

Student Behavior Standards

In order to provide a school environment that fosters learning, cooperation, responsibility and respect, students will be asked to follow several basic rules:

BE SAFE: Activities that are dangerous or hurtful to school property or to others will not be allowed.

BE RESPECTFUL: Courtesy is always expected towards other children, teachers and other adults. Punching, hitting, kicking, fighting, teasing, bullying, lying, swearing, talking back, spitting and biting are prohibited. Students are expected to participate in classroom activities and to refrain from playing or talking out of turn during lessons. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated.

BE RESPONSIBLE: Students are not allowed to bring inappropriate objects to school or to the Acorn Hut. This includes hand-held video games, portable music listening devices, toys (only with special permission), candy, soda, illegal substances or any other material deemed to be detrimental by the teacher or administrator.

CELL PHONES are allowed in sixth through eighth grade. Fifth grade and lower grades may not bring cell phones to school **except** with prior written permission by the parent/guardian and administrative approval. Cell phones at school must be turned off and kept secured in a backpack. They **may not** be used during regular school hours (8:20-3:05). Violations of this policy will result in confiscation of the cell phone; the cell phone may be retrieved by the parent/guardian in the front office. Teachers may communicate further expectations to their students.

PHYSICAL AFFECTION & SEXUAL HARASSMENT: River Oak Charter School (ROCS) believes that social relationships between close friends should be expressed in a modest and restrained manner. Our overall purpose is to provide a healthy and relaxed environment at school, promoting a positive learning environment and building self-esteem. Public displays of affection are discouraged. Handholding is appropriate, as are brief, tasteful hugs. Putting one's arm around another is fine. Kissing and fondling are not allowed. Each person needs to be sensitive to another's personal boundaries and respect them.

Additionally, ROCS will actively investigate any reported occurrence of sexual harassment involving either students or adults. The California Education Code, Section 212.5, defines sexual harassment as "unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors and other verbal, visual or physical conduct of a sexual nature, made by someone from or in the work or educational setting."

Resources in the community for our school include: Project Sanctuary, Public Health, Nuestra Casa, Social Services, "Coming of Age" discussion in the classroom.

Behavior standards (and dress standards) apply to all River Oak Charter School sponsored events as well as going to and from school, i.e., dances, concerts, open houses, festivals, graduation, etc.

Consequences

Age-appropriate interventions are sought, when behavior expectations are not met. Inappropriate behavior is redirected with the least amount of disruption to the class possible in the kindergartens and lower grades. When recurring patterns of acting out or disrespectful or abusive behavior exist, interventions are more restrictive.

Less restrictive interventions include:

- Pedagogical Stories
- Work with temperaments
- Parallel play opportunities
- Conflict Resolution
- Affirmations
- Group work techniques
- Non-verbal cues
- Counseling
- Gestures

More restrictive interventions include:

- Logical consequences
- Suspension
- Time outs – away from an activity, in another teacher’s
lassroom, or in the office with the administrator.
- Expulsion

The administrator works with the child in taking responsibility, or notifies parents. Suspension and expulsion are other extreme options. (See suspension and expulsion policies and procedures).

Additional Strategies:

STUDENT SUCCESS TEAM (SST)- may be initiated when behaviors, attendance, speech or any other student issue might benefit from an in-depth study by the teacher, administrator, and parents. A series of SST’s may be held in order to problem solve an issue.

504-PLAN: may be developed by the family and school for any student with a physical or mental impairment who needs accommodations or services not available through existing programs in order to receive a free, appropriate public education.

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLAN (IEP): may be created as a result of assessment results that lead the educators and family to believe there are learning or physical challenges present that significantly hinder a student’s education.

ROCS opposes all forms of corporal punishment, public ridicule, or any other form of psychological, emotional or physical abuse.