

RUSKIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT



CODE OF CONDUCT

The development and maintenance of a positive learning environment is the responsibility of the school community- students, staff and parents. It is the goal of Ruskin School to have each student develop self-discipline and good citizenship. The school discipline policy will be based on the questions of taking care of oneself, others, and the school.

COMPONENTS OF SUCCESSFUL DISCIPLINE

- Discipline is clear. Expectations are clear and all members of the school community understand the expectations.
- Discipline is consistent and fair. Rules are enforced and every issue is addressed.
- Discipline is positive. Students are recognized for their positive behavior. Students will make mistakes. It is crucial that students learn from mistakes and avoid similar problems in the future. Positive reinforcement for good behavior should be made at school and home.

GENERAL RULES

1. Classroom Rules:

Are established by the individual teacher and reviewed with the students

2. Courtesy and Respect

Students are expected to treat all adults and their peers with courtesy and respect, and to promptly follow any direction given by an adult. Students will refrain from writing, speaking or gesturing any communication that would reflect disrespect toward any adult or fellow student. **Bullying will not be tolerated at Ruskin.**

3. **Throwing Dangerous Objects**

The throwing of a dangerous object (rock, dirt clod, stick, water, etc.) is not permitted. Students breaking this rule will be referred to the office. On the first offense, the teacher will alert the parents to the incident. For any of the following offenses of this rule, other disciplinary consequences may be considered, including suspension.

4. **Fighting**

Fighting is not permitted at school or on the student's way to or from school. Students involved in fights will be referred to the office. When it can be determined that a student started or willingly took part in a fight, that student will be subject to in-house suspension or suspension from school. We expect our students to resolve their disagreements without pushing, kicking, biting or hitting, even when angry. "Play fighting" is also unacceptable.

5. **Name Calling**

Name-calling and "put-downs" are not acceptable. Racial and ethnically derogatory name-calling is not allowed on the Ruskin School Campus. When a name-calling incident occurs, an attempt will be made to resolve the matter between the particular students. Recurrences of the same type may require a conference with the parents, and other disciplinary consequences may be considered.

6. **Vandalism**

Vandalism is a serious offense against our school and community. Parents will be held responsible for replacing items damaged or stolen by their children or for repairing damaged property. In addition, students will face disciplinary consequences.

7. **Bullying**

Bullying in any form, whether physical, verbal, written or via computer (cyber bullying) is not acceptable and is not permitted. Students will face disciplinary consequences.

8. **Bicycles**

- Permission for a student to ride a bicycle to school must be signed by the parent and approved by the principal. Only responsible 2nd through 5th grade students will be allowed to ride a bike to school.
- Permission slips are available in the school office.
- A helmet is required for all children under the age of 18. Citations will be issued for bicyclists not wearing a helmet.
- Students must walk their bikes on school grounds and on all sidewalks.
- The District assumes no responsibility for lost or damaged bicycles. All bicycles must be locked in the bike rack; we recommend the key type of lock.

9. **Roller Blades/Skates/Skateboards**

Roller blades, skates, or skateboards are not to be brought to school. No heelies are allowed at school. When this rule is broken, the item will be taken away and held in the office until claimed by a parent.

10. **Leaving School Grounds**

Once a student has arrived on school grounds, he/she is not permitted to leave the grounds unless given permission by the office. Parents who wish to pick up their child during the school day, must provide

the office with proper identification and sign out their child. The office staff will contact the teacher, and the student will then be permitted to leave the campus with their parent/guardian.

Only adults identified on the student's emergency card are permitted to check the student out of school. If the student is being picked up during school hours by an adult other than the parent, the office must receive permission from that student's parent first.

11. Verbal / Physical Abuse and Sexual Harassment

Students are not to abuse or harass one another, whether verbally, physically, or sexually. Depending on the severity of the offense, a disciplinary consequence may be necessary.

12. Profanity / Obscenity

Profanity, obscene gestures or any type of obscene materials are not allowed on campus. Depending on the severity of the offense, a disciplinary consequence may be necessary.

13. Smoke / Drug Free Campus / Medications

To ensure the health and safety of Ruskin students and staff, the campus is a smoke and drug free zone. Students are not to bring any tobacco items or drugs to school. This includes carrying medications.

Medications (including over the counter) need to be registered in the office with a *Permit to Take Medication* form completed by a licensed health care provider and the student's parent/guardian. Students carrying any type of medication (even over the counter medication) will be confiscated and parents will be contacted.

14. Threats

Students are not to make any physical gestures or written or verbal statements that can be construed as a threat of physical harm to any student or adult. Students will face disciplinary consequences.

15. Promptness

Students are expected to come to class on time in the morning. They are to return to the classroom from recess and lunch break promptly. Consistent tardiness will become a truancy issue.

16. Cell Phones/Pagers

Cell phones and pagers should not be brought to school. If there is a compelling need to contact your child, please call the office.

