

Behavior Guidelines



The SJUSD behavior guidelines detailed in this section and in the SJUSD Student Handbook apply when coming to or going home from school. These guidelines apply at all times while students are on school grounds, in class, during lunch, going to or returning from a school sponsored activity, or while at another school or school district. Each student will be held accountable for their conduct.

Academic Honesty. All students will complete their academic work without cheating. A student who is caught cheating will be disciplined. A possible consequence will be suspension.

Computer Use. Student assigned Chromebooks and their associated equipment are school district property. Students are expected to protect them from misuse, damage, or removal. Computer violations include:

- Knowingly and without permission accessing to alter, damage, delete, take, copy, or destroy any data, network, system, or software; or accessing to cause disruption of computer service.
- Assisting to or providing the means of accomplishing any of the above.

Detention. Classroom teachers may assign detention to students behaved inappropriately while under the supervision of that teacher. Students will report directly to that teacher. Teachers must give parents/guardians advance notice for after school detentions. Failure to serve may result in further disciplinary actions.

Expulsion. Expulsion is the involuntary removal of a student from all schools and programs of the school district for an extended period of time for acts of egregious misconduct. Final action is taken only by vote of the Board of Education. The essence of discipline is to impose the lowest level of penalty that will support in the instruction to correct a student's behavior. Expulsion is the highest level of punishment that the District can impose and therefore reserved for the most serious offenses.

Gang Involvement. The District has established a plan that includes the coordination, collaboration, and support of the members of the Mayor's Gang Task Force. These efforts have a

philosophy of prevention and intervention, so that schools and the community are safe for students, staff, parents, and others. The display of gang related colors, gestures, or symbols are therefore prohibited.

Harassment. *Harassment* means knowing and willful conduct directed at a specific person that seriously annoys, torments, or terrorizes the person, causes the person to suffer substantial emotional distress, and that serves no legitimate purposes. Harassment, sexual harassment, and/or racial, ethnic, gender, homophobic, or religious slurs will not be tolerated.

The Internet. All of our schools have the capacity to access the Internet. The Internet was developed as a research tool that offers the potential to be a tremendous resource for students and teachers at all levels. Rules and conditions that control students and staff access to the Internet are in place. A violation of the rule could result in disciplinary action or legal action. Each school has a user contract that explains and controls the use of the Internet. Students, staff members, and parents or guardians must sign the Internet Use contract before a student may access the Internet.

Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS). John Muir Middle School strives to ensure that all students feel safe, respected, cared for, and connected to our school culture. We believe that when all students feel this way, they are able to learn and grow into their best self. To accomplish this mission John Muir utilizes the Positive Behavior Intervention Systems (PBIS) model to establish expectations, recognize, celebrate, and support all students.

As part of our PBIS model, our school motto is *Falcons S.O.A.R.* wherein each letter of "SOAR" stands for a characteristic: Safety, Organization,

Achieving Goals, and Respect. Each student area at John Muir, (classrooms, gym, cafeteria, hallways, bathrooms, etc.) has clearly outlined behavior expectations posted that explain how to S.O.A.R in that area.

Throughout the school day students are recognized for meeting or exceeding PBIS expectations with *Muir Bucks*. They can use these fictional purple dollars at our school store once a week at lunch time. Each month teachers nominate 1-2 students to be recognized as *Student of the Month* based on our SOAR expectations in a special assembly.

If a student is struggling to meet the John Muir Expectations, teachers, administrators, and/or counselors will provide a tiered intervention response which can include but not limited to: redirection, reteaching, modeling, student conferences, mediation, check-in and check-out, contact home, parent or guardian conference, behavior plan, detention, Friday school, and in the most serious cases suspension.

Public Display of Affection. John Muir respects the diverse relationships and friendships on campus. However, public displays of affection in school can create an environment that is not conducive to concentration and learning. Students should refrain from these behaviors on campus or at school related events and activities. Students are expected to conduct themselves respectfully at all times, and keep their hands to themselves.

Suspensions. Any school administrator may issue a suspension from school. In accordance with state EdCode, an individual teacher may suspend a student from their class for up to two periods for any and all of the reasons listed in the San José Unified School District Student and Parent Handbook.

Tardy Policy. Students should arrive at school no later than 5 minutes prior to the tardy bell. Students arriving late must report to the attendance office. Parents of chronic offenders will be notified by telephone or letter.

Theft. Any person who steals the property of another is guilty of a theft. One who finds lost property and makes no attempt to determine its true owner and keeps the property is guilty of

theft. Anyone who knowingly receives and/or accepts stolen property is guilty of a felony (Penal Code 489, 485, 487 & 490).

Threats or Abuse Toward Students. Any student who either verbally or in writing (including online) abuses or threatens to inflict injury upon another student may be subject to suspension or expulsion from school. Abuse is defined to include any slurs.

Threats to Employees. A student who threatens to inflict injury upon a school employee or their property may be subject to suspension or expulsion from school. It is the duty of a school employee to report an attack, an assault, or a menace by a student promptly to onsite administrators. Any person discouraging such a report is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Tobacco, Vape, Alcohol, Or Illicit Drugs. Possession or use of tobacco products, vapes, alcohol, or illicit drugs by students is not allowed on any San José Unified School District campus, while attending school-sponsored activities, or while under the supervision of school district employees. This includes any and all Vape products. Any student in the possession or under the influence of any of these items may be subject to suspension from school.

Vandalism. Any student who defaces, damages or destroys any school property may be suspended or expelled. Students and their parents shall be responsible for all damage to equipment or school property. This responsibility applies in the matter of books and supplies of all kinds, as well as equipment, buildings, and grounds, etc. Parents may be held financially liable for damages up to \$25,000 (Civil Code Section 1714.1).

Weapons. All school-related acts of possession, use, sale, furnishing and receiving of weapons, explosives, and dangerous/injurious objects is prohibited. All student violators of the provisions of this policy are subject to disciplinary action, including expulsion.

