

STUDENT CONDUCT

Background

Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education is committed to providing a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that includes the establishment of a code of conduct for students that addresses bullying behaviour and respects diversity and a sense of belonging for students. Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education affirms the rights, as provided for in the *Alberta Human Rights Act* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, of the students enrolled in a school operated by the board. Students will not be discriminated against as provided for in the *Alberta Human Rights Act* or the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

In our ministry, we value and celebrate:

- Teaching and living our Catholic faith
- Our Catholic traditions
- Our ability to offer a full range of educational programs for all students.
- That every child is a unique creation who possesses an intrinsic dignity which must always be respected
- Parents as primary educators. Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children

Our priority is to ensure that all of our students are provided with a respectful and compassionate school environment rooted in Catholic values and teachings. This includes

- Adhering to the Alberta Human Rights Act
- Respecting School authorities, and,
- Respecting School and division property, as well as, the property of others.

Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education recognizes that responsibility for student conduct is a shared responsibility between the District, students, their parents and the broader community. The students in our District are expected to behave in a manner that is courteous, respectful of others and supportive of the school philosophy and the goals of Catholic education.

Nothing in this administrative procedure of the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education is to be interpreted so as to limit or be a waiver of the Medicine Hat Catholic School Board's rights and powers pursuant the *Constitution Act, 1867* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* to maintain the denominational character of Catholic schools. If any of the provisions in this administrative procedure of the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education conflict with the Medicine Hat Catholic's Board's rights and powers pursuant to the *Constitution Act, 1867* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and*



Freedoms to maintain the denominational character of Catholic schools, the Medicine Hat Catholic School Board's rights and powers pursuant the *Constitution Act, 1867* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* to maintain the denominational character of Catholic schools will govern.

Procedures

Students, parents and the District share the responsibility for student conduct. Students must understand that they are responsible for their behavior, and they must recognize that any behavior that disrupts or detracts from the educational climate of the school is unacceptable whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means. Students are expected to conduct themselves properly and adhere to the student code of conduct at all times.

1. Students are expected to meet the requirements of the School Act (Section 12) which states a student shall conduct himself or herself so as to reasonably comply with the following code of conduct:
 - 1.1 Be diligent in pursuing the student's studies
 - 1.2 Attend school regularly and punctually
 - 1.3 Co-operate fully with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services
 - 1.4 Comply with the rules of the school
 - 1.5 Account to the student's teachers for the student's conduct
 - 1.6 Respect the rights of others
 - 1.7 Ensure that the student's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging
 - 1.8 Refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means
 - 1.9 Positively contribute to the student's school and community
2. Parents as primary educator of the student have the legislated responsibility:
 - 2.1 To take an active role in the student's educational success, including complying with legislated responsibilities
 - 2.2 To ensure that the parent's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment
 - 2.3 To co-operate and collaborate with school staff to support the delivery of specialized supports and services to the student
 - 2.4 To encourage, foster and advance collaborative, positive and respectful relationships with Teachers, Principals, other school staff and professionals providing supports and services in the school



