

**SAN DIEGO JEWISH ACADEMY  
MAIMONIDES UPPER SCHOOL  
DISCIPLINE POLICY**

Our school community stands on *The Ten Principles*, whose values we strive every day to instill in our students. The principles below are not rank-ordered. Each is as important as the next. We do, though, want to emphasize that we are, first and last, a Jewish school-and thus we introduce and end our statement of the Principles with particular Jewish virtues. We are supported in and draw the strength from these Ten Principles, which are specifically applicable at SDJA and at any school function on or off campus:

*Menschlichkeit*

Accountability

Character

Citizenship

Compassion

Environmental Consciousness

Honesty

Responsibility

Wellness

*Kavanah*

***MENSCHLICHKEIT***

The notion of essential human goodness is the foundation of our principles. We seek to promote at SDJA an environment where all our students are *menschen* who take to heart this paraphrase from our sage, Hillel: “Never treat another in a way you yourself would not want to be treated.” Compassion and consideration of others is our rule.

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

This principle underlies our students’ understanding of their daily obligations regarding attendance and submission of assigned work. Specifically:

- Students will attend class on time and not succumb to any temptation to skip a class, either willingly or under pressure from another student;
- Students will attend each scheduled day of school-full days, half days, and special program days;
- Students will not leave class or campus without permission;
- Students will complete all work assigned, including work they might have to make-up due to absence, excused or unexcused, in a timely manner.

## **CHARACTER**

This principle underlies our students' understanding of the kind of behavior towards themselves and others that enhances the sense of community at SDJA.

- Students will not engage in *lashon hara*: gossiping or speaking ill of others;
- Students will demonstrate a sense of *tz'niyut* (modesty) by not cursing,
- Students will not engage in improper displays of affection for any individual on campus,
- Students will abide by and follow the school's dress code.

## **CITIZENSHIP**

This principle underlies our students' understanding that our community grounds itself in rules that represent our value of being considerate to others. We strive to emphasize that any well-functioning community constructs for itself rules that its members are expected to follow.

- Students will follow the Academy's *kashrut* policy at school and at school sponsored activities;
- Students will not chew gum on campus;
- Students will not use cell phones during school time (8:00 AM to 3:15 PM.);
- Students will not loiter in the parking lot or sit in cars in the parking lot during the school day, or remain in classrooms without a teacher's supervision;
- Students will respond to all adult requests, directions or instructions.

Additionally, citizenship reminds us that though multiple languages are spoken on our school campus, the common language of our community is English. And as we build our school community here, we must bear in mind that speaking in another language, except other than Hebrew class, can be exclusionary and discourteous to others.

## **COMPASSION**

This principle underlies our student's understanding that members of a community care for one another.

- Students will not harass or bully one another or anyone on campus at any time
- Any kind of mental or physical cruelty is unacceptable.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS**

This principle underlies our students' understanding of our obligation to care for the places in which we find ourselves, whether we're at SDJA, in a natural area, or visiting another school or organization.

- Students will not vandalize or deface in any way the physical space they occupy;
- Students will place trash and recycling in appropriate containers wherever such containers are available.

## **HONESTY**

This principle underlies our students' understanding that the only way to generate meaningful interactions among members of our community is to engage in truthful interactions.

- Students will not lie;
- Students will not steal;
- Students will not cheat: they will neither plagiarize (take another's ideas and misrepresent them as one's own) nor submit work for credit that they have copied from another student (which is another instance of misrepresenting another's work as one's own).

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

This principle underlies our students' understanding that others depend on us when we give them our word. When we encourage others to depend on us, we affirm their trust by not letting them down.

- Students will follow through on all commitments they choose to make; academic, athletic, artistic, and volunteer (whether in the service of the school community or an organization outside of school).

## **WELLNESS**

This principle underlies our students' understanding that we must look after one another's health and safety. The community that cares about its well-being takes action against threats to its welfare.

- Students will neither possess nor be under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or any tobacco product;
- Students will not possess weapons;
- Students will not engage in physical violence against anyone.

## **KAVANAH**

This principle underlies our students' understanding of the value of focused inward attention. Enriched academic experiences in the classroom, spiritual experiences in *tefilah*, athletic experiences in various sports' venues, and artistic experiences on stage or on canvas, result from concentrating our efforts on performing to the best of our ability. Additionally, *kavanah* celebrates the merits of self-reflection. We understand how to improve, how to appreciate, how to be considerate when we practice looking within. Specifically with regards to *tefilah*,

- Students will not be disruptive
- Students will contribute to an atmosphere of focused attention towards prayer and reflection.

