



STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Malvern CI

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2020/21

TORONTO DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MALVERN'S STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Malvern is a community of learners and all members of the Malvern community have a shared responsibility to contribute to a safe learning environment that is based on the following principles:

- Learning for All
- Health & Safety
- Human Rights
- A Positive School Tone
- Student Voice and Advocacy

The Student Code of Conduct applies to all students while on school property, while involved in extra-curricular activities (on or off site), while on excursions or school trips, and in any circumstance where the outcome has a negative impact on the school climate.

Please refer to the *Chart of Consequences of Inappropriate Student Behaviour* for details of behaviour that may result in suspensions or expulsions.

Learning for All

All students have the **right** to participate in and be supported in their learning. To support this right, students have a responsibility to:

- a) Attend class regularly and punctually, complete homework, assignments, evaluations and presentations according to prescribed deadlines, and arrive to class with the required books and equipment.
- b) Communicate with teachers if there are extenuating circumstances that impact participating in class or completing evaluations and provide supporting documentation (such as a medical note).
- c) Demonstrate respect for the established norms, procedures and routines that have been set out by their teachers and that serve to maintain structure, accountability and mutual respect.
- d) Remain in class and work diligently throughout the period unless permission is given by the teacher to be excused.
- e) Refrain from visiting other classes and/or walking through the halls and disrupting other classes. The halls are to be clear during class time.
- f) Refrain from behaviour that is disruptive to the learning of other students.
- g) Refrain from using cell phones and other electronic and communication devices (unless given specific permission to do so by the teacher).
- h) Submit their own work with proper acknowledgement of sources. Cheating and plagiarism are serious academic offenses and consequences may include a mark of zero.
- i) Submit their work directly to their teachers (electronically or hardcopy)
- j) Take care in their academic planning and choose courses carefully in the spring.

Note: Staffing decisions and the creation of the master timetable are made based on student selections in the spring. There are limited opportunities for students to make changes to their program selections after the course selection process is completed. Withdrawal from a course will only be

considered if the student has made a serious commitment to the course, attends regularly and has been unable to succeed. Be aware that very specific restrictions apply to French Immersion/Extended French language courses that may limit a student's ability to drop courses or change programs.

k) Carry a course load consistent with the school's policy:

- Grade 9 = 8 subjects
- Grade 10 = 8 subjects
- Grade 11 (minimum of 16 credits) = 7 subjects
- Grade 12 (minimum of 24 credits) = 6 subjects

All students are expected to be full time students (6 courses).

Only full-time students may participate in athletics and be eligible for awards.

Health & Safety

Everyone has the **right** to feel safe and secure. To support this right, students are expected to abide by all school rules, practices, policies - as well as criminal codes – all of which serve to protect all members of the school community. Please refer to the chart of consequences following the code of conduct.

- a) Violence, threats of violence, verbal or physical aggression, intimidation and bullying can result in serious consequences including police involvement.
- b) Malvern must be free of weapons. Students are prohibited from possessing weapons or replicas of weapons on school property and during all school-sponsored events. Carrying a concealed weapon is a criminal offence.
- c) Students may not be in possession of objects which may be injurious to themselves or others, including all knives and cigarette lighters.
- d) **Bullying** (including cyber-bullying) is aggressive and typically repeated behaviour (physical, verbal, electronic, written or other means) by a student where: the behaviour is intended to have the effect of, or the student ought to know that the behaviour would be likely to have the effect of, causing harm, fear or distress to an individual, or harm to an individual's reputation or property. Bullying creates a negative environment at a school for an individual, and the behaviour occurs where there is a real or perceived power imbalance based on any number of factors (including, but not limited to: peer group power, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, race, disability, etc.)
- e) **Cyber-bullying** is bullying by electronic means in which the creator assumes the identity of another person; impersonating another person as the author of content or messages on the internet; and, sending material electronically or posting material online that may be accessed by one or more individuals. Cyber-bullying also includes any electronic communication – including forwarding images or content created by someone else - that serves to offend, threaten, ridicule or defame the character of any member of the Malvern community.
- f) Students must not be in possession of, under the influence of, or provide others with alcohol, illegal drugs, vapes or cannabis. Drugs, drug paraphernalia, vapes and alcohol are prohibited at school, all school functions and all school-sanctioned events.
- g) Privacy laws prohibit someone from filming and/or taking photographs using cameras or cell phones anywhere on school property without the written permission of the staff and/or the students who are being filmed. Filming,

photographing, or recording someone without their knowledge and without their permission is considered a serious violation of one's right to privacy and consequences may include police involvement. These consequences may also apply to *distributing* such images or recordings (i.e. posting on social media and/or sending/forwarding it to others).

