

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

**updated July 2, 2024

A.L. Fortune Secondary and School District 83's (North Okanagan-Shuswap) code of conduct applies at all times when students are under school supervision or attending school functions whether on or off school property, and whether in or out of school time. This includes lunch breaks and travelling to and from school as well as field trips and other school organized/related activities.

The code of conduct describes school expectations and acceptable student behavior as directed by the School Act 85(2)(c)(i). It is derived from the Ministry of Education's goal for Human and Social development, and is designed to promote a safe, caring and orderly school for the purpose of learning.

ALF supports the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law – prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression. Any language or behaviour that deliberately degrades, denigrates, incites hatred, prejudice, discrimination, or harassment towards individuals on the basis of their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identification will not be tolerated.

The North Okanagan/Shuswap School District Code of Conduct

Students are expected to become responsible citizens as they learn the connection between their rights and their responsibilities. They are also to understand that school is a public place where their actions can affect others. Therefore, it is important to conduct themselves in an ethical fashion (with consideration for others). Specifically, it is expected that . . .

- Students are to be given the opportunity to learn and teachers are to be given the opportunity to teach without disruption.
- Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis and to participate constructively in the learning process and in appropriate decision-making procedures.
- Students have the right to feel safe and to be treated with respect and courtesy.
- Students are responsible for respecting the rights and dignity of others in learning environments free of discrimination as set out in the BC Human Rights Code and participating actively and productively in their academic learning and social growth.

Acceptable Conduct

Acceptable behavior is demonstrated by (but not limited to):

- Promoting an environment of understanding and mutual respect
- Ensuring that the educational rights of all members of the school community are respected
- Respecting the facilities and the properties of others (Good Neighbor Policy)
- Regular attendance and punctuality
- The use of acceptable and appropriate language in classrooms, hallways and community.
- Responding with cooperation to the reasonable requests of any staff member
- Staying on school property during instructional time and class to class transitions. Students are permitted off property at lunch time with parent consent. Middle school aged students (Grade 7 and 8 students) have a different set of procedures. These will be discussed in September.
- Informing an adult, in a timely manner, of any known bullying, harassment, or intimidation

- Wearing clothing appropriate to a place of business (language/graphic appropriate clothing...)
- Being a positive ambassador for our school throughout the community
- Cleaning up after oneself (use of garbage cans, recycling, cleaning up your space...)
- Setting high standards for personal achievement and applying good effort in all curricular areas.

Personal Digital Devices

The Ministry of Education and Child Care has amended the Provincial standards for Codes of Conduct Order (the “Order”) to promote provincial consistency and to support boards of education in ensuring their schools have appropriate policies in place to restrict student personal digital device use.

The amended Order will come into effect on July 1, 2024. The following sections are excerpts from the amended order:

- “Personal digital device” (phones, smart watches....) means any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or to access the internet, such as a cell phone or a tablet.
- Boards must ensure that the following elements are included in their codes of conduct: ... (D.1) one or more statements about restricting the use of personal digital devices at school for the purpose of promoting online safety and focused learning environments

Cell Phones are not permitted during Instructional Time (ie. class time)

Personal devices include cell phones, smart watches, ear buds/ headphones....

- *Except for the exemption below, personal devices are not permitted during instructional time. This includes classrooms, library, hallways, the gym, the commons, bathrooms etc...*
******Grade 9-12 students are only permitted to use their personal devices for educational purposes when directed by the teacher.*
- Cell phones should be kept in a student’s locker or backpack for safe keeping and to limit potential distraction.
- Teachers may require students to check their phones into a “cell phone locker” at the beginning of class.
- All students will be allowed to use their phones before school, at lunch and after school.
- To protect privacy students **must not** use digital devices in settings such as, but not limited to, change rooms, washrooms or private counselling rooms.
- Personally owned devices may be used for instructional purposes at teacher discretion.
- Personal devices may be approved to support medical necessities.

Prevention

Keeping our school and the members of our school community safe requires the cooperation of all its members. Students are expected to tell an adult when they are aware of any actions that could harm individuals or the school as a whole (e.g. fights, bullying, etc.). Disciplinary measures vary depending on the nature and frequency of the problem.

The school will take all reasonable steps to prevent retaliation by a person against a student who has made a complaint of a breach of a code of conduct.

Bottom Lines

The following bottom lines need to be maintained in order to continue attending the school. Consequences such as being sent home, parent meetings, in-school suspensions, out-of-school suspensions and even district hearings occur when a bottom line is broken. We understand that everyone makes poor choices at times – the adults in the building strive to support you in all aspects of your school life in the hopes of making good choices.

Bottom lines include...

- Open Defiance
- Dangerous Behaviors - which causes significant physical damage or is perceived as likely to cause significant physical damage to either people or property
- Drugs and Alcohol - students must not use or be under the influence or be in possession of drugs or alcohol (or paraphernalia) while at school (including breaks) or school-related events.
- Weapon possession or use while at school or during a school-related event will result in an indefinite suspension pending a district hearing.
- Bullying, cyber-bullying, harassment, intimidation, or physical violence will not be tolerated
- Use of tobacco products/e-cigarettes/vaping on school grounds or school activities is not permitted (this includes bathrooms). Devices/items will be confiscated that are visible and/or used on school grounds or activities.

Notification

When there is a breach of school Code of Conduct, school officials have the responsibility to advise the following:

- Parents of offenders, victims
- School district officials as required by school district policy
- Police and/or other agencies, as required by law

Guests

Except for unusual circumstances and pre-approved by school administration, guests are not permitted during the school day, as this can be disruptive to education. This included former students and graduates. To bring a guest to a school event, permission from administration is required. Students are responsible for all actions of their guests.

Bus Expectations and Procedures

All school expectations apply when travelling on busses. Bus transportation is a privilege and ensuring a safe and pleasant ride for everyone is essential. The bus driver is fully in charge of his/her bus.

Bus memos are given to students as warnings for inappropriate behavior. Students may not take the bus again until the memo is signed by their parent/guardian.

A bus letter suspends bus privileges until a meeting convened by the school and attended by the student, his/her parent/guardian and the district Manager of Safety and Transportation, resolves the issue.

Student Threat Assessment Protocol:

Fair Notice

What behaviours initiate a student threat assessment?

A student threat assessment will be initiated when behaviours include, but are not limited to, serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill, verbal/written threats to harm/kill others, Internet website/MSN threats to harm/kill others, possession of weapons (including replicas), bomb threats and fire setting.

Duty to report

To keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents, students and community members must report all threat-related behaviours.

What is a threat?

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet or made by gesture. Threats must be taken seriously, investigated and responded to.

What is a Threat Assessment Team?

Each school has a Threat Assessment Team which is multi-disciplinary. The team may include principal, vice-principal, district resource counsellor, school counsellor and police.

What is the purpose of a student threat assessment?

The purposes of a student threat assessment are:

- To ensure the safety of students, staff, parents and others.
- To ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat.
- To understand factors contributing to the threat makers' behaviour.
- To be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker.
- To promote the emotional and physical safety of all.

What happens in a student threat assessment?

All threat making behavior by a student shall be reported to the principal who will activate the protocol for the initial response. Once the team has been activated, interviews may be held with the student(s), the threat maker, parents and staff to determine the level of risk and develop an appropriate response to the incident. Intervention plans will be developed and shared with parents, staff and students as required.

Can I refuse to participate in a threat assessment process?

It is important for all parties to engage in the process, However, if for some reason there is reluctance to participate in the process by the threat maker or parent/guardian, the threat assessment process will continue in order to promote a safe and caring learning environment for all.

