

GOLDEN VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOL OF SACRAMENTO ORANGEVALE, CALIFORNIA

STUDENT BEHAVIOR POLICY

(Approved by the Charter Council 06-19-07)

PHILOSOPHY –Creating a Healthy, Positive Learning Environment

“Loving authority needs to precede freedom of thought and independent judgment.”

- Rudolf Steiner

All pupils shall comply with the regulations, pursue the required course of study, and submit to the authority of the teachers of the schools.

- California State Education Code 48908

Golden Valley Charter School is committed to creating a safe and nurturing learning environment for every child. We are equally committed to helping our children grow into healthy, happy, responsible adults. In order to respect, care for and work with others; children must learn to truly love and respect themselves.

It is our goal that all students possess a clear understanding of how their actions affect others. When a child acts in thoughtless or harmful ways, the entire community suffers. Our goal is to discourage misbehavior and encourage the child to do better in the future. Our approach emphasizes *compassion, consistency and responsibility*.

The Student Behavior Guidelines for Golden Valley Charter School are based upon a philosophy of respect:

- Respect for all human beings
- Respect for the earth and all living things
- Respect for all school and personal property
- Respect for the guidance provided by teachers, staff and parents
- Respect for our school community
- Respect for our neighbors

Code of Behavior

In order to provide a school environment that fosters cooperation, responsibility and respect; children will be expected to follow these guidelines:

1. Students will support a good learning environment.—Children are expected to do their best and cooperate with teachers and classmates. This includes, but is not limited to, quietly focusing their attention on the teacher when asked to do so, completing class assignments, observing class starting and ending times, completing classroom chores, and lining up promptly and quietly when requested to do so.
2. Students will treat all adults and children with respect.—Respectful, courteous language is expected towards teachers, children and parents. Inappropriate behavior such as rudeness, teasing, mimicking, unkind or inappropriate words, swearing, physical or emotional threats, sexual harassment, and lying are not permitted. Students are expected to comply whenever an adult or a child asks for an inappropriate behavior to stop.
3. Students will treat all personal and school property with respect.—Lost, stolen, defaced or destroyed property will be repaired or replaced by the parents of those responsible.
4. A “gentle hands” policy will be followed.—Rough housing, fighting, shoving, spitting, pushing, hitting, kicking or biting is cause for immediate intervention.
5. Students will obey all classroom and playground rules.—Teachers will help their students understand and integrate the school-wide behavior policy into their daily activities. Additionally, individual teachers may have unique expectations, which they will communicate to their classes. Teachers will develop a class management system, approved by the administrator, and appropriate to the age level of their individual class.
6. Parental concerns about the implementation of this policy shall be shared directly with their child’s teacher.

Home/School Communication

At the beginning of each school year each teacher will discuss his/her class management plan with parents at the first parent meeting. Additionally, a written copy of the class management plan and behavior policies for Special Subject classes will be distributed to all parents.

Consequences for misbehavior

In the event that individual class management systems are not sufficient to correct disruptive or disrespectful behavior, the following procedures will be followed based on the severity of the infraction and the teacher and/or principal’s evaluation of the circumstances:

Student Behavior Report and Action Plan (Referral)

If a child fails to follow the school or classroom behavior guidelines or in any way undermines a healthy learning environment, endangers himself, others or property, a notice may be sent home with the child describing this behavior. Teacher will follow this up with a phone call to the parents letting them know to expect a referral from their child.

The parents and child will discuss the situation and the parents will assist the child in developing a plan to correct the behavior. It is suggested that a student who receives a referral is given a consequence for it at home. The signed notice will be returned to the teacher the following day. Either the parent or the teacher may request a telephone or personal conference. It is the parents' responsibility to see that the student returns this signed referral to the school the following day.

Parent-Teacher Conference

When a student receives two referrals, a parent-teacher conference will be scheduled by the teacher. If both parents and teacher agree, the child may be included in the meeting. A behavior plan may be developed at this time. *The* teacher or parents may request that the principal to be present. Parents may invite other individuals to the conference.

Suspension

Upon receiving a third, sixth and ninth referral, a student may be suspended from school. The first suspension will be one day, the second suspension may be from 1 – 3 days and the third suspension may be from 2 – 4 days long.

In the interest of maintaining a safe and courteous environment, certain behaviors will not be tolerated and may result in an immediate suspension. These behaviors are:

- Causing, attempting to cause, or threatening to cause physical injury to another person.
- Willfully using force or violence upon the person of another, except in self-defense.
- Disrupt school activities or otherwise willfully defying the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties.
- Bringing of weapons, cigarettes, alcohol, or drugs to school.
- Blatant defiance or disrespect towards children or adults, such as the use of profanity; racial, ethnic, or gender slurs or harassment; and verbal attacks based on differing mental or physical abilities
- Physical or sexual harassment of any kind in grade 4 - 8.
- Deliberate violation of safety rules in grades 4 – 8.

If a child is suspended, the parents will be informed by telephone and will receive a formal notice of suspension. The child may return to school after a suspension once a follow-up conversation with the teacher and/or administrator stipulating the conditions of the child's return has taken place.

Special Needs Students

Suspension shall be imposed only when other means of correction fail to bring about proper conduct. However, a pupil, including an individual with exceptional need, as defined in Section 56026 of the CA Ed Code, may be suspended for any of the reasons enumerated above upon a first offense, if the principal determines that the pupil violated one of the above items.

Student Success Team (SST) Meeting

At any time the teacher deems it necessary, an SST Meeting, consisting of the student's parents, classroom teacher, administrator, as well as other teachers and support staff, if needed, will be convened to study the child and his/her needs. The team will work to cultivate healthy classroom and playground behavior. During this meeting a behavior plan may be developed. Parents will be notified in writing at the meeting that should a third suspension occur, expulsion may be recommended.

Clearing Referrals

Referrals and suspensions are cumulative from year to year. In order for a student's referral record to be cleared, he/she must be referral free for two consecutive school years.

Expulsion

Should the above steps not prove to correct the student's behavior, expulsion may be recommended.

In addition, there are certain situations in which Mandatory Expulsion is required (Ed Code 48915). They are listed in the Code as follows:

"The principal or designee must immediately suspend and recommend a student for expulsion and the School Board of Trustees must expel for:

1. Possession, as verified by a district employee, sale or furnishing a firearm, unless the student has written permission from a certificated employee with the principal or designee's concurrence.
2. Brandishing a knife at another person.
3. Sale of drugs.
4. Committing or attempting to commit sexual assault or battery."

Due Process

Below is a summary of the steps that may be taken prior to a recommendation for expulsion:

1. First referral: Phone call to parent
2. Second referral: Phone call and parent-teacher conference
3. Third referral and suspension: Phone call home and SST meeting is scheduled
4. At SST Meeting: Parents will be notified in writing that a 3rd suspension may result in a recommendation for expulsion.
5. Fourth referral: Phone call home
6. Fifth referral: Phone call and parent-teacher conference
7. Sixth referral and suspension: Phone call home. SST follow-up meeting is scheduled
8. At SST Meeting: Parents will be notified in writing that a 3rd suspension may result in a recommendation for expulsion.
9. Seventh referral: Phone call home.
10. Eighth referral: Phone call home and parent-teacher conference
11. Ninth referral and/or 3rd suspension: Recommendation for expulsion

-----Clip here and return.-----

I (We), _____ have read and reviewed the Golden Valley Charter School Student Behavior Policy and Procedures with my (our) child(ren).

Comments: _____

Parent Signature	Parent Signature	Date
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