

## **Dr. Kearney Middle School – Code of Conduct**

At Dr. Kearney we challenge, encourage and support all our community members to become responsible citizens capable of adapting to and improving the world.

We believe that all people are worthy of and capable of giving respect, that all people, no matter how different, can learn, and that all people have the right to a safe, healthy, caring, orderly and appealing work space.

All community members accept an appropriate level of responsibility to abide by, uphold and/or enforce the articles of this code whether at school or while attending or participating in any school-related activity. All community members accept that failure to do so will result in appropriate consequences and sanctions being imposed upon them.

The maintenance of a positive school climate must be a shared responsibility of all community members. Students, parents, teachers, staff, advisors, house coordinators and administrators all play a role in creating a positive school climate.

### **Conduct Expectations - Rights and Responsibilities**

**All Kearney community members have the right to live, learn and work in an atmosphere of mutual respect and courtesy.** Therefore, they have the responsibility to show respect for all staff, parents, students, the school and themselves.

**All Kearney community members have the right to be safe and secure from threatening, abusive, and violent behaviours, intimidation, and bullying, cyberbullying, discrimination, or harassment on the basis of appearance, capacity, physical or mental disability, race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, sex, real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age or any other reason. Members also have the right to be safe from retribution.** Therefore, they have the responsibility to avoid participating in or encouraging any of those acts, either in word or action, in person or electronically. All community members need to seek means other than physical confrontation when dealing with conflict.

**All Kearney community members have the right to a workspace free of distractions like foul language, garbage, graffiti or inappropriate clothing.** Therefore, they have the responsibility to avoid the use of profanity, to dress appropriately and not litter or otherwise deface school property.

**All Kearney community members have the right to learn in an effective and efficient environment free of unnecessary interruptions and delays including the misuse of electronic devices.** Therefore, they have the responsibility to arrive to all classes on time, properly equipped, and prepared to give their best effort and to not obstruct the learning of others with immature or inappropriate behaviour. Classroom expectations for the appropriate use of technology must be followed.

**All Kearney community members have the right to a safe and healthy smoke and drug/alcohol free workspace.** Therefore, they have the responsibility to not use, be under the influence of, carry or possess illegal or inappropriate substances including weapons anywhere while on or around school property or at school activities.

Forms of unacceptable conduct above are not an all-inclusive list.

### **Consequences**

The consequences of unacceptable conduct will be appropriate and fair, but flexible enough to consider and adapt to the circumstances of any given situation or individual. Consequences will increase in severity for repeated offenses.

As students become older they are expected to display increased responsibility, accountability and self-discipline. Wherever possible, consequences will be preventative and restorative instead of punitive, and they will involve meaningful student input.

### **Notification**

As circumstances warrant, school officials have a responsibility to advise other parties of serious breaches of the Code of Conduct. With serious breaches, parents or guardians of the offender and victim will be notified.

As required by policy or law, the school district, the police, or other agencies may be notified. The school community may also be notified depending on the nature and severity of the incident.

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The DKMS Code of Conduct has been structured to align with and adhere to the standards outlined in:

- School District 60 Code of Conduct
- School District 60 Discrimination, Assault, Bullying and Harassment Policy
- The School Act – Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order
- BC Human Rights Code – Sections 7 & 8
- BC Ministry of Education: Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools – Section Two