TOBACCO, DRUGS, ALCOHOL, & SCHOOL SAFETY

- The use or possession of tobacco products or paraphernalia in school buildings, on school property or school buses or at school sponsored events is prohibited. At a minimum, violations will result in parent notification and referral to the school counselor.
- The possession of drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol or the consumption of drugs or alcohol during school hours or at any school event or school-sponsored activity is prohibited. No student may come to school or any school event, on or off campus, after consuming alcohol or drugs. The penalties for such conduct may include suspension, as well as exclusion from any and all cocurricular interscholastic or other schoolsponsored activity.
- Guns and any other object deemed to be a weapon have no place in school. This includes objects that may be mistaken for a weapon, as well as toys. A student found guilty of bringing a firearm onto school property will be subject to at least a one-year suspension from school.
- It is illegal for anyone to issue a false bomb threat directed toward a school in New York State. Persons arrested for making bomb threats face felony prosecution, youthful offender or juvenile delinquency adjudication, as well as a one-year suspension of one's driver's license.

SCHOOL VISITORS

All persons on school property or attending a school function shall conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner. Visitors must follow the Code of Conduct. Any unauthorized person on school property will be reported to the principal or designee, and will be asked to leave.

Code of Conduct Summary

A Guide for Middle and High School Students and their Families

For more information about the Code of Conduct:

- » The complete Code of Conduct is posted on the district's website, <u>www.niskayunaschools.org</u>.
- » Copies of the complete Code of Conduct are available in each school's Main Office.
- » Please contact your school's principal if you have additional questions or need more information about the Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct was adopted by the Niskayuna Central School District Board of Education on July 10, 2012.

This brochure is being distributed to all students pursuant to New York State Education Law, Section 2801 – Chapter 16, Title II, Article 55, which requires that the district make a summary of the Code of Conduct available to all students at the beginning of the school year.

Niskayuna Central School District
1239 Van Antwerp Road
Niskayuna, NY 12309
(518) 377-4666

Code of Conduct Summary

A Guide for Middle and High School Students and Their Families in Niskayuna





2012-13 School Year

A message to students about the Dignity for All Students Act You should feel safe at school.

You have a right to concentrate on your school work and activities and to enjoy them without worrying about unkind words and actions from others. No one should be harassed or threatened because of his or her race, color, weight, national origin (where your family comes from), ethnic group, religion, religious practices, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex. It is against school rules for anyone to make anyone else feel uncomfortable due to any of these characteristics, or to make anyone else feel threatened or unsafe in general. Even if an action takes place off school grounds, it can be considered against school rules when it negatively impacts the ability of a student to focus on their school work and participate in school activities.

A new state law known as the Dignity for All Students Act focuses on ensuring that your school is a safe place and that all students know they are protected from certain types of behavior. Each school has a Dignity for All Students Act Coordinator, who is trained in addressing the issues covered by the law. This is your school principal, whose name is listed below. If anyone is making you or anyone else feel unsafe, threatened or harassed, please talk to your principal or another adult at school.

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS & DIGNITY FOR ALL ACT COORDINATORS

Iroquois Middle School

Victoria Wyld, 377-2233

Van Antwerp Middle School

Luke Rakoczy, 370-1243

Niskayuna High School John Rickert, 382-2511

CODE OF CONDUCT INTRODUCTION

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, district personnel, parents and other visitors is essential to achieving this goal. The Code of Conduct applies to anyone on school property or attending a school function.

STUDENT RIGHTS

Every student has a right to a free, appropriate education with equal opportunities regardless of their race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or gender expression, or any other characteristic protected by law.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES & EXPECTATIONS

Every student has the responsibility to attend school regularly, to be considerate of others and to observe the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct should be thought of as the rules for the school.

Students are expected to:

- Respect themselves, fellow students, faculty, staff and school property.
- Arrive at school and to all classes on time.
- Bring all necessary school work and materials to class
- Cooperate and be respectful throughout the day: Do what is asked by school leaders, teachers, and staff members.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Every students' work should be his or her own. Students have the responsibility to complete their work themselves, and to acknowledge sources of information used in that work. The Code of Conduct contains more information about the rules of academic integrity and the consequences for violating them.

ATTENDANCE

Every student is expected to attend class every day unless there is a valid reason for the absence. A list of reasons for excused absences is contained in the

district's Attendance Policy. Regular attendance and active participation is necessary for a school environment that fosters learning and responsibility. The High School Code of Conduct contains additional important details for students regarding class and school attendance practices.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Every student who violates the Code of Conduct faces a range of disciplinary actions, which are outlined in the code. Students have a right to be informed when they are accused of violating the Code of Conduct. In this event, students have a right to present their version of the facts before consequences are decided. During the disciplinary process, the district will communicate with students, parents/legal guardians, teachers, the guidance personnel, other staff, and/or the superintendent as necessary.

DRESS CODE

All students will be informed of the dress code at the beginning of the year. Students who violate the dress code will be asked to either cover or remove the offending item and, if necessary or practical, replace it with an acceptable item. Students who refuse to do so are subject to disciplinary consequences.

Students are expected to come to school and class on time, respect themselves and others, and cooperate throughout the day.