CANYON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Expectations for a Positive Learning Environment

This agreement goes home with every Canyon Middle School student at the start of the school year. Each parent and student must read this agreement and sign the acknowledgement form.

CODE: As members of the community of Canyon Middle School, we agree to:

Respect ourselves by…
- Doing our best
- Being responsible for our own actions, assignments and property
- Coming to school on time and prepared
- Using words and language that are not mean, vulgar or offensive
- Being honest and fair
- Bringing only appropriate items to school
- Behaving safely

Respect others by…
- Accepting everyone’s differences
- Observing lunchroom and yard rules
- Being polite, courteous and cooperative
- Making sure games and activities are open to everyone
- Not pushing, kicking, fighting or engaging in horseplay
- Walking at all times in the halls and cafeteria
- Following directions from all Canyon staff
- Not throwing rocks, spitballs, food or other items

Respect property by…
- Keeping all areas of the school neat and orderly
- Using materials in ways that don’t waste, litter or damage

UNDERSTANDING: As a member of the community of Canyon Middle School, I understand the Expectations for a Positive Learning Environment. I realize that if I violate the code, there will be certain consequences to those actions. The accepted consequences include;
- Being corrected by a teacher or supervisor
- Receiving a “timeout”
- Spending lunch in Student Services
- Having my parent(s) contacted
- Apologizing to anyone affected by my actions
- Being sent to an administrator
- Having my parent(s) contacted and/or being asked to come in to meet with an administrator and myself
- Making restitution for any property or material I have damaged
- Losing special privileges and/or attendance at school activities
- Spending free time helping to clean the school or performing other school services
- Suspension from school

These consequences will be administered to meet the frequency and severity of the action(s).
PHILOSOPHY
Canyon Middle School's Expectations for a Positive Learning Environment has been developed as a standard in order to ensure that students can reach their maximum potential in a warm, safe, clean learning environment.

GENERAL SCHOOL RULES
Canyon Middle School students shall:

- **Carry their binder reminders at all times.** Hall passes will be issued in the log in the back of the binder reminder. Parents are encouraged to review their students’ hall pass log periodically.
- Behave properly in their speech and actions, respecting differences in race, gender, color, religion, national origin, ethnic group, marital or parental status, age, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability or any other unlawful consideration.
- Respect everyone as a unique individual and be responsive to his or her needs.
- Try their hardest to do well.
- Not show public displays of affection.
- Follow directions of all school personnel without arguing.
- Dress in a manner that promotes a positive learning environment and is not disruptive to learning.
- Respect others' personal property and school property.
- Come to school prepared.
- Not bring permanent marking devices on campus.
- Respect others' personal property and school property.
- Keep hands and feet to themselves.
- Leave personal belongings that are inappropriate for school at home [i.e. radios, CD players, MP3 players, double/triple rings (i.e. brass knuckles), toys, poppers, sharp stud bracelets/necklaces, stuffed animals, sun glasses, water guns, large amounts of money, expensive items, wallet chains, etc.]
- Remained on campus during school hours.
- **Leave school immediately after their school day ends.**
- Not participate in gambling. Gambling is not allowed.
- Not bring flowers and/or balloons or other items for special occasions. These items will be held in the office until the end of the day. They are not allowed on the campus.
- Have a “campus pass” signed by a staff member with the correct date and time in order to be out of class.
- Leave gum at home.
- Not sell anything on campus.
- Not carry water bottles, juice or drinks around campus. These items should be kept in lockers until lunch or after school.
- Remain within school boundaries. The Canyon mile and the hills above and below are considered “out of bounds.”

Expectations apply:
- While on school grounds
- While going to or coming from school
- During the lunch period, whether on or off the campus
- At all school sponsored activities
- During, or while going to or coming from a school sponsored activity

Bicycle/Skateboard/Roller Blade/Wheelies(shoes with wheels)/Scooter Rules
In order to maintain a safe environment on campus the following rules are in effect. Students must remember that riding a bicycle to school is a privilege and will be revoked if a student fails to observe the rules.

