

SCHOOL CITIZENSHIP HANDBOOK

**Cherry Avenue Elementary School
West Sayville, New York**

PHILOSOPHY

Sayville Schools are dedicated to developing and nurturing good citizens. We believe that it is critical that parents and school staff work in partnership to this end. We strive to help students develop secure, self-reliant personalities in a safe and respectful environment.

Cherry Avenue School in accordance with N.Y.S. regulation (Dignity for All Students Act) affords all of our students an environment free of discrimination and harassment. Students shall not be subjected to harassment, discrimination, or bullying by anyone on school grounds and at school functions.

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines required for a healthy school environment. Students will be treated in a fair, consistent, and respectful manner.

MISSION STATEMENT

The goal of Cherry Avenue School is to provide an environment for students that:

- Upholds the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) ensuring an environment free of discrimination and harassment.
- Supports active learning.
- Encourages students to work cooperatively with each other and demonstrate respect for one another.
- Develops tools for lifelong learning including basic and higher-level thinking skills.
- Fosters a love of learning while striving for academic excellence.
- Embraces a safe and secure learning environment.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Rights	Responsibilities
Treated with respect	Treat others with respect. Respect the property of others.
To be in an environment conducive to learning and free from unnecessary distractions	Students will demonstrate self-control and will follow the directions of school personnel.
To learn in a safe atmosphere	Engage in safe play; keep hands and feet to self; adhere to all district safety policies.
To attend school in a diverse environment free of discrimination, harassment and bullying	Students will display sensitivity towards others regardless of race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender (including gender identity and expression).

Each student should be made aware of the Sayville Schools Code-of-Conduct, which is published on the district web site:

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ny/spsny/Board.nsf/Public#>

RULES

Classroom Rules:

Each classroom teacher establishes classroom rules with his or her students. These rules are in keeping with this document and will be shared with parents.

Bus Rules:

- Remain in seats while bus is in motion.
- Talk quietly.
- Keep arms and head inside bus at all times.
- Always follow the directions of the bus driver.
- Please refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities section on the previous page for additional guidelines, which are to be followed on the bus.

Arrival and Departure:

- Walkers should enter the building through the main entrance between 8:20 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Students who arrive after 8:30 a.m. must obtain a late pass prior to going to class. Children purchasing breakfast may enter the building as early as 8:00 a.m. Those students who are dropped off by car between 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. should exit the passenger side of the vehicle onto the sidewalk by the first set of side doors in the parking lot. If a staff member is not present at the side door, please proceed to the main entrance.
- Students must walk their bikes and skate boards when on school grounds and lock them at the racks. Helmets may be stored in the classroom.
- Students must remain on school grounds during school hours.
- Dismissal is 3:00 p.m. – walkers are released at the west kindergarten door.
- Students must bring in a note if there is to be any deviation from the usual “go-home” procedures. Any change in dismissal plans requires parental communication with the school (teacher or main office).
- No dogs permitted on school grounds.
- No heeies permitted on school grounds.

Electronic Devices:

- MP3 players, handheld video games, I-Pods, I-Pads, smart watches, etc. should be left at home.
- If parents wish to provide their children with cell phones, the cell phone must remain off and in the child’s backpack during school hours.

Cafeteria Rules:

- Keep it quiet – use inside voices, follow the directions of the monitors.
- Keep it neat – clean up after yourself, keep garbage off the floor.
- Stay in your seat – ask for permission before getting up.
- Students may not bring carbonated beverages or glass containers with lunch.
- We encourage parents and guardians to provide healthy foods for snack and lunch.
- Engage in safe behavior: no running, no sharing of food, refrain from disrespectful language and conduct.

Playground Rules:

- Follow the directions of the monitors.
- Show good sportsmanship by reviewing the rules of the game and following them.
- Safe play should include: proper use of equipment, no physical contact, no hardballs.
- Everyone will have the opportunity to play in recess activities without the fear of exclusion.
- Line up by class when recess ends.
- Students are encouraged to be upstanders, utilize the “Buddy Bench”, show compassion to classmates and provide support to those in need.

