

Summary of the Code of Conduct

The Taconic Hills Central School District Board of Education has adopted a Code of Conduct for students and all those who are present on school district property. The Code of Conduct is set up so that all members of the school community can help to promote a safe and positive environment of dignity and respect for all, an environment that is free from harassment, discrimination, bullying and other threats to individual physical and emotional safety. Copies of the full text of the Code of Conduct are available upon request to parents and are also available on-line.

Student Rights: Students are entitled to:

- Pursue their education in an atmosphere that is safe and conducive to learning – free from bullying, intimidation and any form of discrimination, harassment or threats.
- A course of study that responds to their educational needs.
- Respect from all members of the school community.
- Procedural due process provided by Law.
- Freedom of speech and expression that does not disrupt the educational process or infringe upon the rights of others.
- A clear description of the rules that apply to them in school.
- Freedom from unreasonable search and seizure.
- ❖ Students with special needs are entitled to have their educational needs and behavior evaluated on the basis of those needs.

Student Responsibilities: Students responsibilities include:

- Contributing to maintaining a safe and orderly school environment that is conducive to learning.
- Respecting other persons and property.
- Being familiar with and abiding by school rules.
- Working to the best of their ability.
- Following the directions of school staff, faculty and administration.
- Dressing appropriately for school.
- Modeling good conduct during extra-curricular activities.
- Accepting responsibility for their actions.
- Respecting and treating individuals fairly and civilly in accordance with the District Code of Conduct and provisions of the Dignity for All Students Act.

Prohibited Behavior: The behavior prohibited by the Code of Conduct includes but is not limited to:

- Disorderly and disruptive conduct
- Insubordination
- Truancy
- Violent or threatening behavior
- Possession or use of alcohol, illegal drugs or weapons
- Destruction of property
- Harassment of any kind – including bullying
- Selling or possessing obscene material
- Use of any tobacco products
- Misconduct on the school bus
- Reckless driving
- Academic misconduct [cheating or plagiarism]
- Engaging in off-campus misconduct that endangers the health and safety of students or staff within the school or adversely affects the educational process, including but not limited to cyberbullying or threats made over the internet.

Student Dress Code: The Code of Conduct contains a dress code applicable to all students. Examples of dress that are not permitted include but are not limited to:

- Outside wear [such as coats and gloves] - these items should be stored in the student's locker upon entering the building.
- Clothing that is revealing – examples include but are not limited to:
 - Clothes that expose bare midriffs, torso or cleavage
 - Clothes that expose undergarments
 - See-through clothing
 - Excessively short skirts or shorts
- Writing or drawing on shirts, clothing, book bags, etc. that make reference to anything obscene, offensive, illegal or disparaging.
- Extreme accessories that can jeopardize one's safety.
- Bandanas and hoods
- Book bags, backpacks, oversize bags, etc. – these items must be put in the student's locker upon entering the building.

School Response to Violations: As a general rule, discipline will be progressive. There is a wide range of responses that are permitted when students violate the code of conduct. These include:

- Warnings
- Reprimands
- Probation
- Loss of privileges
- Alternative School Placement [In-School Suspension]
- Out of School Suspension
- Long-term Out of School Suspension

In all cases where a student is accused of a violation of the Code of Conduct, she/he is entitled to notice of the violation and an opportunity to explain. The Code of Conduct includes provisions for consideration of students with special needs.

Code of Conduct for All Individuals on School Property: All individuals who use or occupy school property are expected to follow the District Code of Conduct. This includes:

- Parents
- Staff
- Members of the Board of Education
- All visitors

Those in violation of the Code of Conduct will be asked to leave school premises or may be subject to action by law enforcement agencies. Employees of the school district may be subject to applicable employee disciplinary proceedings.

Cell Phones and Personal Electronic Devices in School

Students may bring their cell phones and personal electronic devices to school, but they are not permitted to use them in the building unless it is approved by a teacher. Use of electronic devices in a way that is disruptive to the educational process or is in violation of any other part of this Code of Conduct. Students who use their cell phones, or electronic device in a way that is disruptive to the educational process or is in violation of any other part of this Code of Conduct, may be subject to discipline and/or have the device confiscated for the remainder of the school day.

If a student has an electronic device removed from their possession, it will be placed in the Main Office where the student or parent, depending on who is authorized to receive it, may pick it up at the end of the day. In emergency situations, exceptions to the prohibitions of the use of cellular phones, pagers, and 2-way communication systems may be granted by teachers and/or administrators. Should the use of personal electronic devices constitute a violation of the law, the school will cooperate with law enforcement officials as appropriate.