

# BEHAVIOR POLICY

6.25.24

Journey School staff is committed to creating a safe and nurturing environment for every child. We are equally committed to maintaining a respectful environment conducive to learning.

Through this Student Behavior Policy and within our day-to-day practice, our intention is to discourage misbehavior, guide children towards positive choice making and develop positive contributors within our school community. Our approach emphasizes *compassion, consistency, and responsibility*.

To that end, Journey School students are expected to adhere to the values, which form our behavior motto - **RESPECT** (Respect, Empathy, Service, Participation, Effort, Courage, Trustworthiness) and the following behavior guidelines:

## Behavior Expectations

- 1. Student will support a good learning environment.** Children are expected to do their best and cooperate with teachers and classmates. This includes, but is not limited to, quietly focusing their attention on the teacher when asked to do so, completing class assignments, observing class starting and ending times, completing classroom chores, and lining up promptly and quietly when requested to do so.
- 2. Students will treat all adults and children with respect.** Respectful, courteous language is expected towards teachers, children and parents. Inappropriate behavior such as rudeness, teasing, mimicking, unkind or inappropriate words, swearing and lying are not permitted. Students are expected to comply whenever an adult or peer asks for the inappropriate behavior to stop.
- 3. Students will treat all personal and school property with respect.** Lost, stolen, defaced or destroyed property will be repaired or replaced by the parents of those responsible in accordance with applicable law.
- 4. Students will follow all classroom and playground rules.** Teachers will help their students understand and integrate the school-wide behavior policy into their daily activities. Additionally, individual teachers may have unique expectations, which they will communicate to their classes.
- 5. Students will contribute to supporting a safe, positive, productive and nurturing educational environment.** Harassment, intimidation, bullying, cyber-bullying, and/or hazing toward any member of the school community, whether by or against any student, staff, or other third parties, is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Examples of such prohibited behavior include, but are not limited to, stalking, bullying/cyber bullying, intimidating, menacing, coercion, taunting, making threats, and hazing. This prohibition includes aggressive behavior; physical, verbal, and psychological abuse. *A full copy of the Journey School Bullying and Harassment Policy can be found on the school website and on page 29 of the School Handbook.*
- 6. An expectation for “Gentle Hands” is in place.** Rough housing, fighting, shoving, spitting, pushing, hitting, kicking, or biting is cause for immediate intervention.
- 7. An expectation that “All Are Welcome” is in place.** Conversations, activities and games that exclude peers from participating are not permitted.

## Consequences for Misbehavior

Classroom management techniques, positive behavior intervention strategies (PBIS) and disciplinary interventions will be employed by school staff as a primary measure to correct behavior. Disciplinary interventions may include but are not limited to advising and counseling students, conferring with parents/guardians, mandating a short breaks, etc. Staff shall enforce disciplinary rules and procedures fairly and consistently among all students.

In the event that primary efforts are not sufficient in our attempts to correct disruptive/disrespectful behavior OR a pattern of misbehavior emerges OR the severity of an incident/infracton is significant, one or more of the following actions will be taken as determined appropriate by the school's educational team (administration and/or teachers involved).

1. An office referral that involves parent/guardian contact. In this scenario, a student is spoken to by administrative staff and sent back into class when they are ready to contribute to a respectful learning environment. Administration will inform the parent/guardian of the incident.
2. **Incident Report:** A document describing the specifics of an incident or infraction written by those school staff directly involved. This report is placed within the student's cumulative school record *and* a copy will be sent home to the student's parents for review. The class teacher and/or administration will notify the student's parents about the incident or infraction. The class teacher, administrator and possibly the student, will determine the corrective course of action.
3. **Student Support Plan/Behavior Contract:** May be developed when a child habitually fails to follow the school or classroom behavior guidelines or a pattern of behavior develops that undermines a healthy learning environment, endangers others, oneself or property. The plan/contract will be drafted at a parent conference with our Behavior and Guidance team. The plan will describe the behavior(s), the antecedent/setting event for those behaviors, the intervention/support methods employed by Journey School moving forward, and an articulation of the specific escalation of discipline should the behavior continue, which may include removal from Journey School.
4. **Potential Suspension:** A mandatory leave may be assigned to a student in response to an isolated incident/infracton or a pattern of misconduct. The student shall be excluded from all school and school-related activities unless otherwise agreed during the period of suspension. A suspension notice will be filed within the student's cumulative school record *and* a copy will be sent home to the student's parents. *A full copy of the Journey School Expulsion/Suspension/Exclusion and Due Process Policy can be found on the school website and on page 32 of the School Handbook.*
5. **Potential Removal from Enrollment:** A significant incident or pattern of misbehavior may result in an administrative recommendation to disenroll the student from Journey School. In this scenario, the Executive Director will issue a letter informing the parent/guardian of Journey School's decision and intent to disenroll the student due to a pattern of misbehavior and/or a significant incident. Known as a "Five Day Letter", this notice will explain the parent's/student's due process rights to request a neutral hearing on the Executive Director's decision to disenroll the student for failure to comply with this policy. If the parent/student does not respond to the "Five Day Letter" or otherwise does not elect to request a hearing, the student shall be disenrolled and notification will be sent to the district of residence of the student.
6. **Potential Expulsion:** If a student commits a suspendable or an expellable offense; expulsion from Journey School may be recommended at the discretion of administration. Students recommended for expulsion are entitled to a hearing to determine whether the student should be

expelled. Unless postponed for good cause, the hearing shall be held within thirty (30) school days and the student will be considered suspended from Journey school until that hearing takes place. A recommendation for expulsion notice will be filed within the student's cumulative school record *and* a copy will be sent home to the student's parents. *A full copy of the Journey School Expulsion/Suspension/Exclusion and Due Process Policy can be found on the school website and on page 32 of the School Handbook.*