- Bicycles must be operated in a safe manner. Students are required by state law to wear helmets.
- Students need to walk bikes up and down the hill.
- Bicycles are not to be ridden on campus. Once on campus, bicycles should be walked to the bike storage area.
- Bicycles must be locked to the bike rack.
- **The school is not responsible for lost or stolen bicycles, missing or damaged bicycle parts.**
- The bicycle storage area is “out of bounds” during school hours. (Students must take their bicycles home within 15 minutes after dismissal.)
- **Skateboards, roller blades, Wheelies (shoes with wheels), scooters, and roller-skates are not permitted on campus and will be confiscated.**
Bus Rules

- Students being transported are under the authority of the bus driver. Students must have a bus pass and obey proper directions of the bus driver.
- Students must remain seated while on the bus.
- Students will be assigned seats by the bus driver if she/he deems it necessary to maintain discipline on the bus.
- Students should not extend their hands, arms, legs, or heads through the windows of the bus.
- Students will not leave the bus, other than at home or school, without special permission by a school administrator. The administrator must notify the driver when such permission has been granted.
- Students should keep the bus clean and must not damage it. All damage must be paid for by the parent/guardian of the student concerned.
- Students should not throw objects out the window.
- Students should talk in normal tones. Loud or vulgar language is prohibited.
- Students should not open or close windows without permission of the driver.
- Students should be courteous to the driver, to fellow passengers, and passersby.
- Students will not eat or drink while on the bus.
- No animals are allowed on the bus.
- Students refusing to accept a citation from the driver will be automatically suspended from the bus.
- 7th/8th students staying after school for detention, homework club, or sports activities must have a pass from their teacher to ride the later bus.

Cafeteria Behavior

Students are expected to follow the same behavior rules in the cafeteria as in the classroom. As part of a healthy diet students are to bring a lunch or money to purchase a lunch.

Students are expected to:
- Consume all food in the designated eating areas.
- Clean up after themselves.
- Not throw items.
- Not sit on tables.
- Not cut in food lines.
- Not disturb classes in session.
- Remain in designated lunch area.

Dance Rules (Afternoon/Evening)

- Canyon Middle School dances are for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students presently enrolled and attending Canyon. NO STUDENTS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS WILL BE ADMITTED.
- No student may attend the dance who
  --has been suspended during the past nine-week period.
  --has not served his/her detention time for that day
  --has three (3) or more behavior incidents during the past nine weeks
  --has outstanding financial obligations
  --was absent from school on the day of the dance
- 7th/8th grade dances are held in the evening. Students arriving late will not be admitted to the dance without a parent accompanying them to the door.
- The 8th grade end-of-the year dance is only for students advancing to the 9th grade.
- Once a student enters the dance, he/she will not be permitted to leave unless accompanied by a parent.
- Students must be picked up when the dance ends. Any student who has not been picked up within a half-hour after the dance ends will not be allowed to attend the next activity. (Ending time will be announced in the bulletin prior to the dance.)
- Valuable items, cash, or purses should not be brought to the dances. There is no place to check valuables.
- Student I.D. card and admission fee are required for admittance to the dances.

Appropriate Dress

The dress code will be enforced at all Canyon Middle School activities.

Students are expected to dress in a manner that is not disruptive to the school environment. Clothing and accessories should not be distracting, nor make inappropriate statements.

- Clothing may not contain inappropriate and/or disruptive images or messages. Examples include but are not limited to: drugs or alcohol, ethnic slurs, gambling, gangs, grills, hate messages, or slogans endorsing violence, and suggestive statements.
- The wearing, carrying, or displaying of slogans, initials, colors, or attire that advocates gang participation is prohibited.
- No more than 2 items of the same color may be worn at any time.
Appropriate Dress (continued)

- Shirts/blouses shall not hang below the knuckles of the students’ clenched hand with their arms to their sides.
- Recreational clothing such as bike pants, running shorts, pajama bottoms with or without pockets and/or tops, mesh shirts or see-through shirts and blouses, cut-off ragged/shredded jeans, or jeans with holes are prohibited.
- Students may not wear leggings under clothing that does not meet the dress code.
- All tops must cover the upper shoulders and not hang loose under the arms. Spaghetti straps or halter tops are not allowed. Tops must also be long enough to be able to be tucked in when students' hands are raised.
- **Sagging is not permitted.** Pants/shorts/skirts must be worn in an appropriate manner. They must fit student, not larger in waist or length.
- Skirts or dresses may be no shorter than 3 inches above the knee or shorter than the length of your fingertips. High slits and tight fitting skirts and dresses are not allowed.
- Clothing should not expose underwear, cleavage or be so short or form fitting as to be distracting or not appropriate for the learning environment.
- Shoes must be worn at all times. High heels, steel-toed shoes, and other footwear, which may result in an injury, are prohibited. Backless shoes or “flip-flops” are not acceptable.
- California Education Code allows the wearing of hats on school campus for the sole purpose of protection from the sun. Consequently, the ONLY hats that will be allowed on campus are hats with bills at least 4” wide. Beanies are not allowed.
- For safety reasons, round and long earrings cannot be in excess of ½”. Inappropriate earrings will be confiscated.

Students not following appropriate dress guidelines and good common sense will be required to change their clothes, or be sent home. Repeated problems with dressing inappropriately will be referred to the A.P.’s office.

