

Visitation Catholic School Behavior Plan

Philosophy of Visitation's Behavior Plan

Discipline is a valuable and important element in helping students become well-formed disciples. Creating and maintaining a positive environment where all students and staff strive to model Christ-like behaviors involves reinforcing the good behaviors that Visitation students demonstrate. The first priority at Vis will be to regularly and consistently acknowledge and praise positive, appropriate behavior. The ultimate goal is to form individuals who are able to make informed decisions regarding their own behavior. This happens not only by hearing praise for the good choices but also by having consequences for the less desirable ones.

Goal of Visitation's School Behavior Plan

The ultimate goal of this initiative is to create and maintain a truly Catholic, positive, and safe environment that is conducive to learning and growth for the entire school community.

Visitation Catholic School's environment will be characterized by the following:

1. A welcoming, positive, Catholic atmosphere created by both the adults and students
2. Frequent reinforcement for positive behavior
3. High level of behavioral expectations with explicit limits for unacceptable behaviors
4. Appropriate consequences used consistently

Visitation's School Positive Behavior Approach

When any staff member observes a Vis student displaying positive behavior that is beyond expectations, they will reward/compliment the student. At the homeroom teacher's discretion, these rewards/compliments may be accumulated and exchanged for individual rewards. The students can also earn class level rewards that will be awarded as class goals are met (i.e. movie/snack party, extra recess, etc.). Positive behaviors may be tracked on the demerit/merit card for 4th-8th grade students.

Grades 4-8 Specifics

Fourth grade students will begin to use the system described below during the second semester. In fifth through eighth grades, students will participate in the positive behavior approach by exhibiting virtuous behaviors. These again, at the teacher's discretion, may be turned in for rewards that will be determined in each classroom. However, when a school rule has been broken, the student's behavior will have a consequence. When a minor offense occurs, the student will receive a demerit. Examples of minor offenses are listed below.

Minor Discipline Offenses

1. Failure to follow teacher directions
2. More than two behavior reminders during a class period
3. Inappropriate comments, behaviors, or noises
4. Inappropriate Mass, hallway, cafeteria, recess, or bathroom behavior
5. Minor disruptions
6. Inappropriate use of equipment, materials, or food
7. Minor rough play
8. Throwing objects
9. Late for class
10. Dress code violation
11. Eating or drinking in class without the teacher's permission (candy, gum)
12. Other - Administration reserves the right to enforce disciplinary measures for any misbehavior even if not specifically listed here.

Accumulation of infractions that lead to a detention by grade level:

4 th	5 demerits
5 th	5 demerits
6 th	4 demerits
7 th & 8 th	3 demerits

Each child will have a demerit/merit card. When an offense occurs, the teacher will mark the card. This allows the students to monitor their own behavior and keep track of demerits. Any time a child receives a demerit or detention, the parents will be notified via email or phone call. Each semester, the students will receive a new card and begin with a clean slate.

Detention Procedures

Detentions can result from an accumulation of demerits or a single serious infraction.

Detention will be held from 7-7:45 am on Thursday mornings. If a detention is missed, it will result in an additional detention. If the student arrives late, they will serve the detention on the next designated detention day.

The following may directly result in a detention:

1. Accumulation of demerits - This will be deferred to Administration
2. Disrespect, defiance, irreverence
3. Extremely inappropriate behavior, touching, sexual comments/behavior (written, verbal, gestures)
4. Inappropriate use of cell phones, Chromebooks, laptops, or other electronic devices
5. Severe or repeated behavior in Mass, hallway, bathroom, lunchroom, on computer, or at recess
6. Serious disruptions in the classroom

7. Destroying equipment, materials, property
8. Rough play that is dangerous in nature
9. Safety Violation
10. Deceit, forgery, cheating, and stealing
11. Inappropriate language
12. Other - Administration reserves the right to enforce disciplinary measures for any misbehavior even if not specifically listed here.

Serious Misbehaviors

Administration will determine consequences for any significant, severe, patterned, or repeated misbehavior. These consequences could include but are not limited to behavior contracts, discipline hearings, in-school or out-of-school suspensions, and expulsions. Extreme and/or serious offenses will be immediately referred to administration. Below is a list of some, but not all offenses that may be considered severe.

1. Serious threat (written, spoken, or gestured)
2. Sexual harassment (written, spoken, or gestures)
3. Fighting
4. Severe safety violations
5. Possession or use of weapons
6. Possession, use, distribution of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vape
7. Slanderous or harassing comments about students, teachers, and/or administrators on internet sites/social media, texts
8. Unlawful behavior
9. Accumulation of detentions

Suspension

A suspension is a form of discipline requiring the removal of a student from the classroom environment. Suspensions will be assigned by the administration, if the intervention of the grade level teaching team has not changed the behavior, or as the result of a more severe offense that disrupts the learning atmosphere, compromises the safety of the school community, or harms or injures another person.

During an in-school suspension, the student remains in isolation and completes required work for that day. The student will receive credit for completed work during an in-school suspension. For supervisory and safety purposes, a substitute will be provided for a student serving an in-school suspension. The student's parents are required to pay the daily rate for the substitute (currently \$120).

During an out-of-school suspension, a student is counted as absent and may not participate in any school activity (extracurricular activities, sports, dances, study trips, etc.). All work must be completed and will be graded for partial credit.

Whether the suspension is in or out of school, the student will be required to complete an equal number of service hours as the hours they miss from class.

Written notification of any suspension will be sent to parents. A conference will be held in conjunction with this procedure prior to readmitting the student to class. A student may be kept out of class at the office for the remainder of the school day in which an infraction occurred or while it is being investigated.

Expulsion

Expulsion of a student will occur when a student chooses to disregard the values and expectations of Visitation Catholic School and, in effect, chooses not to be a member of the school community. Final determination of expulsion rests with the Superintendent of Schools after communication with the principal and the pastor about the situation.

Expulsion of a student from Visitation Catholic School shall meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Other avenues of remediation for the unacceptable behavior have been exhausted.
2. The moral and/or physical well-being of the student and/or school community is at risk.
3. The student in question exhibits prolonged, severe, and/or open disregard for policy, personnel, fellow students and/or property.

The following general procedures are followed when necessity dictates the expulsion of a student:

- The principal shall inform the Diocesan School Office and the pastor of the situation and surrounding circumstances prior to the act of expulsion.
- The student and his/her family shall be informed formally of the expulsion by a conference including the parent/guardian(s), principal and, if necessary, teacher and/or counselor. Written communication will follow.