



BULLYING POLICY

The following behaviors will not be tolerated:

- Bullying as defined by the Massachusetts Anti-Bullying Bill passed on April 29, 2010: *“Bullying,” the repeated use by one or more students of a written, verbal or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a victim that: (i) causes physical or emotional harm to the victim or damage to the victim’s property; (ii) places the victim in reasonable fear of harm to himself or of damage to his property; (iii) creates a hostile environment at school for the victim; (iv) infringes on the rights of the victim at school; or (v) materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school. For the purposes of this section, bullying shall include cyber-bullying.”*
- Lying
- Cheating
- Plagiarizing
- Defacing or damaging school property
- Stealing
- Acting or speaking abusively
- Excessive tardiness
- Truancy
- Illegal use of substances or possession of weapons

Responding to Bullying

Parents will be contacted and notified by a school administrator about instances of the above behaviors. In some cases, the student and parents will meet with the Head of School and other administrators. The school will support all families involved during this difficult time by providing resources and referrals as necessary. When appropriate, the school will contact local law enforcement.

Consequences of Behavioral Infractions

At the discretion of the professional staff, there is a policy of progressive discipline with consequences for behavioral infractions that might include up to, but not exclusively:

In Class (assigned by the teacher)

- Loss of a privilege (choice time, reading a favorite book)
- Task to “make it right” (write a letter of apology, complete the task again correctly, clean up a relevant space, complete a related task)
- Time out
- Lunch and/or recess detention

Outside of the Classroom (assigned by a school administrator)

- In-school time out (in the main office)
- Task to “make it right”
- Student calls parent to explain behavior
- Student may be asked to leave for a day, particularly in cases of physical aggression
- Student may lose privileges of attending a school social event, program, or activity
- Student may be asked to leave the school permanently