



Brentwood School District Code of Conduct Summary 2009-10



The Brentwood School District is committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment where students may receive and District personnel may deliver quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, other District personnel, parents and visitors is essential to achieving this goal.

The District has a long-standing set of expectations for conduct on school property and at school functions. These expectations are based on the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty and integrity.

The Board of Education recognizes the need to clearly define these expectations for acceptable conduct on school property, to identify the possible consequences of unacceptable conduct, and to ensure that discipline when necessary is administered

promptly and fairly. The District has adopted a Code of Conduct that is in line with the NYS SAVE legislation. The full Code of Conduct is available upon request from each school principal, may be downloaded from the District's Web site (www.bufsd.org) and is available for viewing at the Brentwood Public Library. Unless otherwise indicated, this Code applies to all students, school personnel, parents and visitors when on school property or attending a school function.

This summary is intended to help parents inform their children of the basic rights, responsibilities and consequences attached to misconduct. A copy of this summary will be mailed to parents and given to all students at the start of each school year.

All students are expected to know and adhere to the District's Code of Conduct.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Student Rights

The District is committed to safeguarding the rights given to all students under State and federal law. In addition, to promote a safe, healthy, orderly and civil school environment, all District students have the right to:

1. Take part in all District activities on an equal basis regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender or sexual orientation or disability.
2. Present their version of the relevant events to school personnel authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty in connection with the imposition of the penalty.
3. Access school rules and, when necessary, receive an explanation of those rules from school personnel.

Student Responsibilities

All District students have the responsibility to:

1. Contribute to maintaining a safe and orderly school environment that is conducive to learning and to show respect to other persons and to property.
2. Be familiar with and abide by all District policies, rules and regulations dealing with student conduct.
3. Attend school every day unless they are legally excused and be in class, on time, and prepared to learn.
4. Work to the best of their ability in all academic and extra-curricular pursuits and strive toward their highest level of achievement possible.

5. React to direction given by teachers, administrators and other school personnel in a respectful, positive manner.
6. Work to develop mechanisms to control their anger.
7. Ask questions when they do not understand.
8. Seek help in solving problems that might lead to discipline.
9. Dress appropriately for school and school functions.
10. Accept responsibility for their actions.
11. Conduct themselves as representatives of the District when participating in or attending school-sponsored extra-curricular events and to hold themselves to the highest standards of conduct, demeanor, and sportsmanship.
12. Be forthcoming with information concerning violations of the Code.

Parents Rights

All parents have the right to:

1. Receive regular and timely communication from the school related to student behavior and learning.
2. Expect their child to learn in a safe, orderly environment.
3. Expect equal and fair treatment of their child by school staff.

Parents Responsibilities

All parents are expected to:

1. Recognize that the education of their child(ren) is a joint responsibility of the parents and the school community.

2. Ensure their children attend school regularly, on time, and ready to participate and learn.
3. Ensure absences are excused (legal).
4. Insist their children be dressed and groomed in a manner consistent with the student dress code.
5. Help their children understand that in a democratic society appropriate rules are required to maintain a safe, orderly environment.
6. Know school rules and help their children understand them.
7. Convey to their children a supportive attitude toward education and the District.
8. Build good relationships with school staff, other parents and other children.
9. Help their children deal effectively with peer pressure.
10. Inform school officials of changes in the home situation that may affect student conduct or performance.
11. Provide a place for study and ensure homework assignments are completed.
12. Be forthcoming with information concerning violations of the Code.

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CONSEQUENCES FOR UNACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR

The Brentwood School District has adopted a discipline code for all students. It is recognized that the primary responsibility for student discipline lies with each staff member. However, when a staff member feels a referral is necessary, administration shall apply the Code of Conduct based on the prior disciplinary record. Follow-up with the referring staff member shall be the responsibility of the administrator. Consequences of misbehavior include: verbal warning, written warning, detention, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension and/or loss of privileges. A request for a Superintendent's Hearing shall be made for those students whose misbehavior warrants an out-of-school suspension of more than five (5) school days. Students who are suspended shall not participate in any school activities nor be allowed on any District property for the duration of the suspension.

Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school, when they:

Engage in conduct that is disorderly. Examples of disorderly conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Running in hallways.
2. Making unreasonable noise.
3. Using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar or abusive.
4. Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
5. Engaging in any willful act, which disrupts the normal operation of the school community.
6. Trespassing. Students are not permitted in any school building, other than the one they regularly attend, without permission from the administrator in charge of the building.
7. Computer/electronic communications misuse, including any unauthorized use of computers, software, or internet/intranet account; accessing inappropriate Web sites; or any other violation of the District's acceptable use policy.
8. Unauthorized use of electronic devices (including but not limited to CD players, MP3 players, iPods, video games, laser pointers, etc.) is prohibited in the classroom.
9. Using cell phones during school hours is prohibited.

