

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND EXPECTATIONS

The Staff of Mount Slesse Middle School is committed to providing a safe, comfortable environment to encourage effective learning. It is the expectation that all Mount Slesse Middle School students will exhibit behavior that is consistent with the **Student Code of Conduct**, Behaviour Support Levels, Behaviour Rubric, and the principles of common decency and courtesy to others. Proper conduct is expected while on the school premises, on the way to and from school, at all school games, functions and field trips. Behaviour beyond these times (including on-line behavior) that negatively impacts the safe, caring, or orderly environment of the school, and/or student learning is also considered. Mount Slesse Middle School promotes the values expressed in the **B.C. Charter of Human Rights and Freedom**, the **B.C. Human Rights Code**, and provincial standards respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law-prohibiting discrimination based on race, colour, and ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation (homophobic behaviour), - in respect of discriminatory publication and discrimination in accommodation, service and facility in the school environment.

Although we will take every opportunity to teach the positive behaviours outlined in the **Student Code of Conduct**, we expect each student to become familiar with all aspects of it. Parents will be notified of serious breaches of the **Student Code of Conduct**. When breaches occur, the following factors will be considered in determining appropriate disciplinary action: severity of unacceptable conduct, frequency of such conduct, age of the student, maturity level, and cognitive ability of the student.

While attending Mount Slesse Middle School, there are a number of specific expectations which students and their parents should be aware of:

LATES

EXPECTATION

Students are expected to arrive at school on time and to be on time for all classes. Arriving at class on time is important for several reasons:

- a. It affects a student's performance.
- b. It is an essential pattern of behaviour for future employment.
- c. Lateness is inconsiderate and unfair to other students, teachers, and the learning environment.

CONSEQUENCE

When students are unavoidably late, they must report to the office and sign in. Parents are requested to phone the school or to provide a note when they know their child will be late for school. Persistent lateness will be dealt with in a progressive disciplinary fashion. Students are expected to arrive to all of their classes on time. Please check the bell schedule carefully for the start and finish times of all the classes.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is extremely important to a student's achievement in school. Attendance will be closely checked by the school, and parents will be notified about absences and irregular attendance. If a student is absent, parents are requested to either:

1. Telephone the school on the morning of the absence at 604-824-7481. Mount Slesse Middle School has an answering machine that parents can use to leave a message regarding their child's absence. We ask that you leave the date, the child's name, how long they will be away and reason for absence.
2. Send a note stating the date and reason for absence when the student returns to school.

In addition:

1. It is the student's responsibility to see the teacher, a classmate or check our website to find out what was missed during his/her absence.
2. Counsellors will make contact with students in the event of a prolonged absence.
3. If a student needs to leave school during the day, a note must be brought from home requesting permission to sign out. Please bring the note to the office for a sign out slip.
4. Students must sign out with a secretary, at the office, to leave at any time during the school day.

TRUANCY – Unexcused Absence

Truancy is an absence that occurs without valid parental or school consent such as when a student:

- a. leaves school without signing out at the office.
- b. is absent for any portion of the day without permission of the parents.
- c. leaves class without permission.
- d. becomes ill and goes home or stays in the washroom instead of reporting to the office.
- e. obtains a permission slip to go to a certain place and does not report there (ex. goes to use the phone or vending machines).
- f. comes to school but does not report to class.
- g. fails to attend an assembly.

CONSEQUENCE

The parent/guardian will be contacted and the student will make up the missed time outside of school hours at lunch time or after school. The process will involve progressive discipline, with consequences becoming more severe if truancies continue.

First Offence: Parents will be notified by the classroom teacher and school administration. The student will serve time at lunch.

Second Offence: Parents will be notified by the classroom teacher and school administration. The time served by the student at lunch time will increase twofold.

Third Offence: Parents are notified and a meeting will be held with the administration of the school, the parents, counsellor and the student to resolve the problem. Consequences will be determined at the meeting.

INSUBORDINATION / DEFIANCE

EXPECTATION

When adults make a reasonable request of students, students are expected to do as they are asked.

CONSEQUENCE

Any acts of insubordination/defiance will not be tolerated and are subject to disciplinary actions.

VIOLENCE

There is zero tolerance for violence at Mount Slesse Middle School. Violence may take the form of:

Physical aggression, punching, pushing, shoving, tripping, hitting, spitting, beating, destroying property, use of or threat with a weapon, etc.

Verbal Aggression, for example, teasing, name calling, mocking, homophobic slurs, insults, putdowns, sarcastic remarks, threats, either in person or cyber bullying via social networking such as email, texting, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.

HARASSMENT

All school district students have the right to learn in an environment free of harassment. Harassment (physical, verbal, sexual, etc.) will not be tolerated and those involved will be dealt with severely. All concerns of harassment should be reported to the office immediately.

