Code of Conduct Summaries for Middle School and High School Students and Families

2022-2023

The Ballston Spa Code of Conduct was developed in an effort to:

- Clearly define the expectations for acceptable conduct on school property;
- Identify the possible consequences of unacceptable conduct;
- Ensure that discipline, when necessary, is administered promptly and fairly;
- Support the Dignity For All Students Act

Dignity Act Coordinators:

Gianleo Duca, BSHS
Kathryn McTiernan, BSHS
Ann Laszewski, BHMS
Andrew Muller, BSMS
Kevin Flores , BSHS
Al Mattice, BSHS
Kim Bolster, BSMS

The complete Code of Conduct can be found online at www.bscsd.org or in the High School or Middle School main offices.

Dignity for All Students Act

The Dignity for All Students Act focuses on ensuring that our school is a safe place and that students know that they are protected from certain types of behavior. In addition to Deans of Students (Conduct Coordinators) and Assistant Principals, the schools have Dignity Act Coordinators who are trained in addressing issues covered by this law. The high school coordinators are Gianleo Duca and Daina Sisk; the middle school coordinators are Kim Bolster and Andrew Muller.

If anyone is making a student feel unsafe, bullied, threatened or harassed, we urge the student or parents to contact an adult at school. Please contact a school counselor, a Dean, an Assistant Principal or a Dignity Act Coordinator.

All students have the right to enjoy their education without worrying about unkind words or actions from others. No student should be discriminated against based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex on school property or at any school function.

If any negative action takes place off school grounds, it can be considered against school rules when it negatively impacts the ability of a student to focus on their school work or participate in school activities.

All students are expected to:

- Respect themselves, fellow students, faculty, staff and school property;
- Arrive at school and to all classes on time;
- Bring all necessary school work and materials to class; and
- Cooperate and be respectful throughout the day, doing what is asked by school leaders, teachers and staff members.

Reporting

All students are encouraged to report any violations of the Code of Conduct to an adult in the building. This includes all incidents of students or staff being harassed or discriminated against by students, school staff or other individuals.

Retaliation against any person who reports, investigates, or reviews a complaint of harassment or discrimination will not be tolerated.

Visitors to the School

All persons on school property or attending a school function shall conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner. Visitors must adhere to the Code of Conduct. Any unauthorized person on school property or any person not conducting him/herself in a respectful manner will be reported to the Principal or his/her designee and will be asked to leave.

Dress Code

Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. The purpose of a dress code is to ensure student safety and to maintain a focus on the educational process. A student's dress, grooming and appearance should:

- Include clothing that specifically covers the torso and is of appropriate in-seam length.
- Ensure that underwear is completely covered with outer clothing.
- Include safe footwear at all times.
- Ensure that if wearing a hat, then the side of face and ears can be seen.
- Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, or denigrate actual or perceived race, color, religion, religious practice, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, sex, weight or disability.
- Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal or violent activities.
- Not denote or represent gang affiliation.

Ballston Spa
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Student Searches and Questioning

School officials who are authorized to discipline students may question a student about any alleged violations of the law or Code of Conduct. School officials are not required to contact parents/guardians before questioning a student. All students will be told why they are being questioned.

In addition, school property, (including lockers) is subject to search by school officials at any time. Officials may also search students and/or their belongings if they have reasonable suspicion that the search will result in evidence that the student violated the law or Code of Conduct. Please note that safety equipment, such as metal detectors and/or drug sensors, may be used during the search and questioning of students; school officials will inform parents/guardians of the outcomes of such investigations.

It should be noted that the middle and high school are committed to cooperating with police officials and child protective services to maintain safe schools.

Disciplinary Action and Student Conduct

Ballston Spa middle and high school operate under a progressive discipline model. Students may be subject to a range of disciplinary actions if they engage in conduct that is disorderly, insubordinate, disruptive, violent, threatening, endangers the safety, moral, health or welfare of others or includes academic misconduct. Disciplinary action will be firm, fair and consistent.

Disciplinary actions may include warnings, notification to parents, detention, suspension from athletics or other activities/privileges, in-school suspension, removal from class, short-term or long-term suspension from school or (with parental support) community service.

Student Rights and Responsibilities for a Safe & Receptive Learning Environment

Student Rights

A. To attend school in a positive learning environment

B. To interact with school personnel who are receptive to student needs and concerns

C. To feel safe from crime, violence, intimidation, bullying, harassment, racism, and other discrimination in school

D. To express views through speaking and writing, but without being obscene, disruptive, or disrespectful

E. To participate in patriotic observances

F. To have one's religious and other personal beliefs respected

G. To be informed of school board policies and school rules

Student Responsibilities

A. To behave in a manner that enhances a positive learning environment

B. To express one's needs and concerns in an appropriate and respectful manner

C. To know and obey district and school behavioral expectations and to report unsafe situations to school personnel

D. To respect the right of others to express their views

E. To behave respectfully during patriotic observances

F. To respect the religious and other personal beliefs of others and to refrain from activities that ridicule others

G. To read, know, and/or ask for clarification of school board policies and school rules

- *This summary document has been distributed to all students and parents pursuant to New York State Education Law.*
- *The complete Code of Conduct is posted online at www.bscsd.org.*
- *Copies of this summary and the complete Code of Conduct can also be found in each school's main office.*
- *An abbreviated student Code of Conduct is distributed to students at the start of each school year.*