

GFSS Student Code of Conduct 2024-2025

Updated August 28, 2024

Our school is committed to promoting a safe learning community which respects the rights of all members, values diversity, and is free from all forms of discrimination against race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, and age as mandated by the BC Human Rights Code.

Table of Contents

- CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS2
 - ACCEPTABLE CONDUCT2
 - UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT2
 - RISING EXPECTATIONS2
 - CONSEQUENCES.....2
 - NOTIFICATION2
- CODE OF STUDENT BEHAVIOUR2
 - EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES2
 - CONDUCT OF STUDENTS2
 - PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE2
- STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT3
 - 1. LUNCH HOUR.....3
 - 2. SCHOOL DRESS.....3
 - 3. SCHOOL FUNCTIONS3
 - 4. ASSEMBLIES3
 - 5. HELMETS4
 - 6. GYMNASIUM4
 - 7. STUDY BLOCKS.....4
 - 8. HOMEWORK POLICY4
 - 9. COMPUTER PRIVILEGES.....4
 - 10. PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICES POLICY4
 - 11. SMOKING5
 - 12. BREACHES ON (EXTRA-) CURRICULAR TRIPS6
 - 13. BOMB THREATS/FALSE FIRE ALARMS6
 - 14. TARDINESS &TRUANCY.....6
 - 15. DRUGS/ALCOHOL7
 - 16. OTHER SERIOUS OFFENCES.....7
 - 17. DISCRIMINATION.....7

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

ACCEPTABLE CONDUCT

1. Students will conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner at all times.
2. Courtesy and respect will govern all student actions in helping to make the school a safe, caring and orderly environment.

UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT

1. Behaviors that interfere with the learning process, the stability of an orderly environment, or that create an unsafe condition
2. Acts of bullying, intimidation, or physical violence
3. Illegal acts such as possession, use, or distribution of illegal substances or weapons.

RISING EXPECTATIONS

It is expected that, in concert with the Code of Conduct, as students become older and more mature, they will continue to develop more self-discipline and responsibility.

CONSEQUENCES

1. Disciplinary Action will be a fair and consistent response to unacceptable conduct.
2. Disciplinary Action will, whenever possible, be more preventative and restorative, rather than punitive.
3. Where necessary, special consideration may apply to students with special needs who may be unable to comply with the code of conduct

NOTIFICATION

1. School Officials may have a responsibility to notify other parties of serious breaches of the code of conduct.
2. These include: parents (where deemed appropriate), school district officials, police and/or other agencies as required by law.

CODE OF STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the personal responsibility of each student who attends GFSS to be aware of, to support, and to abide by the policies and procedures of our school and district as outlined in the student handbook.

CONDUCT OF STUDENTS

The school operates on the premise that no person's education will suffer because of the actions of another student. The behavior of all members of the student body should display common sense, good taste, a sense of purpose and should reflect safety and consideration of the rights of others.

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE

The purpose of any disciplinary action at Grand Forks Secondary is to create and maintain a safe learning environment for all students and staff. If students choose to disobey school rules thus jeopardizing their personal safety or the safety of others there will be a consequence for poor behavior. Whenever possible, parents will be contacted when students are disciplined due to conduct issues. The following list includes possible consequences that may be used depending on individual circumstances.

- WARNING: Written or verbal conversation with student &/or parent regarding student behavior

- **DETENTION &/or RESTORATIVE TASKS:** After school or noon hour loss of privileges and cleanup
- **IN-CLASS SUSPENSION:** Students report to the office before class, at lunch and after school, resulting in the loss of their socializing privileges.
- **IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION:** Students spend the entire day – including their lunch hour and breaks - in the office.
- **INDEFINITE SUSPENSION:** Students who commit serious breaches of school or District rules will be indefinitely suspended. A student cannot resume his or her studies and/or extra-curricular activities until he/she and a parent meet with the Superintendent of Schools and have been reinstated to GFSS.
- **EXPULSION:** Students who re-commit serious breaches of school or District rules will be expelled. This means that a student cannot resume his or her studies for a minimum of 1 year. After that time, in order to be reinstated he/she and a parent must meet with the Superintendent of Schools and the GFSS Administrative team.
- Any offences dealing with the law will result in referral to the R.C.M.P where appropriate.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Each year, the Student Advisory Committee will review the Student Code of Conduct and make recommendations to administration regarding policy and student consequences.

1. LUNCH HOUR

School lunches may be eaten in the gymnasium bleachers, bistro, hallways, courtyard, or outside. Students should leave all areas clean and tidy by using the appropriate containers. Students are also expected to treat the noon hour supervisors with the same respect as they would any staff member.

2. SCHOOL DRESS

Students and their parents are asked to exercise good taste in determining what appropriate attire is for students in school, bearing in mind that the student is expected to be fully clothed, including footwear, and in such a fashion that the clothing is not distracting to other members of the class. The focus is on safety and the maintenance of a suitable teaching atmosphere. Students may be asked to change or cover up when wearing clothing which is seen as inappropriate such as underwear showing, low cut shirts, profanity, or written material that may be offensive to others. Cleanliness and good grooming are also expected.