- h) The TDSB Student Dress Policy draws on the principles of equity, anti-oppression, anti-racism, non-discrimination, equitable and inclusive education and establishes fair and equitable standards and practices for student dress in all schools. Student dress code violations that threaten health and safety, and/or promote violence, illegal activity, bullying, harassment, and/or are motivated by the bias, prejudice or hate against any individual or identifiable groups, are serious violations of the Caring and Safe Schools Policy (P051) and must be responded to in accordance with P051 and associated procedures.
- i) The Province of Ontario laws and Toronto District School Board policy bans smoking and vaping on school property. This law is enforced by the school and by Toronto Public Health. Smoking and vaping are not permitted within a 20-metre radius of school property. Fines of \$305 to \$5000 will be imposed by Tobacco Enforcement. Students under 16 will be required to appear in court with parents.
- j) Tampering with safety equipment is contrary to school rules. Activating a fire alarm when there is not a fire is an *indictable* federal offence.
- k) Students are expected to follow teacher instructions and classroom procedures in classes that require special attention to safety issues such as science, design and technology, physical education, and art.
- l) Unless they are supervised by a teacher and have permission, Malvern students may not visit other schools and students from other schools are not allowed to visit Malvern. Both are considered trespassing. This also applies to attending sporting events as a spectator.
- m) Throwing projectiles at members of the school or greater community can cause serious harm and consequences may include police involvement.

Human Rights

Our school community stands together to recognize that we are all entitled to a life of equality, dignity and respect — a life free from discrimination. All students should feel safe at school and deserve a positive school climate that is inclusive and accepting, regardless of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family status or disability.

All forms of discrimination **are unacceptable** in TDSB environments and members of the Malvern community have a shared responsibility in recognizing, addressing and reporting any incident that violates the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC).

- a) **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** is any aggressive action that threatens safety, causes physical, social or emotional harm, and belittles, ridicules or criticizes a person because of their gender identity, perceived gender identity, sexual identity, biological sex or sexual behaviour. (P071) Gender-based violence operates on a societal imbalance of power and control based on

social constructions of sexual identity, sexual orientation, gender, perceived gender and sexual behaviour. This imbalance may manifest in multiple forms as aggressive and discriminatory behaviours and expressions of hatred.

Gender-based violence includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Sexual assault
- Inappropriate, problematic and intrusive sexual behaviour
- Sexual exploitation
- Sexual misconduct
- Sexual harassment
- Sexist discrimination
- Relationship violence
- Emotional abuse
- Psychological abuse
- Forced prostitution
- Homophobia
- Transphobia
- Harmful gender-based social practices

b) **Hate Crimes** refer to “criminal offences that are committed against persons or property which are motivated in whole or in part by hatred or bias based on the victim’s race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, creed, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. This includes, but is not limited to, hate-motivated violence, incitement to hate-motivated violence, and/or the display of symbols or other representations identified with groups promoting hate and violence. It also includes crimes committed against persons who are associated, or perceived to be associated, with persons who belong to a group that is protected under the Ontario Human Rights Code.

c) **Hate/Bias Incident** refers to “non-criminal conduct – which does not involve violence, threats or property damage – that is motivated in whole or in part by hatred or bias based on the real or perceived identity or group affiliation of a victim or victims. This includes disability, gender identity, gender expression, sex, sexual orientation, family status, marital status, socio-economic status, and religion or creed (Note: hate/bias incidents based on race-related grounds, which may sometimes also include religion or creed, are addressed under the category “racism incidents”). A hate/bias incident can also encompass situations in which conduct is directed against people associated with individuals and groups identified with these grounds. The conduct can be verbal, nonverbal or written, and may be in the form of slurs, insults, harassment, abusive gestures, taunting, display of offensive materials, or other acts which may intimidate, disparage and/or marginalize the victim or victims”.

d) **Racism Incident** refers to “non-criminal conduct – which does not involve violence, threats or property damage – that is motivated in whole or in part by, or is in effect, racism based on the real or perceived identity or group affiliation of a victim or victims, inclusive of the grounds of race and/or race-related grounds such as colour, ancestry, ethnic origin, place of origin, citizenship, religion or creed. This includes hate/bias incidents based on the

above race related grounds. A racism incident can also encompass situations in which conduct is directed against people associated with individuals and groups identified with these grounds. The conduct can be verbal, nonverbal or written, and may manifest itself in the form of slurs, insults, harassment, abusive gestures, taunting, display of offensive materials, or other acts which may intimidate, disparage and/or marginalize the victim or victims”.

