

## **STUDENT BEHAVIOR POLICY**

*(Board Approved March 13, 2019)*

Golden Valley Charter School is committed to creating a safe and nurturing learning environment for every student. We are equally committed to helping our students grow into healthy, happy, responsible adults. In order to respect, care for and work with others; students 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 student acts in thoughtless or harmful ways, the entire community suffers. Our goal is to discourage misbehavior and encourage the student to do better in the future. Our approach emphasizes *compassion, consistency and responsibility*.

The Student Behavior Guidelines for Golden Valley Charter Schools are based upon a philosophy of respect and adherence to California State Education Code (48908):

### **Student Behavior Guidelines**

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

1. Students will support a positive learning environment. —Students 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 follow directions when requested to do so.
2. Students will treat all adults and students with respect. —Respectful, courteous language is expected towards teachers, students 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 student 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 student's teacher.
7. Due to FERPA Privacy Laws, school personnel are unable to discuss other students' behaviors with parents.
8. Please refer to the Bullying Prevention Policy and Plan for further information regarding bullying prevention and reporting, including use of the Bullying Incident Report.

### **Consequences for Misbehavior:**

At all Golden Valley Schools, consequences for misbehavior begin in the classroom. Repetitive misbehavior will initiate increasing consequences that will involve student, parent, teacher and additional personnel, as needed. Below is an outline of the process from classroom management to expulsion. These procedures will be followed based on the severity of the infraction and the teacher and/or principal's evaluation of the circumstances. **Please note that some actions are grounds for immediate suspension or expulsion (see list below).**

## **1. Classroom Management for Student Behavior**

### Setting Expectations

At the beginning of each school year each teacher will communicate their class management plan with parents at the first parent meeting. Additionally, a written copy of the class expectations for Special Subject classes will be distributed to all parents.

### Consequences for Misbehavior:

At this level, misbehavior will be dealt with according to the teacher's class management plan.

In the event that individual class management systems are not sufficient to correct disruptive or disrespectful behavior, the student will progress to the next step.

## **2. Referral and Parent-Teacher Conference**

### Referral

If a student fails to follow the school or classroom behavior guidelines or in any way undermines a healthy learning environment, endangers himself, others or property, a Referral (Student Behavior Report and Action Plan) may be sent home with the student describing this behavior. Teacher will follow this up with a phone call to the parents and letting them know to expect a referral from their student.

The parents and student will discuss the situation and the parents will assist the student in developing a plan to correct the behavior (see Referral Form). 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. It is the parents' responsibility to see that the student returns this signed referral to the school the following day. **Either the parent or the teacher may request a telephone or personal conference.**

#### Parent-Teacher Conference

When a student receives two referrals, the teacher will schedule a parent-teacher conference. If both parents and teacher agree, the student may be included in the meeting. Student participation is encouraged, when appropriate. A behavior plan may be developed at this time. The teacher or parents may request the principal be present. Parents may request that other individuals be present at the conference.

### **3. 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 (California Ed Code 48900). 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.
- Attempting, threatening to cause or participate in hate violence.
- Willfully and knowingly making a terrorist threat against the school.
- Possessing, selling or otherwise furnishing any firearm, knife, explosive or other dangerous object.
- Possessing an imitation firearm.
- Possessing, selling or otherwise furnishing, or being under the influence of any controlled substance, an alcoholic beverage or an intoxicant of any kind.
- Unlawfully offering, arranging, or negotiating to sell any controlled substance, an alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind, and then either selling, delivering or

otherwise furnishing to any other person a liquid substance, or material and representing the liquid, substance, or material as a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant.

- Unlawfully possessing or unlawfully offering, arranging, or negotiating to sell any drug paraphernalia.
- Committing or attempting to commit robbery or extortion.
- Causing or attempting to cause damage to school property or private property.
- Stealing or attempting to steal school property or private property while on school grounds.
- Knowingly receiving stolen school property or private property.
- Possessing or using tobacco or any products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including but not limited to cigars, cigarettes, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets, betel, e-cigarettes, vape pens, etc., exclusive of physician's prescriptions.
- Committing an obscene act or engaging in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- Disrupting 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.
- Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing sexual battery.
- Committing an act of sexual harassment. Sexual Harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature (California Ed Code 212.5)
- Harassing, threatening or intimidating a pupil who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of either preventing that pupil from being a witness or retaliating against that pupil for being a witness, or both.
- Engaging in or attempting to engage in hazing, as defined in California Ed Code 48900
- Engaged in an act of bullying, defined as severe or pervasive physical and verbal acts or conduct, including written or electronically transmitted material, which can reasonably be predicted to have the effect(s) of: fear of harm to person or property, detrimental effects on physical or mental health, interference with academic performance, and interference with the ability to participate in or benefit in the services, activities, or privileges provided in school.

**If a student is suspended, the parents will be informed by telephone and will receive a formal notice of suspension.** The student may return to school after a suspension once a follow-up SST meeting with the teacher and/or administrator stipulating the conditions of the student's return has taken place. During this meeting a behavior plan may be developed.

#### Student Success Team (SST) Meeting

**At any time the teacher deems it necessary or in accordance with the Student Behavior Policy, upon a third referral, an SST Meeting will be convened to support the student and their needs.** The meeting will consist of the student's parents, classroom teacher,

administrator, as well as other teachers and support staff, if needed, The team will work to cultivate healthy classroom, playground, and social 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.

#### Special Needs Students and Suspension

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.

#### **4. Expulsion**

**Should the above steps and Due Process not prove to correct the student's behavior after 3 suspensions, expulsion may be recommended.**

#### Due Process Summary

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> suspension: Recommendation for expulsion

**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.”

### Clearing Referrals

Referrals are cleared year to year. Suspensions are cumulative from year to year and are part of a student’s cumulative file.

I (We), \_\_\_\_\_ have read and reviewed the Golden Valley Charter School Student Behavior Policy and Procedures with my (our) student:

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Comments:

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Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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