

KING OPEN CODE OF BEHAVIOR, 2011-2012 BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS FOR POSITIVE EDUCATION

The staff at King Open works hard to help every student experience our school as safe, positive, stimulating and enjoyable. We know that families work very hard to send young people to school with enough food, rest, happiness and peace of mind. We know that classmates are usually very supportive to and caring for each other. The great majority of time, we believe that the efforts of our school, families and classmates combine to produce a positive experience for students.

We also know that some behaviors will damage the positive community experience. We know that it is necessary to outline these damaging behaviors, explain the problems they cause and the consequences which are intended to help students learn how to get such behaviors under control.

EXPECTATION 1:

**YOU SHOULD RESPOND APPROPRIATELY WHEN AN ADULT SPEAKS TO YOU.
YOU MAY BE NEITHER RUDE NOR DISRESPECTFUL.**

WHY: Disrespect is disruptive to the educational process. It creates a negative tone in the classroom, school and the building. You must respond appropriately to King Open adults. You should also speak respectfully to classmates.

WHAT HAPPENS: Your parents will be notified. Other consequences may be implemented.

EXPECTATION 2:

**YOU MAY NOT DAMAGE SCHOOL OR STUDENT PROPERTY, WRITE ON WALLS,
DESKS, LITTER, OR TAKE THE PROPERTY OF OTHERS.**

WHY: School property belongs to all of us, and it must be usable for a long time. It causes work for others to clean or replace the property. It is not appropriate to deface the property of others. It is disrespectful. The property of others does not belong to you.

WHAT HAPPENS: You repair the damage, remove the marks, or pay for the property. Your parents will be notified in the case of significant damage. In the case of theft, law enforcement officials could become involved.

EXPECTATION 3:

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT, RACIAL HARASSMENT, USE OF RACIAL OR ANTI-GAY
SLURS OR DEROGATORY TALK ABOUT A PERSON'S FAMILY WILL NOT BE
TOLERATED.**

WHY: Sexual, racial and anti-gay harassment are both against the law and School District policy. Insulting talk upsets the person talked about and demeans the person talking.

WHAT HAPPENS: Massachusetts harassment law and Cambridge School policies are specific and hold serious consequences. In areas not covered by law, conferences with teachers, with the principal or assistant principal, with parents or with all three are possible.

**EXPECTATION 4:
YOU MUST NOT FIGHT.**

WHY: Students must feel safe. Fighting is a significant violation of the rights of others and can cause severe injuries. It can contribute to an environment where others may also try to take out their anger in a physical way.

WHAT HAPPENS: Your parents will be notified, and students in grades 5-8 will be suspended from school, from one to ten days, depending on the severity of the situation. After a suspension, students and parents will have a conference with the principal before the student is readmitted to school. Fights which pose a danger to others will be reported to Cambridge School Security.

Younger students may also face suspension, depending on the situation, especially students in grades 3/4; missed recess, behavioral contracts, meeting with the principal and parent contact are all possible consequences.

**EXPECTATION 5:
ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND SMOKING ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE SCHOOL
BUILDING, BUSES, OR AT ANY SCHOOL FUNCTION.**

WHY: It is against the law.

WHAT HAPPENS: Cambridge school policy will be implemented immediately. Law enforcement officials could be contacted.

**EXPECTATION 6 :
YOU MAY NOT BRING KNIVES OR OTHER SHARP OBJECTS, GUNS, MATCHES,
FIREWORKS, ETC. TO SCHOOL.**

This policy is clearly outlined in the Weapons Policy, which everyone signs.

**EXPECTATION 7:
STUDENTS SHOULD BE IN THEIR CLASSROOM AT THE FIRST BELL(8:40am).
STUDENTS WILL NOT LEAVE THE CLASSROOM, LUNCHROOM OR THE SCHOOL
GROUNDS WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE AND PERMISSION OF THE STAFF.
HAVING ARRIVED AT SCHOOL, STUDENTS WILL NOT LEAVE THE SCHOOL
GROUNDS UNTIL DISMISSAL TIME.**

WHY: Staff members are required to know where you are. If you are missing, it creates worry, confusion, and could lead to dangerous situations. Once you have arrived at school, your parents/guardians expect that the school will provide supervision, and such supervision is the school's legal responsibility.

WHAT HAPPENS: Your parents will be notified. In some cases, the Cambridge School Security Office or the Cambridge Police will be notified.

EXPECTATION 8 :

iPODs, CELL PHONES, HAND-HELD ELECTRONIC GAMES, ETC., AND TOYS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE USED AT SCHOOL DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.

WHY: They interfere with learning. They are sometimes stolen.

WHAT HAPPENS: The device is held until end of the school day.

With repeated instances, the device may be held until pick up by a parent/guardian. (Note: School personnel are not responsible for any confiscated property that is lost or stolen.)

EXPECTATION 9:

YOU NEED TO MOVE DIRECTLY FROM ONE CLASS TO ANOTHER IN AN ORDERLY AND QUIET FASHION, INCLUDING THE LUNCH PERIOD IN THE CAFETERIA.

WHY: It protects the safety of everyone. Running in the building is not allowed. There are more than 500 students at King Open. It is important that students respect the orderliness and atmosphere of the school for everyone.

WHAT HAPPENS: A staff person may ask you to retrace your steps and then walk. Repeated running or disruptive behavior may result in time-out or a loss of another privilege.

EXPECTATION 10 :

IN USING CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMPUTERS, STUDENTS AT GRADE 3 AND ABOVE MUST FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES IN THE "ACCEPTABLE USE" POLICIES.

EXPECTATION 11 :

STUDENTS WILL NOT EAT FOOD IN THE CLASSROOM, EXCEPT AS SUPERVISED BY TEACHERS DURING SCHEDULED SNACK TIMES.

WHY: Food in the classroom must be supervised to prevent spilling which makes needless work for our custodians, a messy appearance and attracts pests. Snacking takes concentration from schoolwork and should only occur during teacher-designated times.

EXPECTATION 12 :

THE BUS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MUST BE FOLLOWED.

WHY: For safety.

WHAT HAPPENS: There is a Cambridge Bus Policy. You may lose the privilege to ride the bus.

Every act of behavior cannot be anticipated through written expectations. The staff will make judgments in handling situations not covered in this list.

Consistent with the philosophy of King Open is the recognition that behavior often has a variety of causes. We affirm the process of using reflection, listening, writing and discussion. Our teachers have classroom expectations and policies that will be reviewed with students. Students often help make the class priorities for each year. Within the classroom and with administrators, playground and lunch supervisors, we use processes consistent with **Responsive Classroom** and **Developmental Design** in order to build community and to help students learn how to repair damage that their negative behavior may have caused. We are working to institute a “Buddy Room” system among all classrooms to minimize disruption to teaching and learning and to provide time-out for students when it may be helpful.

Regular, frequent or severely disruptive behavior requires more serious consequences. We teach about “**Bullying behavior**” so that all learn what bullying is and how to oppose it. Students learn that we adults deal directly and decisively with bullying behavior.

We also recognize that sharing information with parents and guardians is important for effective home-school collaboration to support positive student behavior and to correct problems. We have the responsibility to notify parents consistently when significant issues arise.

School suspension, either in-school or out-of-school, is a consequence for more serious infractions. Administrators will contact parents in a timely way when such situations arise.

Our goal is to protect the right of every student in our school to receive an education in a positive, safe and orderly community. With everyone working toward that goal, King Open School will be a positive place in which to learn.