or the wellbeing of others.
- Acts of retaliation against a student who has reported incidents where the code of conduct has been broken.

Rising Expectations

The Code of Conduct recognizes that as children grow and mature, they are more able to make appropriate decisions and to be responsible for their actions.

As students progress through school, they are expected to:

- Acquire greater knowledge and understanding about their personal behavior and its impact on others
- Learn and utilize appropriate decision-making strategies
- Demonstrate increasing self-discipline
- Take increasing personal responsibility for their actions and learning
- Be subject to increasing consequences for inappropriate behavior

III) Consequences

Consideration is given to the age and maturity as well as the intellectual, social and emotional capacity of the student along with the nature and frequency of the unacceptable behavior. Minor problems are dealt with on the spot through discussion and reminders of expectations, or the possibility of logical consequences (eg. misusing materials or equipment could lead to a loss of privileges for a specified period of time).

Students who continue to make poor choices in spite of minor consequences, or whose actions fall in the “unacceptable” group will be given escalating time-outs from the playground. This will generally involve a problem-solving session with a staff member during the lunch break. During this time, students will discuss more appropriate strategies and work out a written plan for how they can handle similar situations in the future.

For the most serious of school-level problems at the discretion of the principal (or designate), the consequences may include an in- and/or out-of-school suspension.

Consequences will, where appropriate:

- be thoughtful, consistent and fair
- seek to prevent a recurrence of the offense
- teach acceptable social behavior rather than be merely punitive

And where appropriate:

- provide means for restitution and restorative actions
- involve the offender in determining a corrective plan of action

IV) Retaliation Prevention

- all reasonable steps will be undertaken to prevent retaliation against a student who made a complaint of a breach of a code of conduct.

V) Notification

Communication between home and the school is important to monitor a student's progress. When students violate the Code of Conduct, depending on the nature or frequency of the incident, the school may contact:

- The parents of the student in breach of the Code of Conduct
- The parents of the students involved or impacted
- School and District personnel – where appropriate

The safety and well-being of each child at James Thomson Elementary is our number one priority.
Our Code of Conduct was designed to reflect this.
