

CATHOLIC CODE OF CONDUCT

In light of its Mission Statement, the board is committed to the implementation in every school of a Catholic Code of Conduct that clearly reflects the need to provide a safe and effective learning environment for all members of the school community and is based on the *Tenants of the Gospel Message*.

Policy

Proposed: May 8, 2008

Adopted: May 2008

DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE

Marquette, MI

Through the establishment of a Catholic Code of Conduct we empower our students to reflect on their behaviors so that they can choose to change, establish healthier boundaries, become productive citizens and grow in God's love.

To enforce the Catholic code of Conduct, a discipline plan has been developed which is divided into five levels with specific consequences assigned to each level. The consequences are meant to correspond to the developmental maturity of the students involved. Listening, reteaching, modeling and reinforcing expected behaviors is often the first consequence used in the discipline process. This reflects the belief that most inappropriate actions present an opportunity for teaching and learning.

Level I - Actions Disruptive to Learning

Examples include: inappropriate language, tardiness, dress code violations, missed assignments.

Recommended Consequences:

Grades PreK-2

- Handled by classroom teacher
- Discussed at parent/teacher conference
- Office referral with recurring issues

Grades 3-6 (Offenses determined per quarter)

- 1st Offense - Teacher/Staff warning
- 2nd Offense - Listening, reteaching, modeling/reinforcing expected behaviors
- 3rd Offense - Option of Parent Contact
- 4th Offense & beyond - Parent Contact/Parent Conference

Grades 7 & 8 (Offenses determined per quarter)

- 1st Offense - Listening, reteaching, modeling/reinforcing expected behaviors
- 2nd Offense - Listening, reteaching, modeling/reinforcing expected behaviors
- 3rd Offense & beyond - Detention

Level II - Actions Disrespectful of Self, School, Students, Teachers, Staff and Others

Examples include: gossiping, destruction of personal property, cheating, lying, defiance

Recommended Consequences:

Grades PreK-2

- 1st Offense - Listening, reteaching, modeling/reinforcing expected behaviors, and/or removal from the situation
- 2nd Offense - Option of Parent Contact
- 3rd Offense - Conference with parent and child

Grades 3-6 (Offenses determined per quarter)

- 1st Offense - Listening, reteaching, modeling/reinforcing expected behaviors
- 2nd Offense - Parent Contact
- 3rd Offense - Office referral with option for detention and/or loss of privileges

Grades 7 & 8 (Offenses determined per quarter)

- 1st Offense - Detention
- 2nd Offense - Detention
- 3rd Offense - Office Referral for further action

Level III - Actions that are Harmful

Examples include: theft, demeaning language, profanity, obscene gestures, intimidation

Recommended Consequences:

Grades PreK-2

- 1st Offense - Listening, reteaching with parent contact
- 2nd Offense - Office referral, possible behavior plan
- 3rd Offense - Behavior Contract

Grades 3-6

- 1st Offense - Office referral, parent contact
- 2nd Offense - Office referral, 1 day in-school suspension, pastor contact
- 3rd Offense - Office referral, out of school suspension, pastor contact, Behavior Contract

Grades 7 & 8

- 1st Offense - Office referral, parent contact
- 2nd Offense - Office referral, 1 day in-school suspension, pastor contact
- 3rd Offense - Office referral, out of school suspension, pastor contact, Behavior Contract

Level IV - Actions that are Intentionally Physically Destructive

Examples include: racial/ethnic harassment, fighting, threat of assault, vandalism, extortion

Recommended Consequences:

Grades PreK-2

- 1st Offense - Office referral, 1/2 day to full day in-school suspension, pastor contact
- 2nd Offense - Office referral, full day in-school suspension, pastor contact
- 3rd Offense - Office referral, out of school suspension, pastor contact, Behavior Contract

Grades 3-8

- 1st Offense - Office referral with 1 to 2 day in-school suspension, pastor contact
- 2nd Offense - Office referral, out of school suspension, pastor contact, Behavior Contract

Level V - Actions Resulting in Immediate Suspension

Examples include: possession of weapons, bomb threats, use of illegal substances including alcohol & tobacco, severe fighting

Recommended Consequences - length of an out of school suspension

A parent conference will be required in order for a student to be reinstated in school.

Knowingly creating a false emergency	1 day suspension
Severe fighting	1-2 days suspension
Possession or use of weapon	Expulsion & Police Referral
Bomb Threat	1-3 days suspension or Suspension and Police Referral
Possession of illegal substances	1-3 days suspension plus Police Referral and substance abuse assessment
Possession/use of tobacco products	1-3 days suspension
Major theft (over \$25)	1 day suspension and Police Referral

Rule:

Adopted: August 2008

Diocese of Marquette
Marquette, MI

Tenants of a disciplinary policy rooted *Gospel Message*, the principles of *Social Justice*, respecting the catechism citations on *Human Dignity and Respect*.

The policy is a vehicle to teach the Gospel. Any policy on discipline should keep in mind the following:

Blessed are the Merciful for they will be shown mercy (Matthew 5:7)
Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall be called Children of God.
Treat others as you wish to be treated.
Be merciful as your Father is merciful (Luke 6:36)
Love your enemy do good to hem
Turn the other cheek... 70 times 7.
Judge not lest ye be judged.
How can you remove the splinter in another's eye when you have a plank in your own?
Love thy enemy.
Love your neighbor as yourself.
Go in peace
Let the one among you without sin cast the first stone
What is bound on earth shall be bound in heaven.
Love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you (Matthew 5:43)

Discipline with Mercy, Love and Compassion
Act Justly, Love Tenderly, and Walk Humbly with God (Micah 6:8)
Keep the consequence appropriate and proportional to the offense. (Eye for an eye)

As an agent of the Catholic Church we are called to make value judgements based on our Gospel Virtues and our Catholic Values. We support and defend those Virtues and Values. Zero Tolerance policies are put in place primarily to alleviate an administrator and subsequently a Board/Commission from having to make a judgement. Our mission is to model the Gospel Message and to use discipline as a "teaching moment."

Reconciliation is part of our Catholic Heritage; it involves admission of sin, the doing of penance, and absolution. Remember we are in the "Forgiveness" business.

Rule
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