

JOURNEYS ACADEMY, EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS BEHAVIOR POLICY

All students have the right to a safe class room. Students have the right to learn in a safe environment untainted by violence, aggression, sexual and /or other forms of harassment or discrimination. Offensive conduct, which creates an intimidating, hostile, discriminatory, or offensive learning environment on the basis of gender, religion, race, color, national origin, age, disability, and/or any other legally protected characteristic, will not be tolerated.

Harassment, Racial Slurs, Hate Slurs, Name-calling:

Racial slurs, hate slurs, name-calling, and put downs, intimidation either verbal or written will not be tolerated at school or at school activities. Students shall at all times refrain from using racial slurs, hate-related nicknames, bullying and any other name-calling or put downs.

Zero Tolerance for School Related Crime:

Violence and violent behavior by a student will not be permitted at any time, at school, on school property, or during school sponsored activities.

A. A student who commits any of the following offenses on school property or during school-sponsored activities shall be subject to the most severe consequences which shall include expulsion and referral to the appropriate law enforcement agency:

- Homicide (murder, manslaughter)
- Sexual battery
- Armed robbery
- Aggravated battery
- Battery or aggravated battery on a teacher or other school personnel
- Kidnapping or abduction
- Arson
- Possession, use, or sale of any firearm, knife or weapon
- Possession, use or sale of any explosive device

B. If an offense (violent act) involves a victim, the school shall notify the victim and the victim's parents or legal guardian of the victim's right to press charges against the offender.

C. The school will share any pertinent information about an offending student with local law enforcement agencies and other state and local agencies charge with the supervision of minors.

D. Notification will be immediately given to school faculty members and other school employees if a student has:

1. Been taken into custody (arrested) for a delinquent act, a violation of law which would be a felony if committed by an adult, or a crime of violence;
2. Been charged by the Office of the State Attorney with a felony or a delinquent act that would be a felony if committed by an adult;
3. Been adjudicated delinquent by the court for an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult;
4. Had adjudication withheld by the court for a delinquent act that would be a felony if committed by an adult;
5. Been found guilty of a felony by the court.

Discipline:

Staff Involvement will be prompt. School faculty and staff are responsible for the prompt administration of discipline.

Student Conduct

1. **Cheating** – Cheating will not be tolerated. Consequences will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
2. **Misconduct** – Actions by students, which are insubordinate or show disrespect for others or general misconduct, which disrupts the learning environment shall not be tolerated. Definite responsive or corrective action that is appropriate to the individual situation shall be taken, which may include the activation of a crisis plan, physical restraint by staff, and may also result in suspension or expulsion and/or criminal action.
3. **Student Dress** – Instances in which students deliberately defy the dress code established by the school shall be treated the same as misconduct.
4. **Public Affection** – Students who engage in public affection after being warned shall be referred to the school Director for disciplinary action.
5. **Verbal Abuse and Profanity** – It shall not matter for disciplinary purposes whether profane and abusive comments are directed towards a teacher, classmate or merely done overtly. Such instances shall receive the appropriate action which may include suspension.
6. **Theft and pilfering** – A student involved in the act of stealing or in possession of stolen property may be suspended from school. Efforts shall be made to secure reimbursement or replacement of the money or items taken. Criminal charges may be filed. The student may be recommended for expulsion.

7. **Possession of tobacco products** – While under school jurisdiction, students shall be prohibited at all times from smoking or having tobacco in any form in their possession.
8. **Vandalism and Tampering** – Any deliberate or wanton abuse of school or private property shall be considered vandalism. Action, regardless of the value of the property, may result in suspension of the student from school. A police report will be filed and criminal charges may be filed; the student may be recommended for expulsion.
9. **Violent Behavior** – Acts of assault, violence, intimidation, fighting, or extreme antagonism towards other persons shall be immediately reported to the school's Director. The student may be restrained until they are under control and the situation is safe. A police report may be filed and criminal charges may also be filed. If warranted, the student may be suspended or recommended for expulsion.
10. **Threats** – Serious threats made by a student against the life of another student, teacher, or other school personnel shall immediately be reported to the school's Director. Definite corrective action appropriate to the individual situation shall be taken which may include suspension or a recommendation for expulsion. A police report will be filed.
11. **False Accusation** – Any student found to have intentionally made false accusations or charges that jeopardize the professional reputation, employment, or professional certification of a teacher, administrator or other school personnel, shall be subject to disciplinary action for a serious breach of conduct which may include a recommendation for expulsion.
12. **Failures to Report Serious Offenses** – Students are expected to report serious offenses. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.

E. Prohibition of Bullying and Harassment

All students and school employees have the right to an educational setting that is safe, secure, and free from harassment and bullying of any kind. Journeys Academy will not tolerate bullying and harassment of any type. Conduct that constitutes bullying and/or harassment, as defined by district policy and section 1006.147, Florida Statutes, are prohibited.

