

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL DISCIPLINE POLICY:

The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Pittsburgh are committed to teaching the Gospel values, which help our students live their lives as a reflection of Christ. The philosophy of our schools calls us to recognize and respect the dignity of each individual and to offer a Christ-centered, safe learning environment based on the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church.

Discipline is a necessary element of the learning process. The purpose of discipline is to foster the growth of self-discipline enabling students to eventually assume responsibility for their own actions.

All members of the faculty and staff share the responsibility to model appropriate behaviors and to enforce the structure necessary for learning self-discipline, the ultimate goal of the discipline program.

To create an environment that is conducive to learning, faculty and staff of Saints Peter and Paul has established a behavior policy. It is based on the belief that young people must learn to deal with each other and respect each other in a manner consistent with Christian teaching. **EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO RESPECT** and the behavior in school, church, playground, and extra-curricular activities should reflect our love of God, neighbor, and self.

The **“KEY”** word for our school discipline code is **“RESPECT.”**

Respect: Treating oneself and others with kindness.

Excellence: Aiming to do one’s best.

Sportsmanship: Choosing to play fairly and responsibly.

Positive Attitude: Selecting to look for the best in each situation.

Encouragement: Allowing oneself and others to begin anew each day.

Courtesy: Practicing manners and politeness.

Tolerance: Being patient and compassionate with others.

The goal of a school wide discipline code is to establish a systematic plan that is **FAIR AND CONSISTENT** for class times, between class times, playground, and extra-curricular activities.

At the time it is administered, all discipline seems a cause for grief and not for joy, but later it brings forth the fruit and joy of peace and justice to those who are trained in its school. – Hebrews 12: 1

Discipline Policy

The discipline policy that we will use at SSPP will be a merit/demerit policy. Each student will begin each semester with 100 merits. For each infraction (as listed below) a student will lose (said number of demerits). At the end of the first semester (January) each student (grades 3 through 8) will need to be between 90 and 100 merits to participate in the spirit day rewards. The same expectation will be for the second semester (June).

At any time that you fall below the expected 90 required merits, you will be able to make them up. This will be accomplished during after school hours and students will assist in cleaning the school in some manner. Parents will be responsible to pick up their child after detention. Again, each student (grades 3 through 8) is responsible for keeping 90 to 100 merits at all times. Anytime a student falls below 90 merits, will risk being dismissed/suspended from athletic teams, after school activities, field trips, etc.

We, the staff of SSPP, cannot guarantee the safety of each child; however, we will make every effort to provide a safe and orderly environment to protect the health, welfare, and safety of all students. The following four-step problem solving process will be used;

1. Are we aware?
2. We will investigate
3. We will reach a conclusion with all assemblies information
4. We will take appropriate action

*Any extreme fighting which adults, etc., must break up, will result in at least an immediate out-of-school 3-day suspension. This inappropriate action could lead to a 10-day out-of-school suspension.

**Any person bringing to school property Internet pornography or websites to this pornography will have an immediate 1 to 3-day out-of-school suspension. This includes any student that has accepted the information into their personal belongings.

*** Any student caught with drugs and or alcohol will be referred to the drug and alcohol local agency and assessed before returning to school.

DEMERIT CONSEQUENCES:

Denial of recognition rewards will be issued for the following:

1. Failure to maintain 90 – 100 merits

Detention will be issued for the following:

1. Level V violations
2. Loss of 11 demerits and each additional 6 demerits

In-school suspension or out of school suspension will be issued for the following:

1. Level V violations
2. After 2 detentions have been issued

Parent conference issued for the following:

1. Excessive violations
2. Level V violations

Any student accumulating 3 suspensions may be refused attendance for (any) the school field trip(s).

*Parent/guardian will be called

***Proper legal authorities will be contacted

***Diocesan policy will be followed

If other infractions that are not listed in the discipline code occur, consideration will be given to each one individually. The principal has the authority to address and evaluate each infraction in conjunction with the pastor(s) in making a final decision on the consequence(s).