3. SCHOOL FUNCTIONS

School functions include dances, athletic events, concerts, trips, and any other activity that is being sponsored by the school. All school regulations apply at these functions. You will be made aware of specific rules and expectations governing these events and it is your responsibility to follow them.

4. ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies are held monthly throughout the year for special purposes. Attendance at these assemblies is a part of the total school program. Performers and guests must be treated with politeness and respect at all times and appropriate audience behavior is expected or students will be removed and taken to the office. Hats are not to be worn in the auditorium as a respect to the person sitting behind you.

5. HELMETS

Safety helmets must be used at all times when using rollerblades, bicycles, skateboards, etc., on school property. Use of any of this type of equipment is also prohibited inside the school and must be stored in lockers during instructional time.

6. GYMNASIUM

Although primarily a teaching area, the gymnasium is also used before and after school as well as during the lunch hour. Due to its heavy use, students are urged to do their best to keep it clean and in good condition. All students must wear proper gym strip which includes appropriate sneakers when using this facility. The equipment rooms are off limits to all students except when under the direct supervision of a staff member.

7. STUDY BLOCKS

Students enrolled in a study block must sign in at the office on a daily basis and use their time to study in the senior lounge or the LLC, or go to the Multi-Purpose Room. When the weather is appropriate, students may work outside on picnic tables as long as they are not creating a distraction for other students in class. Students found in the halls during study block will be assigned to work in an office cubby. As well, in order to ensure student safety, students must have verbal and/or written permission from their parent/guardian to leave the building. Written permission should be indicated on Study Block Application forms all students are given at the beginning of the year.

8. HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework is an essential feature of secondary school education. Generally, students could have 20-30 minutes in length for each subject area for homework each night. If specific assignments have not been given, students should use the time to review. Homework should not be given unless students are capable of doing the material on their own. Students can receive up to 10% of their mark for work habits which may include homework completion. As homework is meant as a way for teachers to determine student understanding rather than using homework assignments as a formal level of evaluation, this component of a grade is minimal.

9. COMPUTER PRIVILEGES

Students involved in unauthorized use of the GFSS computer network may have privileges revoked for up to one year and may be suspended for up to five (5) days depending on the infraction.

10. PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICES POLICY [Updated 08/27]

In January of 2024, the British Columbia government amended the *Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order* directing school districts and schools to amend Codes of Conduct around the use of personal digital devices.

“Personal Digital Devices” may refer to any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or to access the internet, such as a tablet, cell phone, smart watches, or portable video game systems. Supplemental devices, such as headphones and earbuds, that communicate with digital devices are included in this policy.

Research has shown that frequent digital interruptions in the classroom, along with the addictive nature of social media platforms and the rise of cyberbullying and exploitation, are having a negative impact on the learning environment and the well-being of students.

As per School District No. 51 policy, students at GFSS shall not access or use personal digital devices during the hours of instruction, except when their use is for educational and specific curricular objectives, with teacher consent; is outlined in the students' support plan or Individual Education Plan or is integral to addressing medical and health needs.

Students (using a school-provided lock) will have access to a hall locker to secure their digital devices.

The security and storage of personal digital devices is the sole responsibility of the owner/user. GFSS and SD51 assumes no responsibility for the safety, loss, repair, or replacement of such devices. If students must bring a device to school, they must keep them in their locker during instructional time or leave them with office administration in a secure location.

GFSS will continue to develop digital literacy and provide digital devices, (including Chromebooks, desktop computers, and iPads), while continuing to engage in critical dialogue regarding responsible and appropriate use of devices.

As per SD51 Board of Education Policy (310), it is the District and School's belief that consequences should be designed to teach students to be responsible citizens in the school community and to promote personal and social development. Violation of the GFSS Personal Digital Devices policy will result in an escalating consequence depending on the severity and context of the violation:

- First Violation: Confiscation by the classroom teacher; returned at the end of class
- Second Violation: Confiscation by the classroom teacher and phone sent to the office to remain until the end of the day
- Third Violation: Confiscation and sent to the office. School administration will then determine appropriate consequences, including in-school suspension, restorative hours, detention, etc.

At no time will students engage in activities with personal devices that could result in the invasions of privacy, bullying and intimidation, and/or sexual harassment. No photos, videos, or audio recordings will be taken of staff or students without the subject's permissions.

11. SMOKING

GFSS does not allow smoking, chewing tobacco, and/or e-cigarettes (vaping) use in school or at any school functions. This includes any curricular and extra-curricular activities at or outside of the high school. I.E., dances, extracurricular trips, etc.

Students who vape or smoke on school property will be addressed in a number of ways, depending on the context of the situation. Students in grades 8 and 9 will be assessed an automatic two-day, in-school suspension upon their first infraction. Students in grades 10-12 may be assessed an out-of-school suspension. Students in all grades will also be subject to additional consequences, which may include indefinite suspension, restorative community hours, health-based projects, or other consequences. Subsequent violations will be considered defiance and will be subject to escalating consequences.

