

Code of Conduct

The Niagara Wheatfield Central School District has a set of expectations for how we should act while on school grounds, at school functions and on the bus. This Code of Conduct applies to all students, school personnel (employees), parents and other visitors. In 2012 a law was passed called the “Dignity Act” that states we will provide an environment *free* from anybody treating other people or groups unfairly. This also means an incident would get reported and may have a consequence.

A. Definitions:

1. **Disability**- means they may have a physical, mental or medical condition that stops them from doing, speaking or even understanding things the way most of us do.
2. **Disruptive student** -a student making noises, laughing at other kids, not listening, moving around ,not sitting down which can stop us from learning.
3. **Harassment** –continuous physical and verbal threats that make you feel scared enough that you can’t pay attention.
4. **Employee or school personnel**- anybody who works at the school. This means people who work in the cafeteria, hall monitors, teachers, secretaries and cleaning people.
5. **Parent** means parent, guardian or person who has a *parental relationship* with a student.
6. **Individuality**- respecting individual differences and interests
7. **School property**- any building, field, playground, parking lot or property around a public school.
8. **School bus**- any motor vehicle owned by a school that is used for transporting students.
9. **School function**- any school sponsored event such as dances, fund-raising event, sports competition, etc.
10. **Violent Student** – Physical or verbal threats against another student, school staff member or destruction of school and personal property. It also includes someone who has a weapon, shows they have a weapon or threatens to harm a person or property with a weapon.
11. A **weapon** is any object used to cause harm to another person. Examples are but not limited to BB or any other gun, any sharp metal object such as a Kung Fu star, razors, or spray that can cause injury or death.

B. Student Rights and Responsibilities

1. Student Rights

- a) Take part in all District activities on an equal basis.
- b) Tell their side of the story when a problem arises.
- c) Know the school rules, and understand what they mean.
- d) Respect the other students and their belongings
- e) Know the rules and follow the rules.
- f) Attend school every day and be on time (unless they are legally excused).
- g) Try to do their best.
- h) Respect all teachers and school staff.

2. Student Responsibilities

- a) Control their anger.
- b) Ask questions when needed.
- c) Talk to an adult when they think something is wrong.
- d) Dress appropriately for school and school events.
- e) Be Responsible for their actions.
- f) Be respectful, responsible, and safe when at school and school events.

3. Student Dress Code

All students will come to school clean and wearing clothes that are sensible for school. Parents and children are responsible for making sure kids are dressed appropriately. Students should be clean and neat for school every day. Teachers and other grown-ups in the building will help students understand why it is important to dress properly for school.

All parents and students should keep in mind the following rules regarding clothing, hair, make-up, nails and jewelry when getting ready for school:

- a) Must be safe and not interfere with daily classroom work or activities.
- b) Extremely small clothes like tube tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, low necklines (front and/or/ back) and see through clothes are not acceptable.
- c) Make sure that underwear is always covered by outer clothes.
- d) Shoes that are not safe will not be allowed.
- e) No hats should be worn other than when coming in and out of the building or for a medical or religious reason.
- f) Items that contain vulgar/obscene words or pictures, discriminate toward others based on race, color, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation or physical/learning disability will not be tolerated.
- g) No clothing that shows use of alcohol, smoking, illegal drugs or violent activities.

Students and parents will be informed of the dress code in September. If there are any changes made to the dress code during the year the Principal will tell children and parents about the changes. Students who do not follow the dress code rules will be asked to cover up their clothes or take off the clothing that is not allowed and put something else on. If a student refuses to change, he/she may be forced to be disciplined and may have to spend time in in-school detention for the day. If a student breaks the dress code rules again and again, he/she may have to do an out-of-school suspension.

4. Student Conduct

- a) Students will show safe, respectful and responsible behavior to all adults in the school setting and their peers by:
 - 1) Students will walk in the hallway.

- 2) Students will use appropriate noise levels in all areas of school (classroom, playground, halls, cafeteria).
 - 3) Students will use appropriate language at all times.
 - 4) Students will use the computer and any electronics in an appropriate manner.
 - 5) Students will respect all school staff (teachers, principal, cafeteria workers, custodians etc.) and follow their directions.
 - 6) Students will come to school and be on time.
 - 7) Students will respect school property and the property of others by not damaging anything in any way.
 - 8) Students will always get permission from an adult to leave the classroom or cafeteria.
 - 9) Students will be considerate of other people's feelings by not using harmful words.
 - 10) Students will be safe. They will keep their hands and feet to themselves and not physically hurt others (no hitting, pushing, scratching).
 - 11) Students will respect everyone and not threaten to harm others.
 - 12) Students will be safe and not bring weapons or anything that looks like a weapon to school.
- b) Students will show safe, respectful and responsible behavior to all adults in the school setting and their peers by:
- 1) Telling the truth.
 - 2) Keeping their hands to themselves.
 - 3) Not touching or stealing any school or personal property.
 - 4) Staying clear of gossip and spreading rumors.
 - 5) Treating everyone with respect even if they are a different race, gender or religion.
 - 6) Not engaging in bullying behavior such as using threatening words or physical actions to scare others.
 - 7) Using appropriate language (no swearing).
 - 8) Doing their own work (no sharing homework).
 - 9) Not cheating on a test.
- c) Students will use technology in an appropriate manner by:
- 1) No use of cell phones or computers to bully or intimidate others.
 - 2) No use of cell phone or computers to share inappropriate picture.
 - 3) No use of cell phone or computer for anything unrelated to school.
- d) Students will follow all rules on the School Bus as well as the following:
- 1) No fighting.
 - 2) No yelling.
 - 3) No pushing or shoving.
 - 4) No standing and moving around.

e) Reporting:

- 1) All students are able to report violations that they see to an adult in the school (teacher, counselor, principal).
- 2) Students have the right to privacy. They can tell an adult in person or write a note.
- 3) Anything found on a student that is illegal (a weapon, drugs) will be taken immediately and parents will be notified.

5. Student Consequences

The Dignity Act says that we must create a positive and safe environment for all students in our schools. If a student does not follow the rules of the Dignity Act or the Code of Conduct, the student will receive consequences based on the student's age, the rule the student broke, and how many times the student has broken the rule.

a) Possible Consequences

- 1) Warning from an adult in the student's school.
- 2) Note/ call home to student's parents/ guardians.
- 3) Bus suspension (may not be allowed to ride the bus to or from school).
- 4) Loss of privileges (recess, classroom parties, field trips...).
- 5) In school suspension (spend the day or part of the day in the office)
- 6) Removal from the classroom.
- 7) Short-term suspension (not allowed to attend school for 5 days or less).
- 8) Long-term suspension (not allowed to attend school for 5 or more days).

If a rule is broken, the student will receive a consequence listed above AND will be able to receive extra help from adults in order to learn from the mistake made. Examples of the extra help are: school counseling, lunch groups, behavior charts, parent meetings, communication log, and goal setting.