**Locker Rules**

Students may use their lockers before and after school and during passing periods. Students must remember that locker use is a privilege and not a right. Locker privileges may be revoked at any time. **Sixth grade students will be issued lockers during the first month of school.** Locker checks will be done throughout the year. Students need to abide by the following locker rules and procedures.

Students are responsible for:

- The cost to repair the damage they cause to lockers.
- Using only the locker assigned to them.
- Keeping their lockers neat and orderly.
- Checking to see if their locker is locked.
- Items stored in their locker.
- Remembering their locker combination.
- Going to the Student Services Office to correct any locker problems. Please go only before/after school and at lunchtime to fill out a locker maintenance form. Students will be notified when the problem is corrected.
- If a locker won’t open, the student needs to report to class first and get a pass to go to Student Services.

Students are not to:

- Keep inappropriate items in their lockers.
- Share their lockers.
- Give his or her locker combination to anyone.
- Place any decorations on the walls of their lockers.
- Use their lockers during class time, at lunch after the first 10 minutes or after the bell rings without a signed pass.
- Use extra locks on their lockers.
- Slam, kick, or abuse lockers.
- Leave gym clothes overnight in their lockers.
- Use lockers as an excuse for tardiness or lack of materials.

**DEFINITIONS OF CONSEQUENCES**

**Detention**

A teacher detention may be assigned by a staff member for disciplinary reasons. Twenty-four hours notice of teacher detention is given to allow for the student to arrange for transportation. Students must arrive to detention on time or else they will not be allowed into detention. Failure to appear on time or attend a teacher detention will result in a one-hour detention to be held on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday in the cafeteria after school. 24 hour notice will be given before the after school detention.
**After School Detention**
Detention in the cafeteria is held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Students must bring pencil and paper. Doors will be secured at the start of detention. Late students are to go to Student Services. If a student fails to attend, he/she will automatically be assigned two after school detentions. Failure to serve these detentions will result in being assigned to Saturday School. When a student has missed a detention because he/she was ill, the student is expected to go to detention the day of return from absence.

**If a detention cannot be served, the student must notify Student Services before 10:00 AM the day of the detention.**

**Behavior Contract**
An individual contract to address students’ behavior may be developed to address inappropriate classroom or social interactions; examples might be bullying, teasing, inappropriate language, etc.

**Saturday School**
Saturday School is held at Canyon from 7:55 A.M. to 12:00 noon. Students are expected to report to the front of the school at 7:55 A.M. Students arriving after 8:00 A.M. will not be admitted. The time during Saturday School will be spent doing work detail and/or working academically in a classroom. The same rules in effect during a regular detention will be in effect during Saturday School. Students who fail to attend or fail to report on time will be suspended from school.

**All Day Detention [ADD]**
ADD is an alternative to suspension from school when appropriate. Rather than being sent home, the student is allowed to remain in school in an isolated area and required to complete his/her assigned schoolwork.

- Students must report to the Student Services Office when they arrive at school and must leave school immediately after school (except if they have been assigned a detention).
- **Students must bring textbooks, binders, and work to complete.**
- Students are to display appropriate behavior or they will be suspended from school.
- Student may not attend or participate in any co/extra-curricular activities the day of his/her ADD. (This includes after-school activities such as dances.)

**Suspension** is used to remove a student from school for disciplinary reasons for a period of one to five days.

**Expulsion** is used to remove a student from school for the remainder of the semester or school year for disciplinary reasons. Expulsion is a process that is used for very serious matters. Expulsion may occur only with the approval of the Board of Education.

**SUSPENDABLE AND EXPELLABLE OFFENSES (PARTIAL LIST)**

- Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person. The three elements of battery are:
  1. An aggressor
  2. Intended to cause physical injury
  3. An innocent victim
- Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, knife, explosive or other dangerous object.
- Possessed, used, sold or otherwise furnished drugs, alcohol, or under the influence of any controller substance or intoxicant.
- Arranged, offered, or negotiated to sell look alike controlled substances, alcohol, intoxicants, or liquid, substance, or material represented as a controlled substance or intoxicant.
- Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
- Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property.
- Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property.
- Possessed or used tobacco or any product containing tobacco or nicotine products, including but not limited to clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets, or betel.
- Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- Possessed, unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia.
- Disrupted school activities or defied school personnel.
- Knowingly received stolen school or private property.
- Possessed an imitation firearm.
- Committed or attempted to commit sexual assault or sexual battery.
- Harassed or threatened or intimidated or bullied a pupil witness.
- Committed sexual harassment of another person.
- Caused, attempt to cause, threatened to cause or participated in an act of hate violence.
- Intentionally engaged in harassment, threat, or intimidation, directed against a pupil or group; i.e. name calling, racial/ethnic slurs.
- Terrorist threat