



Caregiver Code of Conduct

Introduction

The Amherst, Pelham, and Amherst-Pelham Regional Public Schools (ARPS) are committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all students, staff, and families. This Caregiver Code of Conduct outlines our expectations for parents, guardians, and caregivers when interacting on school premises, at school-sponsored events, during transportation services, and in communications with staff, students, and other members of the school community. By adhering to these guidelines, we can work together to support student success and maintain a positive and productive school climate.

General Expectations

Parents, guardians, caregivers, and other adults speaking on behalf of students should:

1. **Demonstrate Respect and Courtesy:** Treat all students, staff (including bus drivers and transportation staff), and fellow community members with respect and dignity in words, tone, and actions.
2. **Support a Safe Learning Environment:** Promote a safe and positive school environment by avoiding disruptive behavior, harassment, intimidation, or threats.

Examples of disruptive behavior include, but are not limited to:

- Yelling or speaking in an aggressive or threatening manner
 - Interrupting instruction or meetings
 - Refusing to follow staff directions or safety protocols
 - Entering school spaces without permission or bypassing check-in procedures o
 - Using social media to intimidate or harass school community members
3. **Communicate Constructively:** Address concerns or conflicts in a respectful and solution-focused manner through the appropriate channels.

4. **Follow School Policies and Procedures:** Adhere to school rules, policies, and procedures, including visitor protocols and security measures.
5. **Model Appropriate Behavior:** Demonstrate civility and good sportsmanship at all school events, meetings, and activities.

Conduct on School Premises, at School-Sponsored Events, and During Transportation

When on school grounds, attending school-sponsored activities, or engaging with school transportation services, parents, guardians, and caregivers are expected to:

- Comply with all school security procedures, including check-in protocols. ● Refrain from disruptive or inappropriate behavior, including yelling, using offensive language, or engaging in physical confrontations.
- Remain in authorized areas only and do not leave the main office without explicit permission from school personnel.
- Follow all staff directions and cooperate with school personnel, including bus drivers and transportation monitors.
- Refrain from using tobacco, alcohol, or drugs on school property, school buses, or at school events.
- Support and encourage positive participation in school functions.

Interactions with Students

- Concerns about student behavior should be directed to school staff.
- Interactions with students should always be appropriate, respectful, and supportive.
- While on school grounds, parents should not be communicating with students other than their children about any school-related concerns, and shall not engage in retaliation, intimidation, or coercion of students who may be a witness or otherwise participating or anticipated to participate in a school investigation.

Interactions with Other Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers

- Engage in respectful and productive communication.
- Avoid personal conflicts on school property or at school events.
- Refrain from spreading misinformation or engaging in disruptive behavior on social media related to the school community.

Interactions with School Employees

- Treat teachers, administrators, staff, and transportation personnel with courtesy and respect.
- Schedule appointments for discussions rather than approaching staff during instructional time.
- Express concerns professionally and through the proper channels.
- Understand that school staff have the best interests of all students in mind and work within policies and regulations.

Addressing Concerns

If a parent, guardian, or caregiver has a concern regarding a school-related matter, they should:

- Contact the appropriate teacher, staff member, or administrator in a respectful manner.
- Classroom or extracurricular activity concerns should only be brought to the school administration *after* the concerns have been raised directly with the teacher, staff member, director, or coach.
- Follow the school's communication protocols to resolve concerns.
- Avoid confrontational behavior or public disputes on school grounds, at events, or during student transportation.

Consequences of Violating the Code of Conduct

Failure to adhere to this Code of Conduct may result in:

- A verbal or written warning.
- Restrictions on access to school property or events.
- A meeting with the school administration to discuss concerns.
- In cases involving school-sponsored athletic events or extracurriculars, **caregivers who are removed from an event due to misconduct may, in addition to other consequences, be suspended from attending future events for a specified number of games, typically no fewer than two, with the exact length determined by school administration based on a variety of factors, including the severity of the incident.**
- Legal action or involvement of law enforcement.

Conclusion

We appreciate the partnership and involvement of parents, guardians, and caregivers in our schools. By working together respectfully and collaboratively, we can ensure a positive learning environment for all students. Thank you for your cooperation in upholding these standards.