## **CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATION OF THE TEN PRINCIPLES**

**The Board of San Diego Jewish Academy through the following policies and consequences asserts that enrollment and continued enrollment at the school is a privilege and not a “right”. It is our belief that students, particularly in the upper school, know “right from wrong”, and that each student must be held accountable for their actions.**

**The purpose of the following policies and consequences are to: 1) maintain a safe and secure community for all of the students, staff, and parents; 2) hold students’ accountable for inappropriate behavior; and 3) differentiate between those offenses that are major and those that, while still unacceptable, are less severe in their ramifications.**

**Absent compelling circumstances, the following offenses are deemed so serious that the offending student(s) will be disenrolled from the school: \***

- 1) Use, being under the influence, possession (whether on one’s person, locker, car, or control), and/or sale of any illegal drug (or purported drug) on school grounds or any school sponsored activity.**
- 2) Possession of any firearm or facsimile that was brought to school or any school sponsored activity.**

**The offenses that follow are also unacceptable and considered to be very serious. They are subject to different levels of consequences, up to and including suspension and/or disenrollment, to be determined by the principal or his/her designee. The determination of the consequences shall be based upon the severity of the presenting incident, prior offenses, determination as to whether or not the student will be able to be successful in the school in the future, impact upon the rest of the school community; as well as other factors that may present themselves.**

**The lists of possible consequences are not meant to be in any particular order, nor are the lists meant to imply that only one of the consequences may be implemented at a time.**

**Students are subject to the consequences for offenses that are committed on school grounds or at school sponsored events/activities.**

\* Should the principal, in his/her judgment, deem that the circumstances surrounding these offenses warrant a consequence that is less than that which is mandated by this policy, then he/she may submit their rationale to the Executive Director for his/her final determination. The Executive Director is authorized by this policy to make an exception in the cases that would warrant such determination. All disenrollments and any decision to stay a disenrollment shall be reported to the Executive Committee of the Board.

### **POSSESSION AND/OR UNDER THE INFLUENCE of ALCOHOL**

- At-home suspension
- Loss of Extra-Curricular Activity(ies)
- Disenrollment

### **STEALING**

- At-home suspension:
- Loss of extra-curricular activities (attendance of dances, field trips, athletics);
- Restitution
- Community Service (no credit towards graduation requirements)
- Disenrollment.

### **VANDALISM**

- Parent contact/conference
- After school detention;
- In-school suspension;
- At-home suspension:
- Loss of extra-curricular activities (attendance of dances, field trips, athletics);
- Restitution
- Community Service (no credit towards graduation requirements)
- Repair/cleanup and/or make payment to restore the property
- Disenrollment.

### **POSSESSION/USE OF TOBACCO**

- At-home suspension:
- Loss of extra-curricular activities (attendance of dances, field trips, athletics);
- Community Service (no credit towards graduation requirements)
- Disenrollment.

### **ANY WEAPON or EXPLOSIVE NOT LISTED PREVIOUSLY**

- At-home suspension:
- Loss of extra-curricular activities (attendance of dances, field trips, athletics);
- Community Service (no credit towards graduation requirements)
- Disenrollment.

### **DEFIANCE OF SCHOOL AUTHORITY**

- Parent contact/conference
- After school detention;
- In-school suspension;
- At-home suspension:
- Loss of extra-curricular activities (attendance of dances, field trips, athletics);
- Community Service (no credit towards graduation requirements)
- Disenrollment.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY** - the taking another's ideas and misrepresenting them as one's own, submitting work for credit that has been copied from or performed by another person (which is another instance of misrepresenting another's work as one's own), changing of any grades, any form of cheating on a test or any other assignment, etc.

- F on assignment;
- Parent contact/conference
- Detention;
- Community Service
- Loss of extra curricular activities
- Suspension
- Disenrollment

#### **VIOLATIONS OF THE DRESS CODE**

- Parent contact/conference
- First Offense-swap clothes for loaner or have parent bring clothes to school;
- Detention
- Repeated violations – suspension or disenrollment

#### **CUTTING CLASS OR LEAVING SCHOOL WITHOUT PERMISSION**

- Detention or suspension.
- Repeated violations-suspension or disenrollment.

#### **FOR ALL OTHER OFFENSES NOT LISTED ABOVE**

- Parent contact/conference
- After school detention
- In-school suspension
- At-home suspension
- Restitution
- Community Service
- Loss of extra-curricular activities (attendance of dances, field trips, athletics)
- Loss of driving privileges onto campus
- Disenrollment

**An accumulation of offenses over time may result in a consequence that is significantly more severe than if the last particular offense was the first time the student had ever violated one of the Ten Principles. In other words, a student's entire discipline record is one of the factors that is taken into account when determining consequences.**

**Anytime a student is formally disenrolled from the school, the Executive Director shall report the facts and circumstances to the Executive Committee.**

## **DETENTION POLICY (Grades 6-12)**

Detention is held after school for one hour. Detention may include study time or custodial assistance. It is the parents' responsibility to provide transportation for detained students. The school cannot individualize the detention policy to meet parents' schedules and needs. Students must serve detention when it is assigned. Failure to serve a detention will result in suspension.