It is, however, extremely important to realize that even if we follow this process 100% of the time, we could still make a mistake. The strength of this process is that we have no intent to harm the student in any way and that we will be truthful in each aspect of the process.

CODE OF CONDUCT:

Classroom management should foster student involvement and cooperation in classroom activities to establish a productive work environment. To accomplish this, the following components should exist:

1. Positive classroom management to help students manage the ability to:
 - Think and problem solve
 - Accept responsibility with regard to rules, limits, and the needs of others
 - Develop a positive self-image
2. Teachers will help students to learn acceptable behavior through feedback on behavior and its consequences.
3. The modeling of social skills through:
 - Rationales - providing the student with the moral awareness and development to understand how their behavior affects themselves and others
 - Consequences - providing logical consequences that teach the student to choose between acceptable and unacceptable actions

Consequences:

Please be aware that any disrespect, destructive act, or inappropriate behavior will be dealt with immediately and accordingly. If an individual student does not meet his/her personal responsibility for good conduct, the school will discipline the student. The severity or repetitive nature of non-compliance to the above expectations will determine the appropriate consequences. We, the staff of SSPP, cannot guarantee the safety of each child; however, we will make every effort to provide a safe and orderly environment to protect the health, welfare, and safety of all students. The following four-step problem solving process will be used:

1. Are we aware?
2. We will investigate.
3. We will reach a conclusion with all assembled information.
4. We will take appropriate action.

To remedy unacceptable behavior, the following actions may be taken.

- Teacher/student conference
- Notification to parents
- Administrative referral
- Loss of recess
- Detention
- School service required
- Denial of participation in school activities, including athletics
- Referral to the Student Assistance Program
- School probation or suspension
- Expulsion

All students will have their due process. Before an expulsion can occur, up to a ten day suspension will be given and a scheduled meeting with Diocesan officials will take place to determine if the expulsion is warranted. This is a right of each student and will be followed accordingly.

Again, the only thing constant today in education is change. It is not just the resolution of a single issue that is our priority; it understands the cause and effect of the problem as well as the processes and procedures needed to resolve the issue and similar issues that will arise in the future.

Harassment Policy: The faculty and staff at SSPP will strive to maintain a safe, welcoming school environment, free from unreasonable interference, harassment, intimidation, hostilities, offensive language and similar behaviors on the part of all students. The dignity and sacredness of the human person requires that we respect and value all persons. Verbal, sexual or life-threatening harassment towards anyone will not be tolerated. Anyone that chooses to make disparaging remarks or threats towards any person risks suspension/expulsion from SSPP.

WEAPONS: No weapon may be brought to school property, including, but not limited to; the school building, outdoor areas, outdoor facilities, school buses, or to any school related activity. A weapon shall include, but not limit itself to; any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, firearm, rifle, or any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting bodily injury, which it may have. This includes firearms, which are not loaded or lack a clip or other component to render it immediately operable. A person in possession of a weapon on school property violates state criminal statutes and school regulations, and shall be subject to the following discipline and penalty:

- ⇒ Parents will be notified immediately
- ⇒ Local police will be called
- ⇒ Students will be expelled

****Any student who threatens another student with extreme violence (gun or other violent weapon) will be automatically suspended for no less than 3 days or until a complete investigation has taken place.**

What is bullying?

Bullying occurs when a child is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions such as nonverbal harassment in the form of stares and glares, cruel teasing, malicious gossip, sexual harassment, ethnic slurs, unreasonable territorial bans, destruction of property, extortion, and serious physical assault, by one or more other students. A single instance of more serious harassment can be regarded as bullying under certain (unspecified) circumstances. *Olweus (1993)*.

Cyber bullying will not be tolerated. Cyber bullying consists of intimidating someone on the computer (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.), cyber stalking, posting pictures on line without someone's consent and any other types deemed inappropriate by the faculty and staff.

Cell Phone usage: Cell phones are not to be seen during the school day. Please place you phones with the teacher. Using a cell phone to intimidate, bully, sending inappropriate messages or pictures or texting will have consequences