

# Orchard Park Elementary Schools

## Code of Conduct Summary

A comprehensive Code of Conduct document is on file at the District Office, in the Main Office of each building and also available on the district webpage.

The Orchard Park Elementary Schools are first and foremost a place of learning. Learning takes place when high standards of conduct are met. **Respect, Responsibility, Tolerance** and **Dignity** are the foundations of these standards.

*Respect:* Recognize and appreciate the value of:  
\*Yourself  
\*Fellow Students  
\*Adults

*Responsibility:* Recognize and understand that you are accountable for your actions.

*Tolerance:* Recognize and respect the differences that exist among individuals.

*Dignity:* To promote an environment free from harassment and discrimination and demonstrate conduct that fosters civility, kindness, and acceptance

Our goal in the Orchard Park Elementary Schools is to create an environment where students and staff feel safe. We believe that cooperative efforts involving students, staff, parents, business leaders, religious leaders, law enforcement officials and other community members help to ensure that we are doing all that we can to prevent school violence and promote an environment free from harassment and discrimination by demonstrating conduct that fosters civility, kindness and acceptance.

## **Definitions:**

Discriminating or harassing any student that creates a hostile environment by conduct or by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse, of such a severe nature that:

- a. has or would have the effect of reasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional and/or physical well-being; or
- b. reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety.

**Harassing** conduct may take many forms, including verbal acts and name-calling; graphic and written statements, which may include use of cell phones or the Internet(Cyber-bullying); or other conduct that may be physically threatening, harmful or humiliating. Harassment does not have to include intent to harm, be directed at a specific target or involve repeated incidents. Harassment creates a hostile environment when the conduct is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent so as to interfere with or limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by a school. Such harassment shall include, but is not limited to threats, intimidation or abuse based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practices, mental or physical disability, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender, or sex.

**Discrimination** – misconduct against any student on the basis of the individual's perceived or actual race, color, weight, national origin, religion, religious practice, age, sex, sexual orientation or disability.

**Violent Threat-** A violent threat is a statement or intent to inflict emotional pain, bullying, physical harm, or damage toward a person or to property. Threats – i.e. "I'll kill you" that might have been viewed in the context of "joking" or discriminatory will now be taken seriously and considered potentially violent.

**Violent Act** – "Violent Act" means to willfully inflict physical or emotional harm upon a person, or to damage property.

**The Orchard Park Central School District is committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment where students may receive and the District personnel may deliver quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, other District personnel, parents and other visitors is essential to achieving this goal.**

**The District has a long-standing set of expectations for conduct on school property and at school functions. These expectations are based on the principles of civility, mutual respect, responsibility, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty, integrity, and dignity.**

**The Orchard Park Elementary Schools maintain a no tolerance policy with regard to student-initiated violent threats or violent acts directed toward a person or to property. Students engaging in such conduct will be removed from the general student population pending an investigation of the incident.**

**All students are expected to promptly report violent threats or acts to a parent, teacher, staff member, school counselor or principal.**

**The following procedures will be implemented:**

- 1) A student who has initiated a violent threat or act will be removed from regular classes while an investigation is made to determine a course of action.
- 2) As soon as possible, written documentation will be forwarded to the principal describing the circumstances of the violent threat or act. The principal will investigate and consult with appropriate staff.
- 3) If a threat of violence does not pose an immediate danger, the student may be returned to class under the guidelines of a behavior contract set by the principal and reviewed with the student.
- 4) If the facts indicate that a violent threat or act was planned, attempted or committed, the student may be suspended from school and parent notified. The principal in accordance with New York State Education Law and the Commissioner's Regulations will determine the duration of the suspension and will inform the Superintendent and/or local police agency.

**The following are possible consequences for student misbehavior:**

**As part of their education, students need to learn to be responsible. This includes accepting responsibility for their behavior.**

**Warning: (Oral/Written)**

Any member of the District staff or its representative may verbally inform a student of the impropriety of his/her conduct (with possible parent contact).

**Teacher disciplinary removal of disruptive students (2 periods)** On occasion, a student's behavior may become disruptive. For purposes of the Code of Conduct, a disruptive student is one who substantially disrupts the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom. A substantial disruption of the educational process or substantial interference with a teacher's authority occurs when a student demonstrates a persistent unwillingness to comply with the teacher's instructions or repeatedly violates the teacher's classroom behavior rules.

**Teacher Detention:**

A student is detained after school with a teacher. A student must complete his/her detention before attending any other school activities. School personnel will notify the student's parents/guardians prior to teacher detention.

**Office Detention:**

A student is detained after the school day and is supervised by school personnel. Students are expected to complete schoolwork or read. Talking or socializing is prohibited. School personnel will notify the student's parents/guardians prior to the office detention.

**Suspension from Transportation:**

A student is prohibited from using school provided transportation, however, he/she must attend school. Parents are responsible for arranging transportation to and from school.

**Suspension from Social or Extracurricular activities:**

A student is not allowed to participate in or attend school-sponsored activities.

**In-School Suspension:**

A student remains in school but is separated from the general student population for an extended period of time. A substitute teacher supervises the student's class work.

**Out-of-School Suspension:**

A student is kept out of school pursuant to the processes set forth in Education Law §3214.

**In-School/Out-of-School Suspension Guidelines:**

**The following behaviors may merit in-school/out-of-school suspension:**

**In-School Suspension:**

- a) Violent threat or violent act (at the discretion of the principal)
- b) Fighting
- c) Stealing
- d) Forgery of a parent note (i.e. early dismissal, bus pass, attendance note, etc.)
- e) Vandalism (including destruction of personal property)
- f) Inappropriate language or gestures to an adult
- g) Continued harassment of an individual
- h) Truancy (not reporting to school)
- i) Cheating on tests/quizzes/homework etc.
- j) Discrimination

**Immediate Out-of School Suspension:**

- a) Violent threat or violent act (at the discretion of the principal)
- b) Possession of a knife or any other sharp object
- c) Possession of firearms, explosives (i.e. fire crackers, caps, smoke bombs poppers, etc.)
- d) Possession of alcohol or other illegal substances or paraphernalia
- e) Being under the influence of alcohol or other illegal substances
- f) Possession of cigarettes, tobacco or related paraphernalia
- g) Leaving school without permission

A student's due process rights will be adhered to and each case will be considered individually. In-School suspension/Out-of-School suspension may involve a recommendation for counseling services either in school or from an outside agency.

------(PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN)-----

I have taken the time to review the contents of the Orchard Park School District Code of Conduct with my child and I understand that he/she will need to adhere to the established policies.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_