12. BREACHES ON (EXTRA-) CURRICULAR TRIPS

All school rules apply when students are on field trips or team trips. They will be strictly enforced to ensure the safety of all students participating. Regulations do not permit students to drive other students in their own vehicles on any curricular or extra curricular trip. In some cases, students may be given permission to drive themselves as long as parent consent is obtained. Students who break rules on school trips may lose privileges for future trips.

13. BOMB THREATS/FALSE FIRE ALARMS

Grand Forks Secondary School will not tolerate this kind of disruption. Students involved in this behavior will be indefinitely suspended from school and reported to the RCMP.

14. TARDINESS & TRUANCY

Students who are chronically late create a disruption to the class and miss essential instructional time. As a result, students who are late will be required to make up time.

Truancy is when a student skips a class or classes without school or parental permission. As a result, we ask parents to telephone the school when their child will be absent or late. A 24-hour attendance line (442-0954) is available for your convenience. For students skipping class, time will be made up and tracked by administration.

GFSS Late and Attendance Policies

Late: Not being inside of the classroom with all the materials necessary to do the day's work by the second bell

Consequences:

All lates – Once class begins you must have a late slip from the office or a note from your previous teacher to gain entry to the room

3 lates – chat with administration and possible detention

5 lates – call home and detention

10 lates – parent meeting & late contract with administration

Absence: Not attending class regardless of excuse

Consequences:

5 absences – contact with home to discuss progress and a plan to encourage regular attendance (if needed)

10 absences – admin/counseling meeting with student and possible contract to promote regular attendance

15 absences – possible withdraw from course and other schooling options explored with administration and counselors.

15. DRUGS/ALCOHOL

Drug or alcohol use is not permitted on any School District property. Students will be dealt with as per the GFSS Drug & Alcohol Policy which applies to all school functions. Students caught under the influence, selling, or with drugs/alcohol on their person will receive an immediate indefinite suspension from school. The RCMP could also become involved.

Drug and Alcohol Policy

Any student, under the authority of the school, found to be under the influence of, or in the possession of, drugs or alcohol during the school day or while participating in a curricular or extra-curricular school event, the student will:

1. be given an immediate SUSPENSION for a minimum of FOUR consecutive school days. Students will not attend their classes but will be responsible for any work missed during this time through an in-school suspension (where possible).
2. attend a compulsory student/parent meeting with the Superintendent of Schools to request reinstatement back into the regular educational program.
3. Students will receive a 1-year suspension from all extra-curricular activities (this includes school clubs, teams, dances, and other school sponsored events). Students can earn back their extra-curricular privileges by participating in 30 hours of school or community restorative service hours. (*It should be noted that regardless of suspension criteria, coaches or group sponsors maintain the prerogative to refuse to allow a student to participate if they have concerns about trustworthiness.)

Parents of any student who has been suspended will be contacted by telephone by an Administrator followed by a letter sent in the mail.

Any student found to be under the influence of, or in possession of, drugs or alcohol for a second time will be given an immediate Suspension from all educational programs which may result in expulsion from their educational program.

16. OTHER SERIOUS OFFENCES

A school must provide a safe and comfortable environment for students to learn effectively. Consequently, certain actions must be dealt with severely by the school, the School Board or the law. These include:

- The use of foul or offensive language towards staff or other students in or around the school.
- The use of physical violence or verbal threats in or around the school, including harassment and intimidation.
- The willful disobedience of teachers, or other adult school personnel (staff, secretaries, noon hour supervisors).
- The causing of willful damage to school property or the property of teachers or students. Students causing such damage will be held jointly liable with their parents.

17. DISCRIMINATION

A school must provide a discriminatory free environment by abiding to the following areas as laid out in the Human Rights Code

Discriminatory publication

7 (1) A person must not publish, issue or display, or cause to be published, issued or displayed, any statement, publication, notice, sign, symbol, emblem or other representation that:

(a) indicates discrimination or an intention to discriminate against a person or a group or class of persons, or

(b) is likely to expose a person or a group or class of persons to hatred or contempt because of the race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation or age of that person or that group or class of persons.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a private communication, a communication intended to be private or a communication related to an activity otherwise permitted by this Code.

Discrimination in accommodation, service and facility

8 (1) A person must not, without a bona fide and reasonable justification,

(a) deny to a person or class of persons any accommodation, service or facility customarily available to the public, or

(b) discriminate against a person or class of persons regarding any accommodation, service or facility customarily available to the public because of the race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation or age of that person or class of persons.

(2) A person does not contravene this section by discriminating

(a) on the basis of sex, if the discrimination relates to the maintenance of public decency or to the determination of premiums or benefits under contracts of life or health insurance, or

(b) on the basis of physical or mental disability or age, if the discrimination relates to the determination of premiums or benefits under contracts of life or health insurance.