



TANGIPAHOA
PARISH SCHOOL
SYSTEM
EST. 1896

Student Code of Conduct Orientation



What is a code of conduct?

- A set of expectations about how a student should behave on campus
- An explanation of what behaviors are not allowed
- An explanation of what consequences could occur if a student chooses for certain misbehaviors
- Describes the rights of students-fairness, an opportunity to tell your side of the story, due process



General guidelines

- The Code of Conduct is the set of rules given to each school by the school board. Individual schools and individual teachers may have additional rules or requirements for students.
- The Code of Conduct cannot specifically list every single thing a student could get in trouble for. When in doubt, **ASK FIRST!**



PBIS

- Every school has a Positive Behavior Support Plan.
- Your school will be going over your behavior expectations- expectations are things they WANT you to do!
- PBIS is designed to help you learn social skills so that schools can be safe and everyone can have an opportunity to learn.



Changes to the discipline system

- We have moved from an Assertive Discipline Ladder (Step System) to a Leveled System to address behavior.
- It basically divides problem behavior into three different categories:
 - ❑ **LEVEL ONE**: inappropriate things that **INTERFERE** with learning
 - ❑ **LEVEL TWO**: inappropriate things that **DISRUPT** learning
 - ❑ **LEVEL THREE**: illegal or **SERIOUS** things that endanger the school or students



What happens when a teacher writes you up?

- You will be called to the office to talk to a principal or disciplinarian
- You will get a chance to tell your side of the story
- Remember to stay calm and be respectful!
- If the principal or disciplinarian determines that you did break a rule you will get a consequence
- No matter how big or how small, they will call your parents
- The more times you break a rule, the worse the consequences get



How many chances do you get?

- The number of chances depends on how serious the behavior is
- You don't get to start over until the next school year
- The best decision is to make good choices!



Level One examples:

- Horseplaying
- Cheating on an Assignment
- Dress Code Violations
- Tardy to Class
- Cell Phone Violations
- Not Obeying School or Classroom Rules

Level one consequences:

- Parent Contact
- Conference with the Principal
- PAC/In School Suspension
- Community Service
- Restitution/Apologizing
- Detention
- Confiscation (cell phone violation)
- Counseling
- Parent Shadowing
- Out of School Suspension





What happens if I don't complete my consequence?

- **If you don't show up for detention or act up in PAC one of two things could happen**
 - **You could get a more serious consequence**
 - **You could have to do double or triple the time in the original consequence**

Once you choose to violate the rules, taking the consequence is not your choice!



LEVEL two examples:

- **Bullying/Cyberbullying/Harassment**
- **Vandalism**
- **Fighting**
- **Stealing**
- **Disrespect**
- **Leaving School Without Permission**
- **Profanity**

Level two consequences:

- Parent Shadowing-Reverse Suspension
- PAC/In School Suspension
- Counseling
- Conflict Resolution
- FINS
- Out of School Suspension
- Conference with Student Services
- Alternative Placement Hearing





Level three examples:

- Possessions of Street Drugs, Prescription Medications or Over the Counter Medications
- Possession of Weapons of any Kind (knives, razor blades, BB guns, Pellet Guns, Fake Guns, Tasers, Guns)
- Obscene Behavior or Public Indecency (any serious inappropriate activity on campus-even if it is consensual)
- Possession of Alcohol
- False Alarms/Bomb Threats
- Battery-any unwanted physical contact to another person or particularly a teacher!

Level three consequences:

- Arrest
- Alternative Placement Hearing

If you are found guilty of any of these offenses in your Alternative Placement Hearing, removal from school and placement in the Alternative School (TAP) is **mandatory**.





Let's talk about some specific problems:

When we look at our data there are three BIG problems:

1. Willful Disobedience
2. Treats an Authority with Disrespect
3. Fighting



Willful disobedience-what is it:

- Willful disobedience is basically knowing a rule or procedure but refusing to follow it.
- No one is going to like all of the rules of the school or each teacher. It doesn't mean you can choose not to obey them.
- If you have a concern about a rule, it is ok to RESPECTFULLY ask about it. We want you to understand the WHY. Most rules are made to keep our schools safe and help us provide everyone with a strong LEARNING environment.



Disrespect-what is it?

NEW DEFINITION:

The purpose/non-purposeful, willful/reactionary or emotionally charged verbal or non-verbal response on the part of the student, where said student directs verbiage or gestures towards an employee of the Tangipahoa Parish School System and that employee interprets such language/gestures as profane, obscene, humiliating, threatening or explicit in nature.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

That any words OR gestures (flipping a teacher off) that a student directs towards an adult (a custodian, a secretary, a bus driver OR a teacher) **that the adult feels** is profane (cursing), obscene, humiliating (embarrassing) OR threatening.



Be Respectful At All Times:

- Remember that no one has to “earn” your respect
- As students you should respond respectfully even in tough situations
- If you are having an issue with an adult, take that concern to an administrator or your parent(s) before responding
- Once the words are said there is no undoing it-Stop and Think!



Fighting-what is it:

- A hostile confrontation with physical contact (punching, kicking, shoving, biting, pulling hair) involving two or more individuals.
- You are NOT allowed to hit/kick/fight back just because you are hit. You must attempt to avoid the fight. Although it is hard, walk away.
- Self-defense is using an equal amount of force just long enough to protect yourself until someone comes or you can get away.



