

Our Lady of Peace School

Code of Conduct

Our Lady of Peace School is dedicated to the central mission of the teaching of the Christian Gospel. With this in mind, the faculty and administrator of Our Lady of Peace School seek to establish positive behavior patterns in students with emphasis on developing within the student's responsibility for his/her actions. A positive learning environment is one in which the dignity of each individual person is recognized and respected because of God's great love for all his creation.

The Code of Conduct covers appropriate behavior for creating a Christian leaning environment with Our Lady of Peace School. A Classroom Code of Conduct defines appropriate conduct in each classroom. So that each teacher and student have a safe environment where learning can take place and each person's dignity and property are respected, all students are asked to observe the following rules:

- Show obedient, courteous and respectful behavior towards faculty, staff and visitors
- Speak kindly and respectfully to and about others.
- Use appropriate language.
- Be in the right place at the right time.
- Wear the full uniform at the right times.
- Refrain from chewing gum in the school and on school grounds.
- Refrain from bringing cell phones to school or having them on while on school grounds
- Respect school property and the property of others.
- Refrain from deliberate disruption in the classroom or on school property.
- Walk at all times in the school building (excluding gym class)
- Maintain silence during all crisis drills.
- Be regular and punctual in attendance to school and to class

Students are not permitted to bring to school such items as: knives, sharp objects, matches, lighters, firecrackers, firearms, alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia, water pistols, electronic games, iPods, or cell phones.

Students may never leave school grounds during the school day for any reason without permission from the principal.

Seaton Hall: Students are to sit in assigned seats and follow the directions of the cafeteria supervisor. Students should remain seated until dismissed. Good manners and quiet voices are to be used at all times. Students are responsible for helping clean up their own table.

Playground: Students are to respectfully obey the playground supervisor and to play in the designated areas. All students are to play away from all school doors and windows. Fighting, tackling, tripping, pushing, pulling, etc., are forbidden, as serious injury could occur. Students may not throw snowballs, rocks or hard balls. Only nerf and balls provided by the school are permitted. Eating is not permitted on the playground.

Indoor Recess: Students must be seated somewhere in the classroom. The teacher will establish other guidelines

Bus Conduct: Students are expected to behave respectfully and responsibly at all times. Please be on time at your appointed bus stop. Eating, gum chewing, drinking beverages and littering are not permitted. Students should talk quietly, and nothing should be thrown from or inside the bus. Written notification or failure to follow the rules and regulations of the public school district, or the bus driver, will result in a conference with the principal and parent notification. The consequence of failure to follow the bus rules could result in being suspended from the bus temporarily or permanently, with the parent responsible for transportation.

Harassment, Acts of Violence, Sexual Harassment, Threats by words will be taken seriously. Substantial allegations, because of potential criminal nature and for safety of the entire school community, parents as well as police may be notified. See Handbook Policies. Please talk to your child

about their language. Any words of threat are serious and cannot be taken lightly. We have little choice but to report to police authority any violence or threat of violence to self or others. The excuse from the child or from the family that it was “just a joke” or “just kidding” or “didn’t really mean it” or “they are friends and always talk or act that way,” is no longer acceptable on the bus, in school, stores, restaurants, airports and anywhere. Even unintended words or behavior could become a criminal offense.

Weapons and Firearms: In furtherance of the overall philosophy, goals, and objectives of the Catholic education experience, Our Lady of Peace School prohibits the use, possession, sale or discharge of any weapons or explosive devices in the school, on school grounds, or at school sponsored activities.

This policy includes, but not limited to, any firearm, knife, deadly weapon or explosive or incendiary device. Violation of this policy may warrant notification of the police, immediate suspension and possible expulsion. If possession of a weapon is suspected, the principal or other administrator will immediately contact the police and the diocesan legal office before confronting the individual. If it is determined that this policy has been violated, the parents of the offender shall be contacted. If the student’s infraction does not warrant immediate dismissal, the parents will be required to sign a Probation Contract that includes all conditions of the student’s retention at the school.