Bullying means systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students and may involve but is not limited to:

1. Teasing
2. Social Exclusion
3. Threat
4. Intimidation

5. Stalking
6. Physical violence
7. Theft
8. Sexual, religious, or racial harassment
9. Public humiliation
10. Destruction of property

Harassment means any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of date or computer software, or written, verbal, or physical conduct directed against a student or school employee that:

1. Places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property.
2. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education performance, opportunities, or benefits; or
3. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

Bullying and Harassment also include:

Retaliation against a student or school employee by another student for asserting or alleging an act of bullying or harassment will not be tolerated. Reporting an act of bullying or harassment that is not made in good faith is considered retaliation, and is grounds for suspension or expulsion.

Students who commit acts, which are considered by local, state or federal law enforcement agencies to be illegal, shall be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency and shall be released from the school.

F. Cell Phones and Pagers

Students are discouraged from possessing cell phone while at school. Cell phones and pagers shall not be used during school hours. Students will not make use of their cell phones during school hours unless authorized by the school and only on a case-by-case basis. Students who violate this provision will have phones and pagers confiscated. They will be returned at the end of the school day and may not be returned to the school.

Discipline Policies

Journeys Academy is not a corrective institution. If your child needs a inpatient facility, we will assist you in finding placement. Our school is not an appropriate placement for special needs children that habitually demonstrate aggression, threaten aggressive acts, have juvenile justice, criminal or sexual offender histories, or display chronic/significant impulsive rule-breaking behavior issues.

Training a student to be a productive and independent adult requires both love and consistency in order to provide productive achievement of self-discipline. The use of positive and negative incentives is helpful in motivating good behavior. It is our desire to scaffold our students to success in both academics and behavior. The goal of all discipline is to improve and increase their abilities to follow classroom rules and expectations, just like we would expect students to improve academically as they fill in their learning gaps.

Student Attitude

The student must conduct himself or herself in a positive manner at all times. Any antagonistic or negative attitudes are not tolerated! In order for a student to be successful in school, we must present a united front. If your child complains about a rule or about discipline, please follow this procedure.

1. Give the staff the benefit of the doubt.
2. Realize that your child's reporting is emotionally biased and may not include all the facts.
3. Realize that the school has reasons for every rule and that rules are enforced without partiality.
4. Support the administration and call the school or email for more accurate information.
5. Try not to jump to a conclusion, without the facts.

G. Probation

The administrator will put a student on probation if other forms of discipline have proven ineffective, if the student has violated the conduct code, or at any time it becomes questionable as to whether a student should remain at Journeys Academy.

A period of probation gives the administration time to consider carefully the needs of the student and the issues involved, and give the student time to prove him or herself. Probation will be set for a definite period of time, and with definite pre-determined goals. At the conclusion of probation the student will either have accomplished the goals set and be taken off probation, or will be recommended to the discipline committee for expulsion.

When a student's attitude is not in accord with school policies and principles, he/she may be placed on probation. Parents will be called for a conference, so they can get involved in the corrective process. If administration feels student's attitude has not changed within an agreed period of time, parents may be asked to withdraw the student.

H. Responsive or Corrective Discipline Action

When a student's behavior is unsatisfactory, the school will employ the appropriate action. The following steps may be used to achieve a safe environment or to establish appropriate behavior and attitudes: The following responses have been deemed appropriate by Journeys Academy administration.

1. Redirection or sensory intervention
2. A corrective look
3. A verbal warning
4. Withdrawal of a privilege
5. Hall time or time out
6. A written assignment for the purpose of memorizing a rule or a policy
7. Communication with the parent
8. Referrals to professionals
9. After-school or detention assigned
10. Suspension with/out zeros. (Administered with approval of 2 administrators)
11. Request for student/parent appearance before the discipline committee. Student will comply with board decision, which may include extended suspension, probation with written guidelines, or dismissal.
12. Expulsion by discipline board.

I. SCHOOL CONTROL OF STUDENTS

All students are under the control and direction of the school and the immediate control and direction of the teacher or any other member of the instructional staff to whom such responsibility may be assigned by the school's director:

- When they are attending school
- When they are engaged in a school-sponsored activity on the school premises or away from the school premises.
- During a reasonable time before and after a student is on the premises for attendance at school or for authorized participation in a school-sponsored activity and only when on the premises. A reasonable time shall mean thirty (30) minutes before the school day or school-sponsored activity is scheduled or actually begins or ends whichever period is longer.

