Lower school rules

Rules and guidelines for student behavior are foundational to creating a learning environment that is safe, predictable, and supportive of both social-emotional and academic growth. Our goal is to help children develop self-discipline so that they have respect for rules and the rights of others, whether adults are present or not. We believe that all ASL employees help students develop respect and responsibility for our school community as well as the greater community. We believe in creating strong classroom and divisional communities where expectations for behavior and how we work together are understood. We believe that students can take ownership of their behavior and, when mistakes are made, make amends and continue to be contributing members of the group.

Our ASL Core Values of Respect, Responsibility, Kindness, Integrity, and the Courage to Act guide our beliefs of how the members of our community act and communicate with one another. The ASL Portrait of the Learner is a tool for reinforcing these values, along with other dispositions we promote. In each classroom, the children and teacher develop mutually agreed-upon rules. For both school and classroom rules, we establish logical consequences, which can serve as a moral teacher. Our philosophy can be summed up as “We expect you to follow the rules because that’s the right thing to do. These rules are there to help everybody in our school.”

Students are expected to behave in a way that demonstrates respect for one another, adults, and the resources and facilities at ASL. As members of a dynamic and caring school community, all ASL employees are expected to help students develop a sense of responsibility and a deep appreciation for our multicultural community. Each division has its own rules relating to discipline and student behavior.

We have three general school rules that guide our behavior, whether in class, in the corridor, at recess, on the bus, or on field trips. Specialists and classrooms share the same three general rules. Classroom agreements that further define these three rules should be made individually and with the children.

1. Be respectful
    - Act in a kind way to other children and adults. No teasing, name-calling, or “put down” statements will be allowed, e.g., making fun of a person’s name, appearance, background or abilities.
    - Respect yourself and others. When there is a conflict, resolve it peacefully by talking and listening to the other person. Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself.

2. Be safe
    - Stay in sight of an adult on the school campus.
    - Play games in a safe way and allow others to join when they ask.
    - Move about the school in a safe way.

3. Be responsible
    - Come to school on time every day with all of your materials
    - Bring only appropriate play items. You may not bring any weapons either real or toy, e.g., toy guns, pocket knives, etc.
    - Accept consequences for behavior.

Depending on the situation and context, the school exercises professional discretion to apply appropriate responses, ranging from initial guidance to more formal measures:

- A staff member will discuss the situation with the student to review expectations and encourage problem-solving. In situations involving interpersonal conflict, students may be guided through a restorative conversation to talk things through. When needed, a brief "time out" may be used to allow the student space to reflect on their choices.
- Teachers or administrators will reach out to parents via phone call or written note to share context and collaborate on supporting the student. For more persistent or concerning behaviors, a formal parent conference will be scheduled.
- In cases of severe misconduct, repeated disrespect, bullying, teasing, or ongoing harm to others, formal disciplinary measures are considered. Students may be sent home—particularly where deliberate physical harm occurs—or suspended from school for one to three days.