- 2.5 To engage in the student's school community
3. The Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education has the legislated responsibility to:
 - 3.1 Ensure that each student enrolled in a school operated by the board and each staff member employed by the board is provided with a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging
 - 3.2 Establish, implement and maintain a policy that includes the establishment of a code of conduct for students that addresses bullying behavior
4. Each school, following the expectations of Section 12 and the required elements listed in 45.1 of the Act, is expected to develop a code of conduct and school rules.
5. Within the Code of Conduct each school is expected to develop school discipline guidelines and procedures that reflect the following characteristics:
 - 5.1 Parental contact is paramount;
 - 5.2 Parents are respectfully brought into the discipline process and appraised of both consequences and interventions, as appropriate, with the understanding that Teachers and administrators are responsible for final decisions
 - 5.3 Actions to address bullying through student expectations, standards of behavior, education, and safe reporting
 - 5.4 Consequences for inappropriate behaviour are logically connected to offenses
 - 5.5 Consequences for inappropriate behaviour escalate in seriousness and will take into account the student's age, maturity and individual circumstances
 - 5.6 Restorative practices are used whenever appropriate; and must ensure that support is provided for students who are impacted by inappropriate behaviour, as well as for students who engage in inappropriate behaviour.
 - 5.7 Interventions are put in place to prevent further indiscretions whenever possible and practical
6. The Code of Conduct shall be made public, reviewed annually, and be provided to all staff, students and parents of the school.
7. Some or all of the following practices can be applied in the discipline process: preventive, supportive, and corrective interventions, restorative justice sessions, and threat-risk assessments. Support will be offered to students impacted by inappropriate behaviour and to those students who engage in inappropriate behaviour. This is significant because while the student code of conduct must address the consequences for inappropriate behaviour, it also ensures that support (not just consequences) is provided to those students who engage in unacceptable behaviour. Examples of how support could be provided to students who have engaged in unacceptable behaviour include mentoring, restorative processes, regular check-ins with teachers or schools counsellors, counselling, etc.



8. Discipline practices within the Division schools are to be designed by the Principal, in consultation with the staff and the School Council, and are to have the following purposes:
 - 8.1 They are to be instructional and communicate clear standards of behavior
 - 8.2 They are to have elements which recognize positive student behaviour and consequences for misbehavior
 - 8.3 They are to reflect the partnership and trust between the home, the school and the parish
 - 8.4 They are to enhance the instructional climate of the classroom and school
 - 8.5 They are to encourage maturity among the students commensurate with their age and readiness to accept responsibility
 - 8.6 They are to affirm the necessity of respect for authority and courtesy in the community
 - 8.7 They are to support and seek to develop student self-esteem
 - 8.8 Corporal punishment shall not be used in our Division

9. Students are responsible for what they choose to do. Therefore, students must be willing to accept the consequences of their actions. Students who misbehave face various disciplinary actions such as the withdrawal of privileges; detention at lunch or after school; suspension, both in school and at home; and expulsion.

10. Suspension and expulsion of students shall be in accordance with the School Act and will only be used for serious disciplinary infractions as outlined in AP 357.

11. All members of a school staff have a teaching responsibility with respect to student conduct and discipline. Orientation procedures for new staff include instruction in this responsibility.

12. Staff members are to apply mature judgment in deciding whether or not to inform parents of discipline problems with a student.

13. Parents who wish to discuss a matter of student conduct or discipline are to first contact the child's Teacher.
 - 13.1 Further inquiries or complaints are then to be addressed to the Principal.
 - 13.2 If the matter cannot be resolved by the Principal, the parent may contact the Superintendent - or through him/her - the Board.

14. The following are examples of serious topics of concern with regard to student conduct in schools:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • defiance and disrespect • open opposition to authority • bullying, including cyber-bullying • Internet safety • physical harm/assault 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • personal and/or sexual harassment • weapons in schools • drug, tobacco, e-cigarette, alcohol possession or distribution • inappropriate student dress
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- inappropriate use of mobile devices
- theft
- vandalism
- threats
- extortion
- discrimination

These activities are more fully described in:

[AP351-Appendix A Student Code of Conduct.](#)

15. Student Conduct on Buses - Conduct and behavior on school buses must comply with expectations provided in the Division brochure on "Student Conduct on School Buses". Student misbehavior on a bus may result in the loss of bus riding privileges for that student for a specified period of time. Under such circumstances, the student is still expected to attend school.

[AP351-Appendix B Student Code of Conduct on School Buses](#)

Reference:

School Act ss. 12, 16.1, 16.2, 45.1

Alberta Human Rights Act January 1, 2018

A Pastoral Approach to Supporting and Guiding Students in Inclusive Communities-Gender Identity and Expression developed by the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA)

Living Inclusion Faithfully For Everyone (LIFE) Framework (2018) developed by the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA)

Commitment to Inclusive Communities (2014) developed by the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA)

