

Student Discipline Procedures

CMP staff will enforce disciplinary rules and procedures fairly and consistently. Discipline may include: the counseling of students; conferencing with parents; removal to an alternative learning environment, such as another classroom; suspension; or expulsion.

CMP follows a positive discipline approach. Each campus has created a slogan emphasizing Safety, Respect, and Responsibility. Students are presented with lessons, which include scenarios for all areas of the school, discussing the reasons for safety, respect, and responsibility in those locations. Positive reinforcement is stressed, and students are “caught” following the rules and guidelines.

When a student is observed not following a rule, the child is asked if they know the rule and is redirected to show the appropriate behavior. Only when a child repeatedly misbehaves are they referred to the school office and parents are contacted. The emphasis is on training and positive reinforcement for the desired behavior, as opposed to a punitive approach.

Any physical violence will result in an immediate office referral. Parents will receive a written notification (Incident Report), and a phone call made if it is deemed necessary. Students disrupting their classroom may be removed to do work in another classroom or in the office. Generally, once a child has completed a designated amount of work, they are invited to return to their own classroom.

Communicating with parents is an important element in building a team of staff and families. Phone calls and written notes or reports sent home are ways the school can keep parents informed about how their child is doing in the school environment. When necessary, parent/teacher conferences and meetings with the administrator will be scheduled to assist teachers and parents in finding the most beneficial ways to support a student’s success at school.

When unacceptable behavior occurs, the following steps will be taken:

- For minor incidents and with younger students, staff will provide opportunities for re-direction and a chance to “try again.”
- Repeated offenses will initiate a progressive system of RtI (Response to Intervention) meetings starting with a conference between the parents/guardians and teacher.
- Should the behavior(s) continue, a meeting will be scheduled with a campus administrator, the teacher(s), and the parents. Other school staff and family members may also be included if deemed appropriate. The team identifies concerns, works together on solutions, and creates an action plan. It is customary for follow-up meetings to take place to discuss progress or the need for additional interventions.

Serious incidents will lead to an immediate referral to a campus administrator. Parents will be notified by phone or in writing, and a suspension may be issued.



Corporal punishment will never be used as a disciplinary measure. Corporal punishment does not include the use of reasonable force to protect students, staff, or school property.

Parents/guardians will be notified in writing or by phone following any disciplinary action taken in response to a student's misconduct. A follow-up parent conference with the teacher or administrator may be required. Parents may also request a meeting to discuss the incident and disciplinary action.

CMP maintains a comprehensive suspension and expulsion policy in order to promote learning and protect the safety and well-being of all students. A student may be suspended or expelled for misconduct, as specified in the Suspension and Expulsion Policy, while on the school grounds, coming and going to school, or at a school-related activity.

A principal may suspend students who fail to comply with CMP discipline policies at any time. Students who habitually fail to comply with these policies or who present an immediate threat to the health and/or safety of others may be suspended pending a recommendation for expulsion to the CMP Governing Board by the superintendent.

Weapons and Dangerous Substances

Due to concerns for safety, weapons of any kind may not be brought to school; this includes the parking lots and surrounding areas of the school. We are required by law to take immediate and strong action should a child bring a weapon to school. This consists of, but is not limited to, all knives, including pocket knives, sharp kitchen knives, daggers and martial art weapons, air guns, replica guns, ammunition, incendiary devices, and fireworks. Parents are asked to discuss this with their children in an age-appropriate manner to help them understand the seriousness of these items.

Parents/guardians are ultimately responsible for their child bringing such items to school and will be called immediately to pick up their child should he/she be discovered to have a dangerous object. School officials have the right to search student backpacks, lockers, or other containers if the possession of a weapon or dangerous substance is suspected.

Sexual Harassment

The CMP Governing Board prohibits sexual harassment of or by any student, CMP staff, or volunteer. Teachers should discuss the policy with their students in age appropriate ways and should assure them that they need not endure any form of sexual harassment.

The Board expects students and staff to immediately report incidents of sexual harassment to the principal or designee. Prohibited sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature.



Theft or Destruction of School, Student or Staff Property

School staff, in consultation with a school administrator, may search a student's belongings if there is reason to believe the child has taken another's belongings. School administration may refer theft of property to law enforcement.

Students and parents/guardians may be held accountable for replacing or repairing any property damaged or lost due to student negligence.

Threat of Harm

~~All threats will be taken seriously. The student will be removed and parents/guardians called immediately in the event a student threatens another student, staff, or volunteer. Depending on the age of the student, and the severity of the threat, law enforcement may be notified.~~

~~California Montessori Project is committed to providing a safe, civil, and secure school environment for students and staff. School districts are responsible for responding appropriately to a student expressing or exhibiting threatening behaviors, behaviors perceived as threatening, and homicidal thoughts or urges that may include mass casualties at school. School personnel are instrumental in helping to save lives by identifying students at risk and linking them to essential school and community mental health resources.~~

~~The purpose of this protocol is to outline administrative procedures for intervening with students who have made a threat or perceived threat. This protocol does not predict future violence nor is it a foolproof method of assessing an individual's or group's risk of harm to others. It is a guide designed to assist in the investigation of potential danger and to assist school staff in the development of a Supervision & Support Agreement (Appendix K) that includes supervision and support strategies.~~

~~A "threat or perceived threat" is defined as: "any writing or action of a pupil that creates a reasonable suspicion that the pupil is preparing to commit a homicidal act related to school or a school activity." (Ed. Code, § 49390(e).) These writings or actions could be "possession, use, or depictions of firearms, ammunition, shootings, or targets in association with infliction of physical harm, destruction, or death in a social media post, journal, class note, or other media associated with the pupil." A threat or perceived threat may also be based on "a warning by a parent, pupil, or other individual." An expression of intent to harm someone is considered a threat regardless of whether it is communicated to the intended target(s) and regardless of whether the intended target is aware of the threat. If a student of concern is in grades 6th through 8th, law enforcement will be immediately notified per California SB 906. If a student is in grades 5th or lower, law enforcement may be notified depending on circumstances.~~