

GFSS Code of Conduct

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS:

ACCEPTABLE CONDUCT:

1. Students will conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner at all times.
2. Courtesy and respect will govern all student actions in helping to make the school a safe, caring and orderly environment.

UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT: These are...

1. behaviors that interfere with the learning process, the stability of an orderly environment, or that create an unsafe condition
2. acts of bullying, intimidation, or physical violence
3. illegal acts such as possession, use, or distribution of illegal substances or weapons.

RISING EXPECTATIONS:

1. It is expected that, in concert with the Code of Conduct, as students become older and more mature, they will develop increasing self-discipline and responsibility.

CONSEQUENCES:

1. Disciplinary Action will be a fair and consistent response to unacceptable conduct.
2. Disciplinary Action will, whenever possible, be more preventative and restorative, rather than punitive.
3. Where necessary, special consideration may apply to students with special needs who may be unable to comply with the code of conduct

NOTIFICATION:

1. School Officials may have a responsibility to notify other parties of serious breaches of the code of conduct.
2. These include: parents (where deemed appropriate), school district officials, police and/or other agencies as required by law.

CODE OF STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the personal responsibility of each student who attends GFSS to be aware of, to support, and to abide by the policies and procedures of our school and district as outlined in the student handbook.

CONDUCT OF STUDENTS

The school operates on the premise that no person's education will suffer because of the actions of another student. The behavior of all members of the student body should display common sense, good taste and a sense of purpose and should reflect concern for safety and consideration of the rights of others.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT:

Each year, the Student Advisory Committee will review the Student Code of Conduct and make recommendations to administration regarding policy and student consequences.

1. LUNCH HOUR:

School lunches may be eaten in the cafeteria, hallways, courtyard, or outside. Students should leave all areas clean and tidy by using the appropriate containers. Students are also expected to treat the noon hour supervisors with the same respect as they would any staff member.

2. SCHOOL DRESS:

Students and their parents are asked to exercise good taste in determining what appropriate attire is for students in school, bearing in mind that the student is expected to be fully clothed, including footwear, and in such a fashion that the clothing is not distracting to other members of the class. The focus is on safety and the maintenance of a suitable teaching atmosphere. Students may be asked to change or cover up when wearing clothing which is seen as inappropriate such as underwear showing, low cut shirts, profanity, or written material that may be offensive to others. Cleanliness and good grooming are also expected.

3. SCHOOL FUNCTIONS:

When you attend a school function, even when away from school, you are expected to demonstrate responsible behavior. School functions include dances, athletic events, concerts, trips, and any other activity that is being sponsored by the school. All school regulations apply at these functions. You will be made aware of specific rules and expectations governing these events and it is your responsibility to follow them.

4. ASSEMBLIES:

Assemblies are held monthly throughout the year for special purposes. Attendance at these assemblies is a part of the total school program. Performers and guests must be treated with politeness and respect at all times and appropriate audience behavior is expected or students will be removed and taken to the office. Hats are not to be worn in the auditorium as a respect to the person sitting behind you.

5. GYMNASIUM:

Although primarily a teaching area, the gymnasium is also used before and after school as well as during the lunch hour. Because of its heavy use, students are urged to do

their best to keep it clean and in good condition. All students must wear proper gym strip which includes appropriate sneakers when using this facility. The equipment rooms are off limits to all students except when under the direct supervision of a staff member. Students are prohibited to eat in the gymnasium – please use the adjacent multi-purpose room.

6. HOMEWORK POLICY:

Homework is an essential feature of secondary school education. Generally, students could have 20-30 minutes in length for each subject area for homework each night. If specific assignments have not been given, students should use the time to review. Homework should not be given unless students are capable of doing the material on their own. Students can receive up to 10% of their mark for work habits which may include homework completion. As homework is meant as a way for teachers to determine student understanding rather than using homework assignments as a formal level of evaluation, this component of a grade is minimal.

7. STUDY BLOCKS

Students enrolled in a study block must sign in at the library or the office on a daily basis and use their time for studying or go to the Multi-Purpose Room. When the weather is appropriate, students may work outside on picnic tables as long as they are not creating a distraction for other students in class. Students found in the halls during study block will be assigned to a classroom by the Administration. As well, in order to ensure student safety, students must have verbal and/or written permission from their parent/guardian to leave the building. Written permission should be indicated on Study Block Application forms all students are given at the beginning of the year.

8. CELLULAR PHONES/PAGERS/ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Students must not use cellular phones in the building during class time. Cell phones and pagers brought to school must be turned off and stored in a locker or bag. Phones that go off during class may be confiscated by the teacher and brought to the office. On the first offense, it will be recorded in BCESIS and available for pickup at the end of the day. After initial warnings, if cell phone use remains a problem, administration may request parents to come and pick up the devices. Cell phones are not to be taken into change rooms due to privacy issues. In some cases, students may be requested to leave their cell phones in the office when they arrive to school to prevent issues arising. Listening devices may be used during class time at the discretion of individual teachers.

9. COMPUTER PRIVILEGES:

Students involved in unauthorized use of the GFSS computer network may have privileges revoked for up to one year and may be suspended for up to five (5) days depending on the infraction. Students should not download materials onto school computers without permission Mr. Lockhart or technology teachers. Game play and chat room use should also be refrained from.

