

THE TEN PRINCIPLES

Our school community stands on The Ten Principles, whose value we strive every day to instill in our students at the San Diego Jewish Academy. 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 Principles with particular Jewish virtues. We are supported by and draw strength from these Ten Principles, which are specifically applicable at the Academy and at any school function on or off campus:

Mentshlechkeit

Accountability

Character

Citizenship

Compassion

Environmental Consciousness

Honesty

Responsibility

Wellness

Kavanah

MENTSHLECHKEIT

This notion of essential human goodness is our foundational principle. We seek to promote at the Academy 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 the Academy. Specifically:

- 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, by not engaging in improper displays of affection for any individual on campus, and by following our dress code.

CITIZENSHIP

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

Specifically:

- 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 a.m.-3 p.m.);
- 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 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 in Hebrew class, can be exclusionary and discourteous to others.

COMPASSION

This principle underlies our students' understanding that members of a community care for one another. Specifically:

- Students will not harass or bully anyone on our 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 the Academy, in a natural area, or visiting another school or organization. Specifically:

- 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. Specifically:

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

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

- 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. With regard to tefilah, specifically:

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

CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE TEN PRINCIPLES

For cheating or plagiarizing:

- F on assignment
- Parents contacted
- Detention

- Repeated violations—suspension or expulsion

For violations of the dress code:

- First and second offense—swap clothes for loaner or have parent bring clothes to school
- Repeated violations—suspension or expulsion

For cutting class:

- Detention or suspension
- Repeated violations—suspension or expulsion

For other offenses:

- After school detention
- In-school suspension (groundskeeping assistance may be required)
- At-home suspension
- Loss of extra-curricular activities (attendance at dances, field trips, athletics)
- Loss of driving privileges (for those students who drive their car to school)
- Expulsion

DETENTION POLICY

Detention is held after school for one hour. Detention may include study time or maintenance assistance. It is the parents' responsibility to provide transportation for detained students. We 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.

TARDINESS

Any student who reports late to class will be directed by the teacher to report to the Upper School front office. At the front office the student will provide the administration with an excuse for tardiness (example: note from parent). The administrator will complete a tardy form for the student, indicating whether the tardiness is excused or unexcused. The student will then be directed to return to the classroom and provide the teacher with the tardy form. The administration will retain a copy of the tardy form. After a student receives *two* unexcused tardies, the student's parent(s) will be contacted for a parent conference. After a student receives *three* unexcused tardies, he or she will be assigned **after-school** detention.

ABSENCES

At the start of first period class each day, role will be taken. Any student who is not present at this time will be reported as absent to the administration. On the day of a student's absence, it is the parent's responsibility to call the administrative office by 9:00 am. If a parent or guardian does not call to report a student's absence by 9:00 am, that absence will be considered unexcused. A student with an unexcused absence *may* be subject to after-school detention, suspension or expulsion, depending on the particular circumstances.

The Ten Principles Pledge Form

I have read and understand the Ten Principles and pledge to abide by them.

Student's name: _____

Student's signature: _____

I have read and discussed the Ten Principles with my student.

Parent signature: _____