

# CODE OF CONDUCT

## Plain Language Summary

**The Hendrick Hudson School 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.**

**Unless otherwise indicated, the district's Code of Conduct applies to all essential partners—students, school personnel, parents and other visitors—whether on school property, in a school vehicle or attending a school function. In all cases, the district expects its essential partners to behave in a civil and courteous manner.**

### The Basics

Maintaining a safe, supportive, orderly, and learning-rich environment requires the cooperation of all school community members. Adult and student conduct should be respectful and should emphasize concern for other people, and all parties should exhibit a sense of personal responsibility for school property and for the personal possessions of other members of the school community. When conduct is inappropriate, it will be treated as a violation of the basic rights of others.

All essential partners should maintain a climate of mutual respect and dignity, which will strengthen students' self-concept and promote confidence to learn. Essential partners are expected to confront issues of discrimination and harassment or any situation that threatens the emotional or physical health or safety of any student, school employee or any person who is lawfully on school property or at a school function.

### About Discipline

Discipline is most effective when it deals directly with the problem at the time and place it occurs, and in

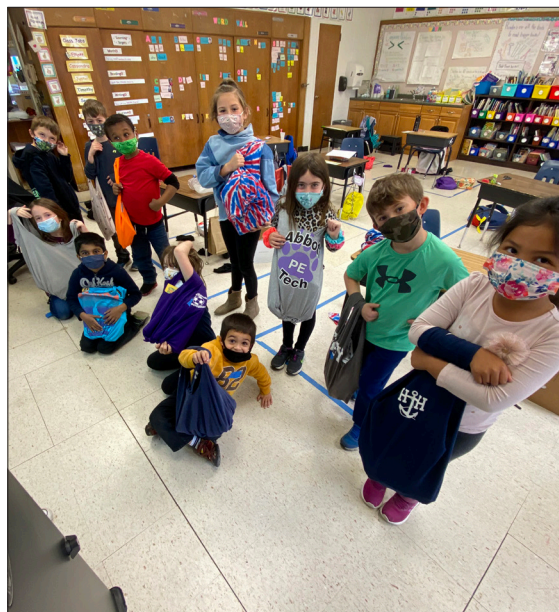
a way that students view as fair and impartial. School personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the students' ability to grow in self-discipline. Disciplinary action, when necessary, will be firm, fair and consistent so as to be the most effective in changing student behavior.

### Discipline for Students with Disabilities

A student identified as having a disability shall be disciplined for behavior related to his or her disability only to the extent permitted by law, and in accordance with the separate requirements of this Code for disciplining students with a disability or presumed to have a disability.

### Questioning Students

The district is committed to ensuring an atmosphere on school property and at school functions that is safe and orderly. To achieve this kind of environment, any school official authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty on a student may question a student about an alleged violation of law or the district's Code of Conduct. Students are not entitled to any sort of "Miranda"-type warning,



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for example, informing students of their right to remain silent, before being questioned by school officials.

School officials are not required to contact a student's parent before questioning, as students would be entitled to if subject to questioning by police. School officials will inform students as to the reason they are being questioned.

The presence of the school resource officer as a witness to any searches and/or questioning conducted by a school district official does not constitute a search or questioning by police.

### Searches

An authorized school official may search a student or the student's belongings based upon information received from a reliable informant. Individuals other than district employees will be considered reliable informants if they have previously supplied information that was accurate and verified, if they make an admission against their own interest, if they provide the same information that is received independently from other sources, or if they appear to be credible and the information they are communicating



relates to an immediate threat to safety. District employees will be considered reliable informants unless they are known to have previously supplied information that they knew was not accurate.

### The Role of Law Enforcement

While the role of student discipline is the responsibility of the school administration

and may not be delegated to law enforcement agencies, district officials are committed to cooperating with police officials and other law enforcement authorities to maintain a safe school environment. Police officials, however, have limited authority to interview or search students in schools or at school functions, or to use school facilities in connection with police work. Police officials may enter school property or a school function to question or search a student or to conduct a formal investigation involving students only if they have a search or an arrest warrant, if they have probable cause to believe a crime has been committed on school property or at a school function, or if they have been invited by school officials.



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Copies of the Code of Conduct are available in each school's main office as well as on the district website.