10. HELMETS:

Safety helmets must be used at all times when using rollerblades, bicycles, skateboards, etc., on school property. Use of any of this type of equipment is also prohibited inside the school and must be stored in lockers during instructional time.

11. TRUANCY:

Truancy is when a student skips a class or classes without school or parental permission. As a result, we ask parents to telephone the school when their son/daughter will be

absent or late. A 24-hour attendance line (442-0954) is available for your convenience. For students skipping class, time will be made up and tracked by administration.

12. **TARDINESS:**

Students who are continually late cause another problem. Chronic lates will be treated as truants and students will be required to make up time.

13. **BREACHES ON (EXTRA-) CURRICULAR TRIPS:**

All school rules apply when students are on field trips or team trips. They will be strictly enforced to ensure the safety of all students participating. Regulations do not permit students to drive other students in their own vehicles on any curricular or extra-curricular trip. In some cases, students may be given permission to drive themselves as long as parent consent is obtained. Students who break rules on school trips may lose privileges for future trips.

14. **DRUGS/ALCOHOL:**

Drug or alcohol use is not permitted on any School District property. Students will be dealt with as per the GFSS Drug & Alcohol Policy which applies to all school functions. Students caught under the influence, selling, or with drugs/alcohol on their person will receive an immediate indefinite suspension from school. The RCMP could also become involved.

GRAND FORKS SECONDARY SCHOOL
ZERO TOLERANCE DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY
2011-2012

Any student, under the authority of the school, found to be under the influence of, or in the possession of, drugs or alcohol during the school day or while participating in a curricular or extra-curricular school event, the student will:

- 1) be given an immediate **SUSPENSION** for a minimum of **FOUR** consecutive school days. Students will not attend their classes, but will be responsible for any work missed during this time through an in-school suspension.
- 2) attend a compulsory student/parent meeting with the Superintendent of Schools to request reinstatement back into the regular educational program.
- 3) receive a 1 year suspension from all extra-curricular activities (this includes school clubs, teams, dances, and other school sponsored events). Students can earn back their extra-curricular privileges by participating in 30 hours of school or community restorative service hours. (*It should be noted that regardless of suspension criteria, coaches or group sponsors maintain the prerogative to refuse to allow a student to participate if they have concerns about trustworthiness.)

Parents of any student who has been suspended will be contacted by telephone by an Administrator followed by a letter which will be sent home with the student.

Any student found to be under the influence of, or in possession of, drugs or alcohol for a

second time will be given an immediate **Indefinite Suspension** from all educational programs which may result in **expulsion** from their educational program.

15. **SMOKING:**

GFSS does not allow smoking or chewing tobacco use in school or at any school functions. This includes any curricular and extra-curricular activities at or outside of the high school. IE dances, tournaments, playdays etc.

In order to prevent students from infringing on private property we have a designated smoking area at the high school. However, grade 8 students are prohibited from this area. Any grade 8 student caught smoking or chewing will be subject to disciplinary action. As well, anyone smoking outside the area will be subject to disciplinary action as reviewed below.

16. **BOMB THREATS/FALSE FIRE ALARMS:**

Grand Forks Secondary School will not tolerate this kind of disruption. Students involved in this behavior will be indefinitely suspended from school and reported to the RCMP.

17. **OTHER SERIOUS OFFENCES:**

A school must provide a safe and comfortable environment for students to learn effectively. Consequently, certain actions must be dealt with severely by the school, the School Board or the law. These include:

- a. The use of foul or offensive language towards staff or other students in or around the school.
- b. The use of physical violence or verbal threats in or around the school, including harassment and intimidation.
- c. The willful disobedience of teachers, or other adult school personnel (staff, secretaries, noon hour supervisors).
- d. The causing of willful damage to school property or the property of teachers or students. Students causing such damage will be held jointly liable with their parents.

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE:

The purpose of any disciplinary action at Grand Forks Secondary is to create and maintain a safe learning environment for all students and staff. If students choose to disobey school rules thus jeopardizing their personal safety or the safety of others there will be a consequence for poor behavior. Whenever possible, parents will be contacted when students are disciplined due to conduct issues. The following list includes possible consequences that may be used depending on individual circumstances. Where possible, in school suspensions will be used as opposed to out of school consequences.

- a. **WARNING:** Written or verbal conversation with student &/or parent regarding student behavior
- b. **DETENTION &/or GARBAGE DUTY:** After school or noon hour loss of privileges and cleanup
- c. **IN-CLASS SUSPENSION:** Students report to the office before classes, at lunch and after school. They lose all their socializing privileges.
- d. **IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION:** Students spend the entire day – including their lunch hour and breaks - in the office.

- e. INDEFINITE SUSPENSION: In some cases, students who commit serious breaches of school or District rules will be indefinitely suspended. This means that a student cannot resume his or her studies and/or extra-curricular activities until he/she and a parent have met with the Superintendent of Schools and have been reinstated to GFSS.
- f. EXPULSION: students who re-commit serious breaches of school or District rules will be expelled. This means that a student cannot resume his or her studies for a minimum of 1 year. After that time, in order to be reinstated he/she and a parent must meet with the Superintendent of Schools and the GFSS Administrative team.
- g. Any offences dealing with the law will result in referral to the R.C.M.P where appropriate.