17. Video Games / Toys / Radios

Toys of any kind that do not contribute to the educational process are not to be brought to school, except for a classroom sharing activity or spirit day activity. When this rule is broken, the item will be taken away and held in the office until claimed by a parent / guardian. Specific items may be permitted on field trips as designated by the teacher. Trading cards and such are also not allowed at Ruskin. Students are not allowed to trade, sell or buy cards or any other items with other students.

18. Gum Chewing

Gum chewing is not allowed at Ruskin.

DRESS CODE

Berryessa Union School District Board Policy 5132 states that... “The development of attitudes and behavior patterns in dress and grooming should be part of each student’s total educational experience”. In general, students are not to be attired in clothing that compromises safety or modesty or is disruptive to the educational process.

RUSKIN DRESS CODE INCLUDES:

- ◆ Student’s appearance and attire should be conducive to learning and teaching. Inappropriate clothing or clothing which displays inappropriate messages or pictures may result in parent contact.

Inappropriate clothing includes the following:

- Bare midriffs
 - Hair color that is disruptive to classroom instruction
 - Halter tops, spaghetti straps, tube tops, fish-net tops, backless dresses, tank tops with large scoop armholes (A-Shirts)
 - Short shorts or short (mini) skirts
 - Shoes that are not appropriate for school activities – slippers, thongs, and heelies (shoes with roller wheels). Sandals should have backs on them.
 - Excessively baggy pants, or pants worn below the waist
 - Hats and / or caps should be worn outside only.
- ◆ Students should be dressed appropriately for school and playground activity
 - ◆ Any extremes of appearance, hair style, footwear or clothing that may distract from the learning environment will result in parental contact and / or will require a change of attire
 - ◆ “Heelys” (shoes with roller wheels) are not permitted

PLAYGROUND RULES

1. Do not stay or play in the restroom.
2. Students are to remain on the playground at all times (except when using the restroom).
3. Students are not to climb on anything. This includes fences, benches, gates, cement walls and planted areas.
4. Students are to stay out of any mud or water puddles.
5. Students are only allowed to eat in assigned snack areas on the playground.
6. Students who are “benched” must remain in the bench area until released by the yard duty teacher.
7. No running is allowed anywhere except on the playground.
8. Students are not allowed inside the building during recess and lunch unless they have a pass from their teacher.

LUNCH AREA

1. “Inside”, quiet voices are to be used in the lunch area. No loud noises such as popping bags, hitting tables, etc.
2. No throwing objects of any kind.
3. No changing seats or leaving without permission. Classes will be dismissed from the lunch tables by the noon duty supervisors.

4. Students are responsible for cleaning up their eating area. Do not litter.

CONSEQUENCES

It should be noted that there might be degrees of severity and/or previous patterns of behavior that will influence the consequences. The school administrator will use his/her discretion in determining those consequences.

1. Children may be benched during recess and lunch recess.
2. A school service may be determined by the classroom teacher and an essay about the rule that has been broken (yard, lunch area, library, classroom).
3. A discipline referral may be sent home and a meeting with the principal may be required.
4. A parent conference with the teacher may be held.
5. A parent conference with the principal may be held.
6. Suspension may occur at any step. Offenses include: Fighting, extremely disruptive behavior, and possession of weapons.

SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL

State Law (Educational Code 48901 and 48903) and School Board Policy (No. 5131) give the teacher the authority to suspend a student from the classroom, and the principal the authority to suspend a student from school.

According to the California Education Code and Board Policy Section 48900, a pupil shall not be suspended from school or recommended for expulsion unless the superintendent or principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled determines that the pupil has:

- a. Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person (except in self-defense).
- b. Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, knife, explosive, or any other dangerous object, unless, in the case of possession of any such object, the pupil had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, which is concurred in by the principal or designee of the principal.
- c. Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, or otherwise furnished, or been under the influence of, any controlled substance, as defined in the Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, an alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind, or
- d. Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, an alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind and then either sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid, substance or material as a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant.
- e. Committed or attempted to robbery or extortion.
- f. Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property.
- g. Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property.
- h. Possessed or used tobacco or any products containing tobacco or nicotine products, except as provided in Section 48901.
- i. Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.

- j. Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Section 11014.5 of the Health and Safety Code.
- k. Disrupted school activity or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties.
- l. Knowingly received stolen school property or private property.
- m. Possessed an imitation firearm, i.e., a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to existing firearms as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.

ZERO TOLERANCE PLEDGE

As a responsible member of the community, I realize that safety at school, home, and in the neighborhood is very important. Understanding the importance of nonviolence at school, home and in our society, and the value of maintaining a drug-free life style, I have pledged my support by doing the following:

- I will not carry dangerous weapons of any type with me at any time. This includes knives, guns, or any other object that could be used to harm a person.
 - I will not associate with friends or acquaintances that have weapons and/or participate in violent activities.
 - I will not become involved in situations that include fighting or other violent actions.
 - I will honor my commitment to live a drug-free life, and will not be pressured by peers to become involved with alcohol, marijuana, or other illegal drugs.
 - I understand that failure to meet the Zero Tolerance expectations at Ruskin Elementary School regarding weapons, violence, and drugs, may result in a suspension, a police report, and an expulsion recommendation.
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