



## SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

### Middle and High School Letter for Parents

#### **Rationale for School Violence Prevention Program**

Safety and security for the well-being of all students and adults are essential for effective teaching and learning. In any school system, it is necessary that rules and regulations be established to ensure a safe learning environment for all students. Fighting violates established state and parish criminal codes, as well as school district rules for respect and self-control. In the interest of minimizing events of fights, the St. Charles Parish Public School System, the Judges of the 29th Judicial District, the St. Charles Parish District Attorney's Office, and the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office have jointly established a School Violence Prevention Program in the middle and high schools. The following information is provided to develop an understanding of this program:

#### **1. Consequences:**

Consequences for fighting are determined by school administration in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct: District Handbook*. Suspensions and expulsions are appealable according to school system policy. Law enforcement decisions and procedures are not subject to appeal through the school district.

#### **2. School System and Sheriff's Office Collaboration:**

- A Resource Officer is assigned to work in each middle and high school.
- A sheriff's deputy will contact the principal when a community disturbance involves students.
- Principals will contact the Sheriff's Office when school disturbances involve physical fighting, drugs, and/or weapons.

#### **3. Fights on Campus:**

Students will be instructed that they must avoid physical fighting and that bullying or other hostile behavior must be reported to teachers and/or administrators.

**High school students** who fight while under school supervision will be required to participate in the new high school Violence Prevention Intervention Program (VPIP) as follows:

- **Discipline** - Students involved in a first fight will be assigned a 45-day suspension to be served at the Eual J. Landry, Sr. Educational Programs Center (LEPC).
- **Academics** - Students involved in a first fight will be required to successfully complete all assigned academic coursework.
- **Restorative Community Circle Intervention Process** - Students involved in a first fight will be required to participate in a restorative community circle intervention session with the other student(s) involved in the incident. This is a restorative approach to resolving conflict between students.
- **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)** - Students involved in a first fight will be required to participate in SEL lessons to support them in developing proactive skills for solving conflicts.
- **Attendance** - Students involved in a first fight will be required to consistently attend the VPIP without unexcused absences and/or tardies.
- **Transportation** - Parents will be required to transport their students to the Landry Educational Programs Center on day 1 and sign a transportation agreement.



## SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

### Middle and High School Letter for Parents

**Middle school students** who fight while under school supervision will be required to participate in a school Violence Prevention Intervention Program (VIP) as follows:

- **1st offense:** 20-day suspension (ADAPT) at Landry Educational Programs Center and VIP participation
- **2nd offense:** 25-day suspension
- **3rd offense:** expulsion recommendation

#### **Procedures:**

- The Resource Officer will be called to assist in breaking up a fight and to ensure the situation is under control.
- In the event of an arrest, all Sheriff's Office procedures will be followed. This may include handcuffing based on their assessment of the situation.
- The school will conduct its own investigation. School disciplinary action will follow the *Student Code of Conduct: District Handbook*.

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## Middle School Violence Prevention Letter Home to Parents

August 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

A Violence Prevention Program is in place for all middle schools to promote the physical and psychological safety of all students and adults. Detailed information on the program is sent to parents of middle school students each year.

The St. Charles Parish Public Schools has implemented a Violence Prevention Plan for middle school students as follows:

### Middle School Program:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: 20- day suspension (ADAPT) at Landry Educational Programs Center
  - Mandatory Violence Prevention Intervention Program(VPIP) participation
    - Academics
    - Restorative intervention(s)
    - Counseling
    - SEL lesson(s)
    - Transportation Agreement required
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: 25-day suspension
  - Mandatory Violence Prevention Intervention Program(VPIP) participation
    - Academics
    - Restorative intervention(s)
    - Counseling
    - SEL lesson(s)
    - Transportation Agreement required
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: expulsion recommendation

Parental/guardian cooperation and assistance are critical to the success of the School Violence Prevention Program. Students often know that there will be a fight long before one occurs. Please encourage your students to inform teachers and/or administrators about any incidents that they believe will lead to a fight. It is the responsibility of the parent to transport your student and meet with administration on the first day your student is assigned ADAPT at Landry Educational Programs Center. Any end of year 20-day or 25-day suspension will carry over to the following school year until the term is completed or a behavioral contract is implemented.

A copy of the School Violence Prevention Program is enclosed. Please review the program and discuss it with your student. After you have reviewed the program, please sign and return the yellow confirmation receipt form.

Dr. Ken Oertling  
Superintendent

Sean Dwyer  
HHM Principal

Steven Gutterrez  
JBM Principal

Dr. David Schexnaydre  
Executive Director of  
Secondary Schools

Dr. Gabrielle DeLatte  
ACM Principal

Harold Blood  
RKS Principal

### SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

### SUPERINTENDENT

Ellis A. Alexander  
DISTRICT 1

Scott Cody  
DISTRICT 3

John L. Smith  
DISTRICT 5

Art Aucoin  
DISTRICT 7

Ken Oertling, Ed.D.

Ray Gregson  
DISTRICT 2

Karen L. Boudreaux  
DISTRICT 4

Becky D. Weber  
DISTRICT 6

Alex L. Suffrin  
DISTRICT 8

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## High School Violence Prevention Letter Home to Parents

August 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

A Violence Prevention Program is in place for all high schools to promote the physical and psychological safety of all students and adults. Detailed information on the program is sent to parents of high school students each year.

The St. Charles Parish Public Schools has implemented a Violence Prevention Plan for high school students as follows:  
High School Program:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: 45- day suspension (ADAPT) at Landry Educational Programs Center
  - Mandatory Violence Prevention Intervention Program(VPIP) participation
    - Academics
    - Restorative intervention(s)
    - Counseling
    - SEL lesson(s)
    - Transportation Agreement required
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: expulsion recommendation

Parental/guardian cooperation and assistance are critical to the success of the School Violence Prevention Program. Students often know that there will be a fight long before one occurs. Please encourage your students to inform teachers and/or administrators about any incidents that they believe will lead to a fight. It is the responsibility of the parent to transport your student and meet with administration on the first day your student is assigned ADAPT at Landry Educational Programs Center. Any end of year 45-day suspension will carry over to the following school year until the 45-day term is completed or a behavioral contract is implemented.

A copy of the School Violence Prevention Program is enclosed. Please review the program and discuss it with your student. After you have reviewed the program, please sign and return the yellow confirmation receipt form.

Dr. Ken Oertling  
Superintendent

Jason Madere  
DHS Principal

Jose Gonzales  
HHS Principal

Dr. David Schexnaydre  
Executive Director of  
Secondary Schools

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