Engage in conduct that is insubordinate or disruptive. Examples of insubordinate or disruptive conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school employees in charge of students, or otherwise demonstrating disrespect.
2. Lateness for, missing or leaving school without permission.
3. Skipping detention.

Engage in conduct that is violent. Examples of violent conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon a teacher, administrator or other school employee or attempting to do so.
2. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or attempting to do so.
3. Possessing a weapon. Authorized law enforcement officials are the only persons permitted to have a weapon in their possession while on school property or at a school function.
4. Displaying what appears to be a weapon.
5. Threatening to use any weapon.
6. Intentionally damaging or destroying the personal property of a student, teacher, administrator, other District employee or any person lawfully on school property.
7. Acts of damage include graffiti and arson.
8. Intentionally damaging or destroying school district property.

Engage in misconduct while on a school bus.

It is crucial for students to behave appropriately while riding on District buses to ensure their safety and that of other passengers and to avoid distracting the bus driver. Students are required to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. Excessive noise or pushing, shoving and fighting will not be tolerated.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

The Board of Education requires all students to attend school in appropriate attire. To achieve this goal, the Board expects all students to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. Teachers and all other District personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting. Nothing listed below shall conflict with the District adopting a uniform code of dress.

A student's dress, grooming and appearance, including hair style/color, jewelry, make-up and nails, shall:

1. Be safe, appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process.
2. Reflect that extremely brief garments and see-through garments are not appropriate.
3. Ensure that underwear is completely covered with outer clothing.
4. Include footwear at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed.
5. Not include the wearing of hats or head coverings in the school building, except at building level discretion, or for a medical or religious purpose.

Engage in any conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others. Examples of such conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Lying to school personnel.
2. Stealing the property of other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function.
3. Defamation, which includes making false or unprivileged statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them.
4. Discrimination, which includes the use of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability as a basis for treating another in a negative manner.
5. Harassment, which includes a sufficiently severe action or a persistent, pervasive pattern of actions or statements directed at an identifiable individual or group which are intended to be or which a reasonable person would perceive as ridiculing or demeaning.
6. Intimidation, which includes engaging in actions or statements that put an individual in fear of bodily harm.
7. Hazing, which includes any intentional or reckless act directed against another for the purpose of initiation into, affiliating with or maintaining membership in any school sponsored activity, organization, club or team.
8. Selling, using or possessing obscene material.
9. Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing or swearing.
10. Smoking a cigarette, cigar or pipe or using chewing or smokeless tobacco.
11. Possessing, consuming, selling, distributing or exchanging alcoholic beverages or illegal substances, or being under the influence of either. "Illegal substances" include, but are not limited to, inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, and any substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs."
12. Inappropriately using or sharing prescription and over-the-counter drugs.
13. Gambling.
14. Indecent exposure, that is, exposure to sight of the private parts of the body in a lewd or indecent manner.
15. Participating in or association with gangs or gang related activities.
16. Initiating a report warning of fire or other catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, or discharging a fire extinguisher.

Engage in any form of academic misconduct. Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Plagiarism.
2. Cheating.
3. Altering records.
4. Assisting another student in any of the above actions.

Engage in off-campus misconduct that endangers the health and safety of students and staff within the school and adversely affects the educational process. Examples of such misconduct include:

1. Cyber Bullying.
2. Threatening, hazing, or harassing students or school personnel over the phone or internet.
3. Using electronic devices to convey threats, derogatory comments or posting and/or sending inappropriate pornographic pictures, images or videos of students or school personnel that significantly disrupt the educational process.

6. Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, or libelous or that denigrate others on account of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability.
7. Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.
8. **Not include any combination of clothing which law enforcement agencies currently consider gang-related. These items may change from time to time. (Examples include but are not limited to: known gang colors, symbols, emblems, and paraphernalia.)**

Each building principal or his or her designee shall be responsible for informing all students and their parents of the student dress code at the beginning of the school year and any revisions to the dress code made during the school year.

Students who violate the student dress code shall be required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item and, if necessary or practical, replacing it with an acceptable item. Any student who refuses to do so shall be subject to discipline, up to and including suspension. Any student who repeatedly fails to comply with the dress code shall be subject to further discipline, up to and including suspension.