



Guidelines for Maintaining a Safe Space for Learning

The staff at Oak-Land Middle School is committed to creating a safe and welcoming learning environment for all students. Our philosophy of behavior management is centered on setting clear and consistent expectations, building positive relationships, and developing engaging lessons which captivate and challenge students in the classroom. We believe that disruptions to learning can be significantly minimized through effective use of these practices.

Teachers have primary responsibility for defining and handling classroom behavior problems that interrupt the learning process. Teachers are the first and usually the most effective disciplinarians in the school. They will utilize progressive consequences to handle minor disciplinary problems such as talking and off-task behavior. Use of assigned seating, parental contact, individual student conferences, and other behavior management interventions may be required. Administrative staff becomes involved when classroom interventions have failed, or when the behavior causes a serious impact on Oak-Land's learning environment. Although rare, incidents related to the following behaviors will result in immediate referrals to administration and/or law enforcement.

Bullying/Harassment

Actions or words that create feelings of distress, pain, or anxiety in others are not tolerated at Oak-Land. This includes targeting others due to their race, religion, ethnicity, disability, gender, or sexual orientation. Students must be mindful that the impact of their behavior on others may differ from their original intent. Additionally, this policy may apply to electronic communication outside of school if it impacts the learning environment of another student or group of students.

Chemicals/Illegal Substances

Items which are illegal for students to possess, or create a distraction from learning do not belong at Oak-Land. This includes electronic cigarettes and related materials (batteries, juice, etc), tobacco of any kind, alcohol, controlled substances, and prescription medicine intended for another individual. In addition, the act of, or intent to use, sell, or purchase these items is also prohibited.

Threats/Weapons

Directly or indirectly making statements, or engaging in behavior which causes fear and alarm in others will not be tolerated. This can include, but is not limited to, the creation of hit-lists, online threats, or other statements related to killing or physical harm of another. Items which may be used to perpetrate violence, or create a sense of fear in others are also strictly prohibited (any knife, firearm, or device designed as a weapon, including look-alikes).

Fighting/Physical Aggression

The use of violence or physical aggression against others at Oak-Land will never be tolerated. This includes fighting, pushing, shoving, or other adversarial physical contact, whether or not injury results. Students should utilize appropriate language, or the help of an adult advocate to resolve conflicts.

Consequences for the above actions and other significant disruptions to learning and safety will be assigned from administration based on Stillwater School District policy. Legal consequences may also be assigned from the School Resource Officer based on local and state statute.