



Code of Conduct Summaries for Junior & Senior High School Students and Families 2022-23

The complete Code of Conduct can be found online at www.wappingersschools.org

Introduction

The Wappingers Central School District is committed to maintaining a safe and effective learning environment for all students in our schools. A school's primary concern in establishing a Code of Conduct is to enable our young people to feel and be safe as well as become responsible, respectful and caring citizens within the school and community settings. An orderly educational environment requires that everyone in the school community play a role in contributing to an effective learning environment.

Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)

The Dignity for All Students Act focuses on ensuring that our schools are a safe place and that students know they are protected from certain types of behavior. All students are expected to behave respectfully toward each other and toward school staff and adhere to the guidelines of DASA.

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 anyone is making a student feel unsafe, bullied, threatened or harassed we urge the student or parents to contact the schools Dignity Act Coordinator as listed above, or you can report incidents to any adult in the school and they will follow up with the Dignity Act Coordinator.

Reporting

Students are expected to report any violation of the Code of Conduct to the Building Principal or another adult in the building. Retaliation against any person who reports a Code of Conduct violation will not be tolerated.

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. The following are considered to be inappropriate and are prohibited in school or at school functions:

1. Any dress or appearance which advocates discrimination or denigrates others based upon race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability;

Dignity Act Coordinators:

- **Daren Lolkema**, District DASA Coordinator & Title IX Officer
- **Laura DiStefano**, OVAHS
- **David Kedzielawa**, JJHS
- **David Seipp**, RCKHS
- **Steven Shuchat**, VWJHS
- **Terrence Thompson**, WJHS

RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS:

Students attend school so that they may realize their potential.

With this in mind, each student is expected:

1. to be familiar with and abide by all district policies, rules and regulations pertaining to student conduct;
2. to work to the best of his/her ability in all academic and extracurricular pursuits and strive toward the highest level of achievement possible;
3. to be in regular attendance at school and in class;
4. to contribute to the maintenance of an environment that is conducive to learning and to show due respect to other persons and to property;
5. to dress in accordance with standards promulgated by the Board and the Superintendent;
6. to make constructive contributions to the school, and to report fairly the circumstances of school-related issues.

The mission of the Wappingers Central School District is to empower all of our students with the competencies and confidence to challenge themselves, to pursue their passions, and to realize their potential while growing as responsible members of their community.



2. Any dress or appearance which encourages or advocates the use of drugs, alcohol, and/or tobacco;
3. Any dress or appearance which encourages illegal or violent activities;
4. Any dress or appearance which constitutes a threat or danger to the health and safety of students (ie: gang wear, heavy jewelry or jewelry with spikes or chains which can injure the students or others);
5. Any dress or appearance which allows sight of midriff, or any undergarments;
6. Any dress or appearance, exclusive of religious or medical reasons, that hides or changes a student's identity (ex. Masks, sunglasses, hoods, etc.);
7. Any dress or appearance which, in the judgment of the school administration, may be reasonably forecast to cause a material or substantial disruption;

Student Discipline

Wappingers CSD operates under a progressive discipline model. School officials who are authorized to discipline students may question a student about any alleged violations of the law or Code of Conduct.

In addition, school property (including lockers) is subject to search by school officials at any time. School 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 our Code of Conduct. Students who are found to have violated the District's Code of Conduct may be subject to a range of penalties as outlined in the Discipline section of our Code of Conduct. In addition, incidents that occur off school grounds which have a nexus to the school building could be considered applicable to disciplinary proceedings found in our Code of Conduct.

Cell Phones and Personal Electronic Devices

It is the policy of the Wappingers Central School District that students in grades 7 & 8 will be prohibited from possessing smart phones, smart watches (i.e., internet enabled devices), and other electronic devices and related accessories (e.g., earbuds) on their person during the school day without permission from the Building Principal. Smart devices and related accessories may be stored in a school bag (turned off) for before or after school use.

It is the policy of the Wappingers Central School District that students in grades 9-12 are allowed to carry smart devices during school hours and on school vehicles. However, during instructional times, students are prohibited from possessing smart devices on their person (study halls are considered instructional times unless otherwise determined by the Building Principal). Smart devices must be stored in a school bag or another location determined by the staff member in charge of that location.

It is the policy of the Wappingers Central School District that the use of personal cell phones and other electronic devices is not permitted by students in grades 9-12 at any time in specific common areas; locker rooms, bathrooms, gym class, the auditorium, and classrooms (except for instructional purposes, and only at the discretion of the teacher), and hallways.

Visitors

All persons on school property or attending a school function shall conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner. All persons visiting our schools must scan their photo ID in the provided visitor management system to sign-in, and be issued a visitor's permit which must be displayed at all times. Visitors whose identity cannot be confirmed will be asked to leave the premises. Visitors are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that does not disrupt the academic process, violate the privacy rights of others, and are in accordance with the law, and our Code of Conduct.

- 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.wappingersschools.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.

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