

GFSS Student Code of Conduct

Updated Sept 9, 2025

ACCEPTABLE CONDUCT

1. Students will always conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner.
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/replica weapons.

RISING EXPECTATIONS

It is expected that, as students become older, they will develop more self-discipline and responsibility.

CONSEQUENCES

Disciplinary action will be a fair and consistent response to unacceptable conduct. Disciplinary action will, whenever possible, be more preventative and restorative, rather than punitive. Consideration may apply to students with special needs who may be unable to comply with the code of conduct

NOTIFICATION

School staff may have a responsibility to notify other parties of serious breaches of the code of conduct. Including but not limited to parents, school district officials, police and/or other agencies as required by law. Parents of any student who has been suspended will be contacted by telephone by an Administrator followed by a letter sent in the mail.

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 persons should display common sense, good taste, a sense of purpose and should reflect safety and consideration of the rights of others. Students are liable for loss recovery restoration should their actions cause damage or loss of others' property.

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 disregard the code of conduct, they jeopardize their personal safety or the safety of others. 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-SCHOOL SUSPENSION:** Students spend the entire day (including lunch hour) in the office. Students will complete tasks assigned by their teachers or do restorative tasks.
- **OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION:** Students are not permitted on the property. Learning tasks will be given to be completed at home.

- **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. To be reinstated, they and a parent must meet with the Superintendent of Schools and the GFSS Administrative team.
- Any offences dealing with criminality will result in referral to the RCMP where appropriate.

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. Cleanliness and good grooming are also expected. The focus is on safety and the maintenance of a suitable learning 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. References to drugs, alcohol, sexual objectification, discrimination, and/or offensive language are not permitted.

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.

BREACHES ON EXTRA-CURRICULAR TRIPS

The Code of Conduct applies when students are on field trips or team trips and will be enforced to ensure the good order and safety of all students participating. Students are not permitted to drive other students in their own vehicles on any school trips.

OFF PROPERTY BEHAVIOUR

When students are away from home for the purposes of school, the expectations of the Code of Conduct can be applied. This includes students who are off school property, before school, during lunch-time, and after school.

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. 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.

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.

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

SMOKING & VAPING

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.

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.

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.

DRUGS & ALCOHOL POLICY

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

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 out-of-school 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.)

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.

DISCRIMINATION

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 Indigenous identity, race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age of that person or that group or class of persons.

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 Indigenous identity, race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age of that person or class of persons.

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 law enforcement. These include:

- The use of foul or offensive or discriminatory language or publication 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 staff or students. Students causing such damage will be held jointly liable with their parents.