Lunch/Recess: In accordance with N.Y.S. regulation, Dignity for All Students Act (DASA), affords all of our students an environment free of discrimination and harassment. Students shall not be subjected to harassment, discrimination, or bullying by anyone on school grounds and at school functions.

Rest Rooms:

Students are permitted to use the rest rooms as needed during the school day. However, it is required that they observe good behavior and hygiene when in the rest room.

Safety Drills:

Cherry Avenue School practices a variety of safety drills each year. It is required that our students follow the directions of school personnel to ensure a safe and orderly plan.

Dress Code BOE Policy 5300.25:

All are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and midriff-covered appearance. Teachers and all other district personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting.

A student’s dress, grooming and appearance, including hair style/color, jewelry, make-up, and nails must:

1. Be unlikely to injure people or damage property, appropriate according to this code, and not substantially disrupt or materially interfere with the educational process.
2. Recognize that extremely brief garments and see-through garments are not appropriate. Ensure that underwear is covered by outer clothing (visible waistbands and straps are not violations).
3. Ensure that underwear is covered by outer clothing (visible waistbands and straps are not violations).
4. Include footwear at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed.
5. Not covering the student’s face to the extent the student is not identifiable, except for a medical or religious purpose.
6. Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous, or denigrate, harass, or discriminate against others on account of race (including traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and protective hairstyles like braids, locks, and twists), color, weight, religion, religious practice, disability, creed, national origin, ethnic group, gender (including gender identity and expression), sex, sexual orientation or disability.
7. Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or controlled substances or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.

Nothing in this policy will be construed to limit the ability of students to express their gender identity through clothing, jewelry, makeup, or nail color or styles or to discipline students for doing so. Likewise, nothing in this policy will be construed to restrict students from wearing hairstyles as a trait historically associated with race (such as hair texture and protective hairstyles like braids, locks, and twists) or to discipline them for doing so.

Please keep in mind that when the weather cooperates, it is our goal to have outdoor recess and PE class at times. When the wind chill factor is 15 degrees or above, students will participate in outdoor recreation and must wear proper shoes to use the playground equipment. Except for medical reasons, we don't have staff available to supervise students indoors if not dressed for cold conditions, so please make sure your children are warm enough to remain outside. Appropriate shoes have a secure sole and a buckle and/or tie, such as sneakers.

CONSEQUENCES

We are fortunate to work with respectful and responsible children. Students are recognized regularly by their teachers or principal for exemplary behavior.

There are occasions when students may engage in reckless or irresponsible behavior. In general, these occasions are viewed as opportunities to learn; however, depending on the severity of the behavior, the following disciplinary consequences may be imposed (not necessarily in this order):

- Verbal reminder and/or explanation of the rules.
- Student-teacher conference.
- Written contract.
- Call to parent.
- Loss of privilege.
- Conference with school personnel.
- Suspension of activities.
- Suspension from transportation.
- Suspension from school.
- Restitution.

Behaviors that violate DASA regulations may lead to an investigation held in accordance with NYS regulations and Sayville BOE policy. Information concerning DASA regulations may be obtained from the District's webpage:

<https://www.sayvilleschools.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=232>

Cherry Avenue School DASA Coordinators are:

Robin McKinnon, LMSW (631) 244-6723

Lisa Ihne, Ed.D., Principal (631) 244-6700

Please refer to the sign-off sheet on the next page acknowledging that you and your child have read the *School Citizenship Handbook*.

**CHERRY AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WEST SAYVILLE, NEW YORK**

Please complete the information below (a separate sheet for each child). Be sure it is signed by both you and your child (you may sign on behalf of your child if he/she is unable to do so). This form must be returned to your child's teacher during the first week of school.

I have read the *School Citizenship Handbook* with my child.

Student's Name: _____

Student's Teacher: _____ Grade: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Parent's Signature: _____