What happens if you choose to fight?

1. If the investigation finds you guilty of fighting, at minimum you will be suspended out of school for 5 days and will have to meet with the Student Services Supervisor for your school and your parents to be readmitted.
2. You could be placed up for Alternative Placement and placed at the Alternative School for 45 school days.



How to avoid fights:

- Don't talk about wanting to fight anyone
- Don't send or post threatening messages
- Let a teacher, your parents or a staff member know if someone is talking about fighting you or asking you to fight
- Don't pass messages about fighting between your classmates
- Don't question any classmate in an aggressive way



Cell phones:

6th-8th GRADE STUDENTS:

- may not have them on campus at all UNLESS the teacher gives you direct permission to use them for a class assignment
- Phones should not be seen or heard except during teacher directed assignments

9th-12th GRADE STUDENTS:

- Each high school is allowed to develop individual plans about when, if and how you can use a phone



What happens if you break the cell phone policy?

- **First Offense:**
 - Phone is taken for **THREE SCHOOL DAYS**. Your parent must pick up the phone and sign a warning letter.
- **Second Offense:**
 - Phone is taken for **FIVE SCHOOL DAYS**. Your parent must pick up your phone and pay a fine of up to \$15.
- **Third Offense:**
 - Phone is taken for **TEN SCHOOL DAYS**. Your parent must pick up your phone and pay a fine of \$25.



Refusing to hand over your phone:

- If you are directed to hand over your phone and you refuse, you will be suspended for five days and be recommended for alternative placement.
- If you do not want your phone taken, leave it at home. The school has technology and phones available for use.



Bullying and Cyberbullying:

- Unwanted and repeated written, verbal or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult or student.
- Cyberbullying is the same as above but is accomplished by using technology (texts, posts, Snapchat, etc.)
- Instances of bullying should be reported immediately to any adult on campus.
- If you are bullying, you can be suspended or removed to an alternative setting.



Medications and Drugs:

- You cannot have **ANY** medications of **ANY** kind on campus on your person, in a bag/locker or in your car.
- If you need to take ANY medicine you have to have your parent contact the school nurse.
- You cannot take over the counter medicine to school (Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Benadryl, etc.)
- If you are found with any prescription controlled drugs or illegal drugs (i.e. marijuana) you **WILL BE ARRESTED** and recommended for an alternative setting.



Weapons of any sort:

- You cannot have **ANY** weapons of **ANY** kind on campus on your person, in a bag/locker or in your car.
- If you are found with any weapon you **WILL BE ARRESTED** and recommended for alternative placement.
- Items considered weapons: pocket knives, guns (real, fake or BB/Air Soft), razors, sharp objects, Tasers, mace, etc.



Drug and Weapon Removals:

- Students removed to the alternative school for drugs or weapons must be removed for either ONE or TWO years depending on their age. You may end up graduating from the alternative school.
- Students in the alternative school cannot walk with their senior class of their high school even if they meet all of the academic requirements.
- Not all courses are offered at the Alternative School. If you are sent there, you may not be eligible to graduate.



Searches:

- Any student may be searched at any time while on school property.
- A school can conduct whole school or random searches at any time.
- A car parked on a school campus may be searched at any time.
- If there is reasonable suspicion that a student has an inappropriate item, they will be searched.



Threats, False Alarms, Bomb Threats:

- If you communicate orally, in writing or via electronic means (texting, posting, social media) that you intend to commit a violent act on a school campus or at a school event, you will be arrested and recommended for removal to an alternative setting.
- There is no thing as “just joking”.
- If you pull a fire alarm or call 911 this is also a reason for removal to an alternative setting due to the disruption to school.
- All threats should be reported to an adult immediately.



Rights of teachers:

- Teachers have the right to set the rules in their classroom and enforce discipline
- They have the right to remove disruptive students
- They have the right to teach in a safe and orderly environment



Assault or battery of a teacher

If any student is found guilty of assault (verbally threatening) or battery (hitting, pushing, shoving, touching a teacher without their permission) of a teacher, the student will be recommended for alternative placement and very likely arrested. If they are found guilty and removed from campus, the teacher has the right to ask that they **NEVER** be allowed to attend anywhere that teacher is employed.



In School Suspension

- In School Suspension, or PAC, is held at your school site.
- You can be assigned to ISS for one period or multiple school days.
- You have to do all of your assigned work from your teacher while in ISS.
- If you misbehave or don't attend your time can be extended or you can be out of school suspended.
- You may be assigned other discipline consequences while in ISS.



Out Of School Suspension

- If you are Out of School Suspended, you may not attend school or any extracurricular or school based activities during your suspension.
- Your parent must bring you to school and meet with the principal before you can return.
- When you return to school you must ask your teacher for your missed assignments and make them up.



Removals

- If you are removed from your school you will be sent to the Alternative School for **at least 45 school days.**
- While at the Alternative School you cannot be on any other school campus for any reason.
- You can be sent to the Alternative School for up to two years.
- Not all classes are offered at the Alternative School.

Schools have rules just like communities have laws. Rules and laws protect our safety and ensure our rights as citizens against abuses by other people.



Have a GREAT Year!



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