J. SPECIAL NEEDS DISCIPLINE POLICY

Please let us know, within the first thirty days, if your child needs to be considered for an exemption to any expectation or rule. Your request is best presented on the exception

request form with an explanation from your Doctor. A doctors note will be needed and recommendations from other professionals would be helpful as part of the presentation. Our Administration will review the request and meet with you and your child's instructor to see if it is feasible/ practicable. Exception forms are located at the end of the student handbook.

Regular and ongoing issues with behaviors may warrant a behavior plan, behavior contract or crisis plan in which the parents are invited to share their ideas with our staff; however staff will have the final say in the matter. Behaviors that you know that we will encounter can be presented to the staff at Journeys Academy.

Private providers

Any and all of your private providers are welcomed within our school anytime with a 24 hour advanced notice of appointment. This includes any type of therapists, ABA, psychiatrist, or psychologist. However Journeys Academy reserves the right to follow its own policies and procedures and will take in to consideration the recommendations of other, but still reserves the right to do what it see fit for any given situation.

Maintaining a safe and nurturing learning environment.

It is our responsibility to maintain a safe and nurturing learning environment that is productive for all students. In the event that behaviors are deemed out of control our staff with approval of the school director, may seek emergency services, or activate a crisis plan to remove a child from a classroom, or our facility. If there is evidence that the child is injuring / endangering their selves, staff, or other students, it may be necessary to physically restrain and / or isolate a student in a safe place in order to gain control of the situation. In the case of an immediate threat and the school director is not present, any senior staff member may use any these measures. Our motivation for resorting to such measures is to minimize the risk of harm to students, and staff. This may affect the student's current placement in our school.

Our school is not an appropriate placement for special needs children that habitually demonstrate violence's or aggression, threaten violent or aggressive acts, have juvenile justice criminal or sexual offender histories, or display chronic/significant impulsive rule-breaking behavior.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I acknowledge that I have received, or will read off the schools web site a copy of the Journeys Academy Behavior Policies, and I do commit to read it to my child and have them follow these policies. It is my responsibility to know and understand the Behavior Policies of Journeys Academy

I am aware that if, at any time, I have questions regarding Journeys Academy Behavior Policies I should direct them to the Administration office.

I know that Journeys Academy Behavior Policies and other related documents form an agreement between my child, myself and the school that I intend to make my child follow, and we understand that Journeys Academy is not liable for the conditions that are described within them. Nevertheless, the provisions of such Journeys Academy Behavior Policies are incorporated into the acknowledgment, and I agree that I shall have my child abide by its provisions.

I also am aware that Journeys Academy, at any time, may without notice, change, add to, or delete from the provisions of the its policies.

Parent

Date

Student

Date

“Safe School Act”

We at Journeys Academy have established a “Safe School Act” to keep our students safe from harm, and we feel that it is our duty to insure that our school is safe for all students. The “Safe School Act” states that all students have the right to a safe school, and that all students have the right to learn in a safe environment. An environment that will be protected and untainted by physical, physiological, or emotional abuse by means of violence, aggression, harassment and/ or any other forms of offensive conduct, which creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning environment. All students have the right and obligation to keep the learning environment safe. Any student who is in violation of the “Safe School Act” is subject to the following.

In the event that a student's behaviors are deemed out of control or dangerous, our staff will take immediate action. With the approval of the school director/s, they may seek emergency services, or activate a crisis plan to remove a student from a classroom / situation, and/or our facility. If there is evidence that a student has engaged in the following:

1. Student is refusing to comply with the rules or the instructions of the any staff member.
2. Student is injuring / endangering themselves, staff, or other students,
3. Student is damaging school or personal property,
4. Student constitutes a reasonable threat, danger, and /or risk to the safety and wellbeing of our school, staff, self, or students.
5. Student is disturbing the peace and sanctity of the school environment,

At such a time it may be necessary to physically restrain and / or isolate a student in a safe place until we can gain control of the situation, and reasonably insure that it is safe for all parties involved. Under Florida Statutes Section 1003.32,J (Teachers have the right to use reasonable force, according to standers adopted by the state board of education, to protect him/her self or others from injury). Journeys Academy maintains the right to use these statutes and other measures in order to minimize the risk of harm to students, and staff. It is our responsibility to maintain a safe and nurturing learning environment that is productive and safe for all students. I agree that I and / or my child will abide by the provisions of the safe school act, and I release Journeys Academy and its employees of all liability of possible injures and / or damages that can occur due to hostile behavior. I also understand that Journeys Academy has to resort to such measures in order to keep everyone at school safe.

Journeys Academy is not a corrective institution.

If your child needs a reform / inpatient facility, we will assist you in finding placement. However our school is not an appropriate placement for special needs children that habitually demonstrate violence or aggression, threaten violent or aggressive acts, have juvenile justice criminal or sexual offender histories, or display chronic/significant impulsive rule-breaking behavior.

Parent

Date

Student

Date