

## **Upper Grade Discipline Policy (grades 5-8)**

The purpose of school and classroom rules and school policies and procedures for our students is to stay focused on our mission as a Catholic school and help to encourage the growth of respectful, responsible, and law-abiding citizens.

While classroom or school rules may at times seem insignificant to students, the “bigger picture” so to speak, is helping students understand the importance of boundaries, respect, and general rules of living and cooperating in a society with other people and making their interactions impact others in a positive way.

It is our sincerest hope that a Catholic education and the character formation that is a part of it will enable our graduates to go out into the world and make a positive difference. We would be remiss in our mission as a Catholic school, if we did not require students to take accountability and responsibility for their actions, learn from mistakes, and learn to reflect and make better choices going forward.

Making mistakes is a part of life and a significant part of adolescent life; it is our duty as Catholic school educators and parents to hold our students accountable. Pointing fingers at others while not accepting responsibility for our own actions does not promote growth and development of Christian character. Our students deserve a discipline policy that holds them accountable. The OMGC faculty and staff sincerely appreciate parent support of the outlined upper grade discipline policy and helping to enforce any consequences, as well as celebrating good choices.

We encourage parents to discuss this policy with children at home and reinforce accountability and responsibility as well as your support of consequences. We look forward to celebrating good choices and having a clear discipline policy in place so that students are able to choose wisely.

A conduct report will be recorded and sent home for parent signature for any behavior that shows disrespect or disregard for persons or property. The conduct report will be returned to school and filed.

Three conduct reports will issue a detention. Three detentions will issue a suspension. Further behavior violations may jeopardize the student’s enrollment at OMGC.

Three conduct reports within a given academic quarter, will lower the student behavior grade and will continue to lower with any subsequent conduct reports. At

the start of each quarter, student behavior grades “start fresh” with the opportunity to make good choices.

Safety concerns for others’ physical or emotional wellbeing (students or adults) may warrant escalated consequences. Immediate detention or suspension may be warranted, at the principal’s discretion. Parent support of student accountability is expected.

Detention will be held Thursdays 3:15-3:45 PM in Room 7. Detentions will be assigned for the next available Thursday. Parents are expected to make arrangements for student pick-up. Students not picked up at 3:45 will be sent to Extended Care and the appropriate charges will apply. Same day detentions will not be assigned. Students will not be allowed to work on homework assignments at this time. Student accountability takes precedence over sports practices or games or other after school extracurricular programs. If detention conflicts with other schedules, it is expected that the parents support the consequence. Parents are expected to contact the principal with any legitimate scheduling conflicts prior to the assigned detention day.

## **BEHAVIOR EXPECTATION VIOLATIONS**

The following actions will issue a Conduct Report to be signed and returned by student and parent. If the situation is determined, by faculty and administration, to be of a more serious nature, the student will bypass the Conduct Report warning system and receive immediate detention or suspension, as appropriate. A Conduct Report will be issued for any behavior that does not exemplify respect or regard for other persons, property, or rules. Specific examples of Behavior Expectation Violations are listed below.

- Leaving the school grounds. This includes unauthorized visits to the church, rectory, hall, parish center, and areas in front of the school. It also includes leaving the campus without a parent between the end of school and beginning of Extended Day Care, sports or other activity.
- Aggressive behavior, either physical and verbal
- Projecting any object in an unsafe manner
- Disrespecting authority
- Disregarding directives given by faculty or staff
- Disregard for or destruction of property, belonging to self, others, or school
- Inappropriate language, gestures, or writing
- Inappropriate use of technology
- Dishonesty, cheating or plagiarism.
- Repeated disruptive or disobedient behavior
- Excessive talking in the classroom
- Incurable or disruptive behavior which impeded the progress of the rest of the class
- Failure to return to class at scheduled time
- Physical, verbal, or written harassment of another student, parent, teacher, or staff member
- Teasing or taunting of another student
- Fighting; provoking a fight between other individuals or participating in activities that conclude in physical violence to any person
- Theft of or damage to property of the school, another student, visitors, or school personnel
- Use, possession or distribution of narcotics, alcohol, tobacco, or dangerous drugs
- Indecent or obscene conduct or language while at school or at a school-sponsored event
- Actions gravely detrimental to the moral and spiritual welfare of other students

- Possession of a knife, gun, or dangerous object or weapon that could cause damage to an individual or any replica
- Any action that is against Catholic values and teachings, is unsafe, or disrespectful

## BEHAVIOR VIOLATION CONSEQUENCES – UPPER GRADES (5-8)

1. Conduct Warning (1st and 2nd offense) - Notice to the student and parent that continuation or repetition of specified conduct may be the cause of other disciplinary action. Student and Parent signature required.
2. Reflection (all offenses) - Students are expected to be accountable for their actions. Reflection of action chosen and desired action in future situations.
3. Detention (Thursdays 3:15-3:45PM) - will become part of student's permanent file. Affects student behavior grade. Students earning a detention within any given quarter cannot earn higher than a G in behavior for that given quarter. Each subsequent conduct warning and/or detention within same quarter will continue to lower quarter behavior grade. Every 3rd offense will issue a detention, to supersede any sport practice, game, or after school enrichment. Refunds will not be given. Student character education supersedes extracurricular activities.
4. Parent Conference - will become part of student's permanent file. Can be requested at any time with concern regarding repeated behavior violations.
5. Suspension - Exclusion from classes and loss of student privileges for a definite period of time. Parents are informed in writing from the principal and are asked to make an appointment to speak with the principal prior to the reinstatement of the student at school. Suspension is for a serious Behavior Expectation Violation of the school and community or issued after earning three detentions. There are two types of suspension: those served at home and those served at school. Students suspended from school will be placed on a probationary status for the school quarter. If further serious disciplinary action is necessary during this period, the student is subject to further discipline in the form of systematic expulsion.
6. Expulsion - Is the permanent termination of student-status at Our Mother of Good Counsel School without the possibility of re-admission to the school.