Problem Solving: Students who are experiencing problems with other students should seek the help of teachers or the principal. Students are not to take the situation into their own hands or solve problems in physical ways. Nothing is gained by having two students hitting each other. Students are encouraged to talk with a trusted adult if they feel the need for help or protection. When there is a genuine concern regarding misbehavior of other students, parents are urged to encourage their children to report misbehavior to the appropriate person at school. When necessary, parents of both students will be asked to attend a conference at school.

Our Lady of Peace School is committed to helping students learn problem solving skills, as our children are growing into a society that will need creative cooperation among its members. Rules for “Fighting Fair” are taught and include the following:

- Identify the problem
- Focus on the problem
- Attack the problem, not the person
- Listen with an open mind
- Treat a person’s feelings with respect
- Take responsibility for your actions

We teach our children to avoid name calling, blaming, sneering, not listening, getting even, bringing up the past, threats, pushing, hitting, put-downs, bossing, making excuses and not taking responsibility. Peer mediators are also trained to assist their fellow students’ problem solving.

In all cases of disruptive behavior, we take into consideration the whole child and make decisions based on the Gospel values of love, respect and justice. Each situation will be handled with growth of the student being the primary goal. Consideration must also be given to the common good. Any behavior which threatens the physical/emotional well being of others is considered serious and will be addressed accordingly. Each of the offenses will be dealt with on an individual basis.

Guidelines for Responding to Inappropriate Behavior

When handling a discipline issue, we will make every effort to discuss negative and positive consequences of behavior.

- To appeal to the student’s sense of individual responsibility to the group as a whole
- When possible, to confine the children who were not contributing to the situation
- To help children learn the value of their small contribution to the big picture whether positive or negative
- To help them understand that talking things over is the best tool for learning about each other and resolving problems. This is a Life Skill
- Students will be held accountable for their actions and may no longer dismiss their contribution with comments like “everyone else is doing it,” “I was just joking,” or “I didn’t mean it”

- Thinking before acting is part of the education process
- It is our responsibility to help them learn that by joining in with others, they have allowed themselves to become a victim of peer pressure
- We hope that lessons learned now will help them later in life

Consequences may include:

- Isolation from the group (Time Out) with supervision
- Loss of privileges
- Call to parents
- Disciplinary Contract
- After school detention
- Conference with the principal
- Principal/teacher/parent/student conference. Parents will be notified in writing
- In the event of illegal acts, such as weapons, drugs, alcohol possession or harassment, law enforcement authorities will be notified
- Recommendation for assessment counseling
- Suspension

Consequences will be appropriate for the seriousness and frequency of the offense.

Detentions - Detentions may be given for major or repeated infractions related to:

- Disrespect shown to an authority figure
- Hitting another student
- Destruction or damage to school property
- Failure to observe school rules
- Rude/discourteous behavior
- Annoying classmates or any harassment
- Inappropriate language
- Excessive talking/loudness at inappropriate times
- Running in halls/classroom

Parents will be notified in advance of the time when an after-school detention is to be served and are responsible for picking up their student at the designated time.

Suspensions: Behavior of a very serious nature can be harmful to the individual as well as to other students in the school. Suspensions can be either in school or out of school. This will occur after conferencing with the student and their parents. Missed academic work may be made up within a responsible time frame set by the principal. All privileges, academic and extracurricular are withdrawn until the expiration of the suspension per week. A student may be required to perform community service with proper supervision, in conjunction with or in place of suspension.

Expulsion: The following infractions are grounds for expulsion from a Youngstown Diocesan School:

- Possession of, use, or attempt to use a weapon at school or a school related activity
- Repeated use of physical violence, force, threat, coercion or other aggressive behavior that threatens the others at school or school related activity.
- Selling or distribution of drugs or other chemical substances at school or school related activities
- Repeated instance of possession, use, or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs at school or school related activities
- Involvement in a felonious act or other criminal behavior that causes public scandal and adversely affects the morals and/or safety of the students and staff
- Repeated incidents of incorrigibility or the repeated refusal to comply with school rules
- Assault/battery on a member of the school staff
- Other behaviors deemed sufficiently serious by the principal to warrant the permanent removal from the school.

