

What is a Code of Conduct?

A code of conduct is an important document that provides for a safe and positive school environment. It explains the school rules and student responsibilities. The code of conduct applies to students at school, school related functions and can apply to incidents such as cyberbullying which occur off schools grounds in the event there is a connection between the incident and school and the incident results in a significant disruption in the educational environment.

What is bullying and harassment?

Bullying is understood to be a hostile activity which harms or induces fear through the threat of further aggression and/or creates terror.

The Dignity for All Students Act defines harassment or bullying as the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by threats, intimidation or abuse.

Garden City Board of Education Policy 0115

Harassment is the creation of a hostile environment by conduct, verbal threats, intimidation, or abuse that reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for their physical safety or cause undue emotional harm. This may or may not be based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex.

Bullying is repetitive negative actions over time with the intent to do harm. It usually involves an imbalance of power (not friends).

Bullying is typically a relational issue whereas harassment is a human rights issue linked to antidiscrimination laws.

What are our responsibilities as good citizens in our school?

- Know the rules and expectations
- Follow the school rules in school, on the bus and on field trips
- Try your best
- Ask for help when you have a problem
- Come to school on time and be prepared to learn
- Be an upstander and report unsafe behavior
- If something happens, the incident should be reported immediately to any of the adults in the school. This includes teachers, lunch monitors,

School Rules

Students at school are expected to:

- Follow directions of all school staff
- Keep hands, feet and objects to themselves
- Use kind words with others
- Choose words that don't make others feel threatened or scared
- Be respectful of topics that may make others feel uncomfortable
- Speak in appropriate tone of voice and use acceptable language
- Dress in a clean, neat and safe manner
- Respect school property
- Awareness and respect of other people's personal space and their belongings
- Follow District Internet Acceptable Use Policy at all times

Incidents of bullying (including cyberbullying) or harassment are inappropriate and will not be tolerated. The school responses that are listed below depend on the seriousness and frequency of the violation of the code of conduct.

School response for not following the rules:

- Mediation
- Verbal warning
- Written warning
- A discussion with a teacher, guidance counselor, mental health staff, assistant principal or principal
- Parent notification

How can I report an incident of bullying or harassment?

Students are encouraged to tell their teacher, parents, lunch monitors or any other staff member about a suspected incident of bullying or harassment.

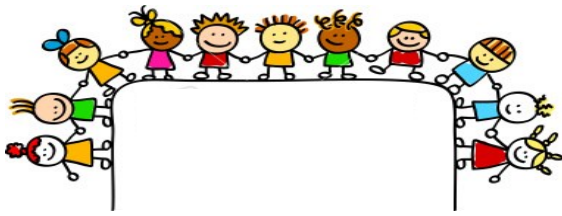
What happens after an incident is reported?

Once a school staff member receives a report of bullying and/or harassment, they will notify the DASA Coordinator. The DASA Coordinators are people who know how to deal with situations of bullying and are available to help. They will then investigate the report. An investigation may include interviews with students, teachers and other possible witnesses to the incident. Responses will be determined based on the results of the investigation.

What can I do to be an upstander?

- Spend time with the person being bullied at school. Talk with them, sit with them at lunch, or include them in an activity.
- Listen to them.
- Tell an adult who you trust, like your teacher or coach. You can tell them in person or leave them a note.
- Set a good example. Do not bully others.
- Help the person being bullied get away from the situation.
- Take away the audience by choosing not to watch and walk away.
- Tell the person being bullied that you don't like the bullying and ask them if you can do anything to help.
- If it feels safe to do so, tell the child doing the bullying that you don't like it and encourage him/her to stop doing it.

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The Dignity for All Students Coordinators are the school's designated contact for handling bullying. They are trained to recognize and respond effectively to harassment and bullying, and implement strategies to prevent it.

Dignity for All Students Coordinators

GARDEN CITY MIDDLE SCHOOL

DR. ERIC NEZOWITZ
INTERIM PRINCIPAL

MR. WILLIAM MARR
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

DR. DANIEL FASANO
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

MR. KEEGAN BAKER
SOCIAL WORKER

District Administration

Kusum Sinha, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Dana DiCapua
Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance

Nanine McLaughlin
Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
and Leadership Development

Edward Cannone, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Rita Melikian, Ed.D.
Director, Education Technology and Staff Development

Lynette Abruzzo
Director, Pupil Personnel Services



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The Garden City's entire Code of Conduct is available on the district website:

www.gardencity.k12.ny.us/information/forms_policies

Garden City Public Schools
Inspiring Minds
Empowering Achievement
Building Community



Dig-ni-ty n

1. a proper sense of pride and self-respect
2. seriousness, respectfulness, or formality in a person's behavior and bearing.
3. the condition of being worthy of respect, esteem, or honor.

For more information pertaining to *The Dignity for All Students Act* visit:
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact/>