A Positive School Tone

All staff and students have a shared **responsibility** in promoting and maintaining a positive school tone and an environment that is conducive to learning. To support a positive school tone, students have a responsibility to:

- a) Stand (as able) and remain silent during the Land Acknowledgement and the playing of the National Anthem (late students are expected to remain where they are during the announcements).
- b) Treat others with dignity and respect; refrain from using language or directing comments or gestures towards others that would reasonably be considered as offensive or rude.
- c) Respect the privacy and property of each other and of the greater community. Students are asked to leave valuables at home as the school is not responsible for any personal possessions.
- d) Take proper care of school property, equipment, the school grounds and the neighbourhood. Vandalism, graffiti and littering degrade the environment. Graffiti and vandalism may result in suspension and criminal charges. Students are not permitted to be in possession of any “tagging” materials (paint, markers, stickers, etc.). Students are expected to accept responsibility for the upkeep of desks, lockers, textbooks and equipment. If lockers are defaced, students will be asked to clean them.
- e) Promote school events and awareness of important issues by posting advertisements and signs only after the posters and advertisements (whether in the school or online) have been approved by a member of administration and/or the staff advisor, and only in specifically designated areas. All posters, advertisements and signs must be removed directly after the event by those students responsible for their posting.
- f) Take responsibility for any damage caused to school property, whether intentional or as a result of “horseplay”. Students will be required to reimburse the school for the replacement cost of the property or for the administrative costs of restoration.
- g) Refrain from keeping anything in a locker that is not permitted at school or on school property (i.e. drugs, alcohol, drug paraphernalia, weapons, tagging supplies, etc.). Lockers are the property of TDSB and can be entered without warning at the discretion of school officials. Students are not permitted to share lockers or use a locker other than the one that has been assigned to them.
- h) Exit the school at the end of the school day, unless supervised by a teacher for course help or extra-curricular activities.
- i) Seek permission from the teacher to leave the classroom. During the school day, and while in class, the school is responsible for all students and therefore

the school requires that students to be accountable for their whereabouts. Students may be excused from class for washroom use, emergencies, or guidance/office appointments. All students excused from class are expected to sign out of and into class, carry the room hall pass with them at all times and be prepared to produce the hall pass if asked to by any staff member. Classroom visits, loitering in hallways/washrooms and leaving the school building are not permitted during class time.

- j) Use all sports equipment (personal or belonging to the school) in designated areas only, and under the supervision of a teacher while in the school.

Student Voice and Advocacy

All students have the **right** to voice concerns, to advocate for themselves and/or others and to challenge words or actions that disrespect others. To support these rights, students have a responsibility to:

- a) Challenge statements that have a negative effect due to ancestry, citizenship, colour, ethnic origin, faith, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status (all rights protected on the Ontario Human Rights Code).
- b) Provide input and/or question school decisions or classroom practices that you feel are unfair by engaging in respectful dialogue with school staff (publicly challenging a teacher is defiance; engaging in respectful conversation or debate is advocacy).
- c) Intervene (safely) or report bullying. Victims rarely report, and bullying behaviour is often hidden from staff. Call people out for bullying behaviour; or get help instead of being a by-stander. Doing nothing is being complicit.
- d) Strive to resolve conflicts and to problem-solve instead of contributing to the drama. Guidance or admin can assist with conflict resolution within peer groups. It's not tattling; its preventing problems from escalating.
- e) Speak with a guidance counsellor or administrator or another caring adult if you are concerned about someone's safety (i.e. self-harm, depression, bullying, abuse) or if you become aware of an incident that may compromise the safety of others (i.e. rumours of a fight).
- f) Be intentional about noticing, identifying and interrupting gossip, rumour, ridicule and exclusion. They are all forms of bullying. Choose kindness.
- g) Seek out support from a teacher, guidance counsellor, youth worker, social worker, or the admin if you are struggling emotionally or academically. Asking for help is difficult but it can also be very healing and empowering.
- h) Ensure that you understand and exercise your rights as a student and as a member of the community.
- i) Strive to increase your awareness of issues that matter to you and to our community. Get involved and make a difference.
- j) Be an active member of the school community. You don't need to be selected as an executive member of a school leadership group to get involved or to be a leader.

The student Code of Conduct was updated in October, 2020, in consultation with staff, students and the Parent Council.

Please refer to the Toronto District School Board's *Chart of Consequences for Inappropriate Behaviour* for the range of consequences that will be considered if a student breaches the Code of Conduct.