Intimidation Pranks include such things as dirty tricks, graffiti, a public challenge, a dare (to do something), taking possessions, glaring, snickering, making intimidating gestures, homophobic behaviour, cyber bullying, etc.

Discrimination includes any action against a person because of his/her race, colour, and ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation (homophobic behaviour) or gender identity or expression – prohibited grounds set out in the **B.C. Human Rights Code**.

Social Isolation includes such things as ignoring, excluding from a group, public humiliation, gossiping, spreading rumours, homophobic behaviour, gender identity or expression, cyber bullying, etc.

Cyber Bullying includes being tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or targeted by another person(s) using the internet, mobile phones, social media or other types of digital technology.

CONSEQUENCE

When the above behaviour occurs, we will strive to deal with it immediately and with consequences that are fair, logical, progressive, and educational. Depending on the severity of the incident, the number of prior infractions, and the age of the student, the consequences will range from in school detention to out of school suspension and possible R.C.M.P. involvement.

INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE

EXPECTATION

Students should show respect for and consideration of their fellow students and the school staff. Swearing, name calling etc. at any time is inappropriate.

CONSEQUENCE

When inappropriate language becomes a concern, the student involved will be referred to the school administration. Further consequences will follow.

HANDS-OFF POLICY

At Mount Slesse Middle School we have a “**Hands and Feet-Off Policy**”. This means that there will be no kissing, hugging, holding hands, play fighting, pushing, shoving, tripping, punching, chasing, rough housing, etc. Horseplay often gets carried away and injury occurs, so students need to find productive ways of expending energy.

CONSEQUENCE

If a student is not following the Hands and Feet Off guidelines, he/she will be escorted to the office. Students will be assigned consequences such as lunch time detention. The number of days spent in lunch time detention will be determined by the severity of the “hands on/off” offence. Students will be assigned to the office during lunch and break indefinitely if the student continues to disobey the hands off policy.

DAMAGE/VANDALISM TO SCHOOL PROPERTY

EXPECTATION

Students will show respect and consideration towards all school property.

CONSEQUENCE

Damage to school property becomes the student’s responsibility to clean up, repair or cover any costs involved. Other consequences, such as community service, may be assigned and parents/guardians will be notified.

WEAPONS

Weapons are defined as any instrument that can be used to injure, harm, or intimidate another person. Weapons of any kind are prohibited on school premises, buses and at school sponsored events. Students who are found with knives, pellet guns, replicas of guns or other dangerous objects such as laser pointers, on their person, in bags, purses, or in their lockers will be subject to disciplinary action.

CONSEQUENCES

If any student has dangerous objects, the student will be subject to an immediate suspension and a meeting with family members and Administration will take place to determine consequences

SMOKING

EXPECTATION

Smoking is not permitted on the school grounds or anywhere within the immediate vicinity of the school before, during and after school (including on or in the vicinity of Fleming's Corner Store, Twin Rinks, etc.). If students are found in possession of cigarettes, e-cigarettes (vapes), and/or lighters or matches, the material will be confiscated.

CONSEQUENCE

On the first offence parents/guardians will be notified and the student will receive disciplinary action determined by administration.

ALCOHOL AND ILLEGAL DRUGS

Students using, under the influence of, or in possession of illegal or non-prescription drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol in the school, on the school grounds, on the way to and from school, or at school sponsored functions are in violation of Chilliwack School Board policy and the Public Schools Act.

CONSEQUENCE

If any student is under the influence of, or possesses drugs or alcohol, the student will be subject to an immediate suspension, and a meeting with Administration and School Counsellor will take place.

POP, SLURPEES, AND SUGAR/CAFFEINE INFUSED ENERGY DRINKS

In keeping with the Ministry of Education Guidelines for healthy dietary choices in schools, pop, slurpees and sugar/caffeine infused energy drinks are prohibited at Mount Slesse Middle School.

CONSEQUENCE

If a student is in possession of the above mentioned beverages, the drinks will be confiscated.

DRESS CODE

EXPECTATION

It is expected that all Mount Slesse students come to school, and school-related functions dressed appropriate at all times. All dress code items are applied equally to males and females. Our policy aims to create a safe and respectful business-like atmosphere for staff and students.

Specific details about school-appropriate clothing:

- Hats, Hoods, and sunglasses are not worn inside of building
- Bandanas are not permitted
- Underwear, including bras and bra straps, are not to be showing
- Low cut garments that show excessive side or top of chest are not permitted
- Garments must cover midriff and not be transparent
- Shorts or skirts must be longer than the length of the students hand from their inseam (place heel of hand at inseam with fingers pointing down to determine appropriate length)
- Clothing items will not contain words or images depicting drugs, tobacco, alcohol, profanity, sex, racism, sexism, or homophobic

CONSEQUENCE

If clothing is inappropriate, the student will be required to change into clothing which is appropriate.

