

## **EXPECTATIONS FOR THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

The Kittery School Committee is committed to promoting a safe, orderly, and civil school environment where learning can take place. Key to establishing this type environment are behavioral standards which are clearly articulated, actively supported and consistently enforced. Students, parents/guardians, teachers and staff all have responsibilities to ensure that these behavioral standards are adopted and practiced in all school and school-sponsored settings. These behavioral standards encompass conduct which respects the rights of others and the rules of the school system. Outlined below are three building blocks for an optimal learning environment. These building blocks address behavioral expectations as they relate to citizenship, learning preparation, and demeanor. They are not intended to be an exhaustive list of rules and regulations for each school. Rather, they are intended to reflect the norms of behavior which must apply in all school settings among all parties invested in the educational process.

### **GOOD CITIZENSHIP**

Good citizenship is defined as:

- Respecting yourself and others.
- Respecting differences and people who have differences.
- Respecting the school community's rules of conduct.
- Cooperating with others in the school community.
- Taking responsibility for your actions.
- Respecting property.

### **LEARNING PREPARATION**

Students are expected to:

- Complete their homework and other assignments on time.
- Arrive promptly for class.
- Be courteous and attentive while in class.
- Comply with the requests/requirements of their teachers.
- Observe, listen and learn from their teachers and classmates.
- Seek clarification and extra help wherever and whenever necessary.
- Refrain from any conduct which distracts or disrupts the learning environment.
- Identify to their teachers/principals, students who disrupt the learning environment.

Teachers are expected to:

- Maintain a polite, dignified, and civil classroom environment.
- Adequately prepare the agendas, lesson plans, and materials for each class.
- Assist any student who needs desires additional instruction/assistance.
- Foster respect and tolerance for differing views and opinions.

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- Take action to address disruptive behavior including removal from the classroom.
- Teachers and administrators will notify parents/guardians of significant changes in students behavior, performance or educational program.
- Notify parents/guardians as soon as student is in danger of getting a D or F and work with student and parents/guardians to develop a plan for success.

Parents/Guardians are expected to:

- Monitor their child's overall progress.
- Address any needs or concerns they feel are not being met with regard to their children's education with the appropriate teachers and administrators.
- Work in partnership with the teachers and administrators to maximize their child's learning experience.
- Ensure that their children arrive well rested, clothed and nourished for the school day.

**GENERAL DEMEANOR** - Students, Teachers, and Staff will collaborate to foster a school environment that is:

- Free from threats; verbal or physical
- Free from harassment of any type
- Free from vulgarity, profanity, and lewd or offensive behavior
- Free from fear for personal safety
- Free from unlawful or illegal acts
- Free from disruptive student behavior
- Marked by a spirit of cooperation, consideration for others, and pride

Freedom from these fears and undesirable behaviors will help promote a school environment where:

- Learning and personal achievement is paramount.
- Recognition is provided for achievement and best efforts.
- Spirit and pride are felt and reflected by all.
- Students, parents/guardians, teachers and staff will consider themselves stakeholders in the school community and provide the self policing/monitoring necessary to achieve the optimal learning environment and experience.

It is the belief of the Kittery School Department, that success in improving student behavior, and subsequently school-wide safety, will be achieved only if there is a strong commitment to the following goals:

1. For clear positive behavioral expectations;
2. For high academic standards articulated at each of the schools and within each grade level;

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3. For support for staff and students from administration and related services;
4. For engaging, student centered instruction;
5. For collaboration with family, community, and other service providers;
6. For collaboration between regular and special educators;
7. For educators who don't give up on students;
8. For educators who promote the highest level of achievement for all students;
9. Training to allow staff to apply positive proactive approaches to school discipline.

School administrators will develop and implement rules to enforce this policy. These rules will be published in student handbooks.

Cross Reference: IKAB - Progress Reports  
ACAA - Harassment

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