

# Behavioral Expectations

## Student Discipline

Our children have the right to feel safe and secure at school. Every John J. Blair staff member helps develop a school climate in which each student can experience success. Rules are established to help students learn and to prevent harm and injury. They should be practiced both in school and at home. With your help, we can create a nurturing climate that fosters success and allows every student to feel safe and welcome.

## School-wide Expectations:

Students, parents, and teachers will work together to help each child learn in a safe, secure environment. Classroom rules are to be a visible part of the classroom setting. Each child will receive appropriate attention to correct inappropriate behavior. Teachers and teacher assistants will address student discipline. If student behavior warrants additional attention, action will be taken by the principal.

Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in all phases of their child's education. Please feel free to arrange a conference with your child's teacher, guidance counselor, assistant principal, or principal. We welcome your involvement.

## Suspension

Students who continually disrupt class or exhibit other unacceptable behavior may be suspended from school for up to ten days. Every effort will be made to enlist parent assistance before a student is suspended. When a student is suspended from school, a parent conference must be held prior to re-admission.

## New Hanover County Dress Code Policy

The dress code bars students from wearing spaghetti-strap tops, tank tops, net shirts, bare-midriff clothing or other revealing attire. The policy forbids short dresses, skirts or shorts. Pants or shorts must be worn at the waistline and shirts or blouses must completely cover undergarments. Hats, bandannas and sunglasses may not be worn in school.

## Student Code of Conduct

Each student is expected to respect the rights, freedoms, and needs of their fellow students. The following is a list of expectations that reflect the beliefs of the staff, students, and parents at John J. Blair.

- Treat others with respect.
- Treat others the way that you would like to be treated.
- Respect the rights and property of others.
- Talk appropriately at all times.
- Conduct yourself in a safe and responsible manner.
- Be prepared to work and do your best.

The New Hanover County Board of Education believes that the maintenance of high citizenship standards provides a school climate conducive to effective teaching and learning. The following are examples of unacceptable student conduct:

- Disruption of learning environment
- Verbal or physical abuse of peers or staff
- Destruction of school property or the property of others
- Possession of any dangerous object or weapon



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## New Hanover County School Board Policy

John J. Blair is a quality school where the teaching and learning process is of utmost importance. As a part of daily instruction, we will teach, model, and demonstrate acceptable school behavior. In cooperation with faculty, the student is responsible for maintaining a positive learning environment. Students are expected to exhibit acceptable conduct toward each other and school personnel. Teachers will handle minor infractions of the rules. If the student's behavior continues to need improvement, the teacher will schedule a conference with the parent, student and principal.

Following the school rules listed below will help students demonstrate appropriate behaviors at all times:

- Walking in the classroom and hallways
- Speaking politely and at appropriate times
- Respecting the space and property of others-students and adults
- Being kind and courteous to everyone
- Listening and following directions
- Obeying bus and van safety rules
- According to state law G.S.15C-378, regular and prompt school attendance is required.

These inappropriate behaviors will result in a parent conference, suspension, loss of privileges, after school detention, restitution, and school suspension:

- Fighting
- Abusive language or profane gestures
- Disrespect or disobeying staff
- Dishonesty, forgery, vandalism or theft
- Using or possessing tobacco products
- Making threats, disorderly conduct which distracts or interferes with the learning process

Inappropriate behavior which would result in automatic suspension and/or expulsion would include:

- Possession, use, transmitting, selling or under the influence of any kind of controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind

- Extortion
- Committing a felony in the school setting
- Possession, selling or furnishing any firearm knife, explosive or any other dangerous weapon

## Use of Portable Electronic Devices by Students

Portable electronic devices have become pervasive in our society. With this pervasiveness, appropriate and inappropriate uses of these devices have become evident in schools. Understanding this dichotomy, the Board recognizes the importance of regulating such devices. Therefore, the following regulations shall apply to students' use of portable electronic devices:

1. Cellular telephones and other personal communication devices shall not be used by students during class time. These devices shall be turned off and put away while the students are in class.
2. Phones and computers with photographic capabilities present many unique challenges. Therefore, students shall not use these devices to send pictures of other students by email or by other electronic means during class. In addition, these devices, if used in academically reprehensible conduct (cheating), will be punished in accordance with Policy 8410.



Students in violation of this policy will have their devices confiscated by school officials. Students who fail to comply with a request to turn over such devices will be disciplined in accordance with Policy 8410.

Confiscated devices shall be secured by the school administration and released only to the parent or legal guardian of the student. Neither the school or the New Hanover County Board of Education assumes liability for the loss or damage of these devices.

There are times when students will be permitted to use their devices. NHCS has developed a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative. This allows students to use their own devices for instruction. Information regarding this initiative can be found on the NHCS website.

# Behavioral Expectations

## **Bus Behavior**

Students are required to remain seated, keep hands and feet to themselves, and talk in quiet voices on the bus at all times. Students will be reported by the bus driver for misconduct.

### ***“Riding the bus is a privilege.”***

The staff at John J. Blair Elementary School strongly urges that parents review these rules with their children to ensure the safety of all passengers. Students who fail to observe these rules are subject to immediate disciplinary action since their failure to do so may affect the safety of others. The driver will report a student who misbehaves to a school administrator.

### **Disciplinary actions may include suspensions from the bus.**

If a student is suspended from the bus, the parent is responsible for providing transportation to and from school during the duration of the suspension. The parent should observe established arrival and dismissal schedules. Students that do not attend school during a bus suspension will be marked with an unexcused absence. Students suspended from the bus are not permitted to ride any New Hanover County School bus during their suspension.

### **Parents can help to maintain their child’s appropriate behavior on the school bus by reviewing the following bus expectations with their child on a regular basis.**

- The school bus, including the bus stop area, is an extension of the school and all school rules and regulations that pertain to student conduct in the school are applicable to student conduct on the bus and at the bus stop. Therefore, the Student Discipline Policy #8410 is applicable.
- Students are not permitted to fight, play, or scuffle on the bus.
- Please send a written request for your child to ride the bus home with a friend. This note must be shown to the teacher that morning and then be signed by a school administrator for approval. Your child will need this note to be admitted on the bus. Due to overcrowding on some buses, requests to ride a different bus may be denied.

- Students are only to get on and off the bus at their regular bus stops unless they have permission from the principal to do otherwise. Parents must send a note to school.
- Students and parents are advised that video cameras are used to monitor behavior on the bus.
- Students are to sit in their assigned seats and are to remain in their seats until their bus comes to a complete stop at their bus stop.
- Students are permitted to talk quietly. Excessive noise is not permitted.
- Students are to enter and exit the bus in an orderly manner.
- Students are to keep arms and head inside the bus.
- Students are to obey the instructions of the bus driver promptly and consistently.
- Students are to refrain from eating, drinking, or chewing gum on the bus.
- Students are to refrain from throwing anything out of the bus windows.
- Students are not permitted to inappropriately touch other students.
- Students are not permitted to use profane and indecent language while riding the bus.
- Balloons are not permitted on the bus.
- Students are not permitted to tamper with the emergency door, emergency windows, fire extinguishers, or first aid supplies.
- Students are not to deface the bus in any way.
- Students are not permitted to take pets or other animals on the bus.