CELL PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES

All Middle Schools in Chilliwack aspire to have a positive and productive learning environment with a focus on academic achievement and appropriate socialization. It is a privilege to have cell phones at school - we want students to use these devices in a responsible and appropriate manner. Our classroom and school wide expectations include:

- At break and lunch, students are encouraged to be active and socialize with friends, so students are not permitted to use their cell phones and other devices at this time.
- Students are encouraged to leave their devices in their lockers, but if students take their cell phones/electronic devices to class they must be turned off. Teachers will collect cell phones at the beginning of class and return them at the end of class. Your child's teachers will decide if students can use them during class for educational purposes.
- Please do not text/call your child while they are in class. If you need to contact your child during instructional time, please call our office instead (604-824-7481).
- For privacy considerations, the taking of pictures, videos, or recordings at school is strictly prohibited.
- Head phones/ear buds must not be worn or visible during instructional time unless the teacher has allowed them. They must not be worn at assemblies, break, or lunch.

CONSEQUENCE

Unauthorized use of electronic devices will result in the device being turned in to the teacher and returned to the student after class or at the end of the day.

For repeated offences, the devices given to the office who may return the devices to the student and/or contact the parents if the problem persists. Students may then be asked to turn their cell phone into the office each morning and pick it up at the end of the day or to leave it at home.

PICTURES / VIDEOS / RECORDINGS

Students are prohibited from taking pictures/videos or recordings of students and staff at school or school functions.

CONSEQUENCE

Students will be required to remove and delete the pictures or videos from electronic device. Use of electronic devices will be restricted if the student continues to take unauthorized images or recordings of students and staff.

COMPUTER / INTERNET USE

Students must make appropriate use of the school computers and internet access. Prior to using the internet, students must become familiar with the '**Internet Use Policy**' and have their parent/guardian sign the '**Acceptable Use Agreement**'.

CONSEQUENCE

Inappropriate use such as downloading unauthorized files, visiting unauthorized web sites, misuse of the equipment/system, cyber bullying, etc. will mean withdrawal from the computer course, loss of computer privileges in the school, suspension, and possible R.C.M.P. involvement.

SKATEBOARDS/LONGBOARDS/IN-LINE SKATES/ SCOOTERS

Skateboards, longboards, in-line skates and scooters **may not** be used on school grounds or in the school. **Once a student arrives on school grounds, these items must not be used and must be placed in the provided racks. Please note that the school is not responsible for damage or theft of these items.**

CONSEQUENCE

If used on the school grounds or in the school, these items will be confiscated and sent to the school administration, who will determine when they will be returned.

BICYCLES

In accordance with provincial law, students who ride bicycles to school are required to wear a **bicycle helmet**. Students should **securely lock** their bicycles in the racks located in the front of the school. Riding of bicycles in the front parking area and bus lane is strictly prohibited. **Please note that the school is not responsible for damage to bicycles or for theft of bicycles.**

BACKPACKS

To avoid classroom and hallway congestion students must leave their back packs in their lockers for the entire school day. Students will carry binders, textbooks, etc. to classrooms and use their lockers for storage of back packs and school materials.

VENDING MACHINES

Vending machines are not to be used during class time and are not to be used after the warning bell in the morning or after lunch.

CONSEQUENCE

Confiscation of items purchased.

PLAGIARISM/CHEATING

Plagiarism is copying someone else's written words or ideas and passing them off as your own. It is considered cheating. Sometimes, a student may plagiarize by using someone else's words or ideas in the report or essay without being fully aware of his/her actions. Even though this may be unintentional on the part of the student, plagiarism is still considered cheating.

In order for students to avoid even mistakenly using another's words as their own, there are steps that students can take when they write a report or essay to avoid plagiarism.

These steps include:

- Note-taking while researching (not "cut and paste" but taking point form notes from what you've read and where you have found that information). Keep your notes. Your teacher may ask for them.
- Using a variety of sources for your information (internet, books, articles, encyclopedias, etc.).
- Use *quotation marks* or *block quotes* to show when information has been taken directly from another source.
- **Create an accurate list of the sources of information you used** for the essay or project (a bibliography). Be sure to note: author's first and last name, title of the text, page number, publisher, and date.

Consequences for Plagiarism:

- Informing parents/guardians and administration of the plagiarism.
- Consequences will be determined at the teacher's/administrator's discretion. Students will be required to re-write the assignment as a minimum.

Cheating:

Cheating occurs in a number of ways, including the following:

- Using a memory aid or electronic device in a test situation without the permission of the teacher.
- Giving or receiving answers during a test or quiz or on assignments that are supposed to be completed individually.
- Accessing a test or quiz, including the use of any electronic device, before the assessment date in order to determine the content of the exam.

Consequences for Cheating:

- Informing parents/guardians and administration of the cheating incident.
- Consequences will be determined at the teacher's/administrator's discretion. A student may have the opportunity to rewrite or redo an assignment. Depending upon the severity of the incident, the student may be suspended from school.