

COMMITMENT TO CHARACTER AND CODE OF CONDUCT



Character Counts! Students are to carefully read the following "**Commitment to Character**" and pledge themselves to being the best person they can be by practicing the "**Six Pillars of Character**" every day that includes the following:

Trustworthiness is being honest, telling the truth, and keeping promises .

1. Tell the truth, be honest, and return what you borrow.
2. Look for goodness in others. Do not talk behind anyone's back, spread rumors, or engage in harmful gossip.

Respect is judging people on their merits, being courteous and polite, and appreciating and accepting individual differences. It means treating others the way you would like to be treated.

1. Show respect for all persons regardless of gender, ethnicity, ability, or culture.
2. Think about what you say to others. Do not use profanity, obscene gestures, abusive language, and racially or derogatory remarks towards students, staff or other persons.
3. Behave courteously and cooperatively towards teachers, staff and other students.
4. Treat others like you want to be treated. Never threaten, harm, bully, intimidate abuse, mistreat, or fight with anyone.

Responsibility is fulfilling your school, family, and community obligations. Responsible people think ahead, set reasonable goals, control their tempers, and do not give up easily.

1. Be responsible for what you do. Never bring to school or threaten anyone with a weapon of any kind – toy or otherwise.
2. Keep your body healthy.
3. Attend school daily and be on time.
4. Be prepared daily by bringing all necessary material to class, including textbooks and homework.

Fairness is playing by the rules, taking turns, sharing, and listening. A fair person is tolerant, open-minded and tries to understand what others are saying and feeling.

1. Talk out problems when they occur.
2. Show through your behavior that you believe that all people should be treated the same.

Caring is being kind, helpful and generous to everyone.

1. Report to school staff any information that someone has threatened to cause or caused harm to themselves or others.
2. Help others without being asked.

Citizenship is doing your share to help your family and make your school and community a better place. A good citizen plays by the rules.

1. Obey all school rules and laws.
2. Take care of all books, materials, equipment, and school property.
3. Wear clothing that adheres to the school dress code and is appropriate for school.
4. Help to keep our campus clean by throwing away trash properly.

DISCIPLINE CODE and PROCEDURES

We understand that there are times when it may be difficult for a student to follow the guidelines established.

For consistency, students should be aware of the consequences of poor choices.

Below please find a partial list of disciplinary infractions and the range of corresponding administrative responses.

<u>Student Behavior</u>	<u>Potential Consequences</u>
<u>Level 1</u> Chewing Gum Consistently missed homework (3) Running in Hallway/Stairwell Lack of Cooperation/Disrespect to staff	Reprimand Character Court
<u>Level 2</u> Use of profanity Excessive tardiness to school (A.M. arrival)** Inappropriate bus conduct Continued lack of Cooperation/Disrespect to staff	Reprimand Character Court Counseling Loss of privileges Parent call/conference with principal
<u>Level 3</u> Pushing/Shoving Classroom Disruption Misbehavior - Bus/Field Trip Missing School Character Court Cheating Harassment/Bullying/Cyber bullying Continued lack of Cooperation/Disrespect to staff	Reprimand Character Court Counseling Detention / loss of privileges Parent call/conference with principal In-school Suspension
<u>Level 4</u> Endangerment to the physical well-being of others Fighting/Assault Insubordination/Defiance of Authority Continued Harassment/Bullying/Cyber bullying Theft Truancy (leaving school without permission) Vandalism (defacing school property)	Loss of privileges Out-of-School Suspension Restitution may be required Possible police intervention

HABITUAL OFFENDERS MAY LOSE THE PRIVILEGE OF ATTENDING SCHOOL FUNCTIONS, INCLUDING: TRIPS, DANCES, AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, ETC.

What is Character Court?

- **Character Court has been set up to help students reflect upon the behavior.**
- **The focus of Character Court is to review the pillars of good character and address a pillar in which the student did not follow on their Pillar Page.**
- **The purpose of the Pillar Page is to help students “think before they act” and reflect on other ways to handle situations.**
- **The Pillar Page will be sent home at the end of the day for your parent to sign and return. IF THIS IS NOT RETURNED THE NEXT DAY, YOU WILL HAVE AN ADDITIONAL DAY OF CHARACTER COURT.**
- **When a student has three such reports, a meeting may be scheduled with the student, classroom teacher, parents, and the principal.**