

DISCIPLINE POLICY FOR 2023-2024

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

At the Siskiyou School we all hold responsibility for treating each other with civility, respect, and consideration. To support this we ask that all our school employees, students, and community members abide by the following expectations:

- to be respectful to and considerate of all members of the school community, visitors, and to the general public;
- to respect the differences and rights of others which include feelings, perspectives, ideas, experiences, and opinions;
- to not in any way endanger or harm others, whether physically, psychologically, or emotionally;
- to respect other people's belongings, the school property, and our neighboring areas;
- to respect and contribute to the learning environment of our school;
- to bring forward any issues appropriately per the Protocol of Concerns.

SISKIYOU SCHOOL DISCIPLINE POLICY:

The discipline policy is the responsibility of the faculty pillar. Every situation is unique and handled case by case, as decided by the teaching faculty. At times the faculty may ask for the support of the administrator.

Discipline grows out of an orderly and loving environment. Children need examples, guidance, and clear expectations for their actions, as well as affirmation of their efforts. The teachers lay the groundwork by creating guidelines and standards of behavior and communicating these to the children. Parents help by familiarizing themselves with the school's policies and supporting them at home.

A situation that requires prescribed discipline is a learning opportunity - a chance to deepen a child's understanding of core values and the delicacy of human relations. These moments are integral to education and the growing-up process. When handled well, they can be the catalyst for important steps of development and an opportunity for a renewed sense of belonging and willingness for the child.

Student discipline is handled on an individual basis. Teachers work with each child according to who they are and what is needed in each event. The child is always respected. The goal is to restore the child(ren) and the environment back to balance or justice so that everyone involved can move forward with kind, clear, and peaceful resolution.

Communication between teacher and parents is key in moments of setting consequences to help the child learn from disciplinary situations. We thank you ahead of time for familiarizing yourself with the Discipline Policy.



Level I Infraction: Disruptive Behaviors

Discipline for disrupting the classroom environment by doing such things as calling out in class, speaking inappropriately to a classmate or teacher, passing notes, swearing, or neglecting to respect the rules/wishes of a teacher falls under the jurisdiction of the class or specialty teacher. The teacher responds as they feel is appropriate. Responses to the occasional disruptive behavior may include giving the student a simple reminder, asking the child to take a time-out within or outside of the classroom, having the student stay in at snack or lunch recess, do a class chore, and/or write a reflective piece. Parents are not generally notified in cases of the occasional Level 1 infraction. Repeated Level I infractions may result in a review in a faculty meeting of the child's overall behavior and a parent conference. In such cases, consequences may include temporary suspension of the student from the class.

Level II Infraction: Violent or Bullying Behaviors

We have a zero tolerance policy regarding physical violence and bullying. Any behavior that involves violence or puts another child's physical or emotional safety in jeopardy is considered a Level II. Level II infractions includes punching, hitting, spanking, slapping, kicking, pushing, pinching, biting, chronic teasing, exclusion, or intimidation. The consequence for a Level II infraction is decided on a case-by-case basis by the class teacher and/or teacher who witnessed the incident, in consultation with the administrator and/or mentor. Parents are always notified in Level II cases. As necessary, a meeting is called. The administrator joins the class teacher and parents for this conversation. Consequences include being sent home immediately, suspension from school or from a particular class, writing a reflective piece, and/or loss of a field trip opportunity or class privileges.

A frequently asked question is, "If a child hits another because they were provoked, shouldn't both receive equivalent consequences?" Physical violence is not tolerated. That is the priority message we want to communicate to all the children of the school. If provoked, we want to encourage students to seek the immediate help of a teacher rather than respond to violence with violence.

Children involved in an incident are led through a conflict resolution process to ensure that every child involved takes ownership for their part. We have qualified people on staff to help students work through their emotions when such incidents occur. Discipline in cases involving children and high emotions can be difficult to sort through; parents are asked to trust the teachers to make the call.

Sending a Child Home

Teachers reserve the right to send a child home at will. Sometimes a teacher feels this is what is needed to get the child's attention and correct the child's behavior. The situation that might justify such a call is difficult to predict but likely to be about behavior the child has been reminded about repeatedly and has continued to disregard—from poor choices around interactions with peers or teachers to failing to bring in assignments one too many times. Sending a student home is a last resort, designed to get their attention as to what is at stake and to bring about change. We communicate with parents about the decision and ask for parent support, trust, and follow-up in those instances.

Conflict Between Child and Teacher

In the case of a conflict between a child and a teacher, a third party (the administrator and/or mentor) will be brought in to act as a witness and advocate for the student as needed.

