

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT
BLOCK ISLAND SCHOOL

A. RATIONALE

The New Shoreham School District is committed to developing the potential of each student; intellectual-emotional; moral-physical; ethical-social. The rules of the school are designed to create an environment which makes this development possible. Self-respect and respect for others is the foundational underpinning of the philosophy guiding these regulations. All members of the school district must be respectful of the needs and rights of the individual. However, we should also realize that the school is a small society and, consequently, that there can be no respect for individual needs and rights where the rights and needs of others are not equally secure and protected.

The effectiveness of any regulations or laws is dependent upon the good will and self-discipline of those who agree to abide by them. While recognizing self-discipline as the ideal, the need for external laws, rules, and regulations on a lifelong basis must be equally accepted. It is just as reasonable to accept the fact that these rules and regulations will have their appropriate sanctions, i.e., penalties for those persons who choose to violate the rights of others.

It should also be understood that these rules and regulations are not all encompassing and that situations may arise that will dictate disciplinary sanctions that will have to be determined by the school and its authorities.

Furthermore, it should be noted that these rules and regulations pertain both to the formal school setting and to all school related functions.

B. GENERAL RULES OF CONDUCT

1. Harassment – Harassment is defined as any verbal and/or physical behavior which intimidates, embarrasses, or offends another person. Examples of such behavior include: sexual remarks or advances; racial, ethnic, or personal remarks or insults; taunting; threats, etc. Any student engaging in such behavior is subject to immediate serious disciplinary action which could result in eventual suspension from school.
2. Fighting – There are many opportunities to resolve conflict without resorting to verbal or physical violence. In order to help students deal with conflict, the principal, teachers, and counselors are available to assist students before a situation gets out of control. Students choosing to fight may receive disciplinary penalties which could include detention, community/school service, suspension, and/or probation. Individuals who continue to exhibit patterns of violence or abusive behavior will be referred to the school's counselor for assessment and counseling.

3. Weapons – Weapons may be defined as guns, knives, or instruments which may be used to intimidate or cause physical harm. Any student who has a weapon in his/her possession, or who has brought a weapon into the school, or who has used a weapon to intimidate or harm another individual is subject to immediate serious disciplinary action and could be expelled for the remainder of the school year. Incidents involving weapons will immediately be reported to parents and, in some cases, to the New Shoreham Police.
4. Vandalism
 - a. Students are expected to respect school property and the property of others. Defacing walls, desks, lockers, books, or any other form of vandalism is unacceptable behavior. Any student guilty of such behavior will be subject to disciplinary action which may include parental conference, restitution, and progressive disciplinary procedures up to suspension.
 - b. False Fire Alarms – The school day may be prolonged for the amount of time lost due to a deliberate fire alarm. A student found guilty of pulling a false fire alarm is subject to legal penalties and also to suspension from the Block Island School.
5. Theft – Incidents of attempted or actual theft will be subject to parental conference, and, possibly, additional sanctions up to, and including, suspension.
6. Cheating – Copying homework assignments, dishonest on tests, plagiarizing others' work on papers, etc. will not be overlooked. Cheating is a serious breach of trust and honesty. Situations involving cheating on a test or quiz will be dealt with by the classroom teacher involved. Reoccurrences will require parental conference, referral to a counselor for assessment, loss of credit, and possible disciplinary action. Any incident of cheating on a project, term or research paper, semester exam, or any other class-related assignment which may have a great bearing on a student's semester grade, will be brought to the attention of the principal. This type of cheating situation will be dealt with severely and will be accompanied by both disciplinary and academic sanctions which include loss of credit.
7. Gambling and Card Playing – Gambling, betting pools, and card playing are strictly forbidden in any form. Any student found organizing or participating in these activities is subject to disciplinary action up to, and including, suspension.
8. Class Cutting – Students are expected to attend all classes as scheduled. Unauthorized absence from class is considered a cut. Cutting classes will result in progressive discipline beginning with detention. Additional incidents will result in required parental conference and, in severe cases, suspension and loss of academic credit.
9. Drugs – Because of the danger and the physical and psychological harm, the possession or use of drugs including but not limited to alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine is strictly prohibited. Prescription drugs may be used under the direction and/or supervision of an authorized medical authority.

Parents will be informed immediately of their son's/daughter's involvement with drugs. Additionally, since possession and/or use of alcohol or drugs are criminal offenses, all cases will be reported to the New Shoreham Police for investigation and/or prosecution. One or more of the following sanctions will be applied:

- a. Any student caught purchasing, using, or in the possession of a controlled substance is liable for immediate suspension for a period of at least three days and possible expulsion, depending on the severity and circumstances surrounding the incident.
 - b. Students caught using drugs will be referred to a counselor and may be required to undergo continued counseling and/or participate in a counseling program in order to stay in school.
 - c. A second instance of drug use by a reinstated student may make the student subject to expulsion for the remainder of the school year.
 - d. Any student found guilty of selling, distributing, or arranging for the sale and/or distribution of a controlled substance will be subject to immediate suspension and/or dismissal.
10. Smoking – By state statute, no individual is allowed to smoke or use tobacco products in a school building or on school grounds. Additionally, it is illegal for individuals under the age of 18 to purchase or possess tobacco products. Please note that there is a “No Smoking Policy” with specific sanctions for violators.
11. Selling – Any student who wants to sell items in or through the school must first obtain the explicit permission of the principal.
12. Leaving the Building – Students may not leave the building at any time during the school day without first receiving permission from the main office. All students who leave and enter during the school day must sign in and out at the main office. Students who leave without permission will be subject to progressive discipline which may include school/community service, detention, parental conference, suspension, and any loss of credit that may result from the absence and subsequent penalties.
13. Electronic Equipment – Students are not allowed to have personal electronic equipment (e.g. beepers of any kind, radios, tape players, etc.) in use during the school day. Such equipment will be confiscated and turned into the principal's office. The office assumes no responsibility for these items. Items turned in as a result of a first offense may be picked up at the end of the school day. Items confiscated and turned in after a second offense may be picked up by the parent. Materials turned in after a third (or successive) violation will be held in the office until the end of the

school year or until a parental conference is held and assurances of nonrecurrence are made.

14. Study Halls – All study halls are expected to be “quiet studies” out of respect for those who require a quiet environment to study and/or complete work assignments. It is felt that there are always adequate materials to study, review, read, or complete. Students who violate the provisions of the quiet study hall, without the permission of the supervising faculty member, will be subject to progressive discipline which may include school/community service, detention, and parental conference.

B. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

To the extent possible, the disciplinary process is intended to help correct any undesirable behavior. It is not a primary goal to be hurtful to the student or to alienate him/her in any way. Normally, sanctions and penalties may not be applied for minor or first offenses; however, more severe offenses and continued misbehavior require stricter and more severe sanctions. In keeping with this philosophy, the disciplinary procedures of the New Shoreham School District will be progressively applied with the interest of the student, the student body, and the faculty being considered.

1. Classroom infractions of discipline will be handled by the teacher involved. Severe cases may be referred to the principal and/or counselor.
2. If a student is unresponsive to the teacher, the teacher will complete a report and submit it to the principal. The report will outline the time, date, subject, student(s) involved, the nature of the infraction(s), the actions taken by the teacher, the response of the student, and a summary of any other pertinent information. Such severe cases will be reported to the student’s parent(s) or guardian, along with a notification of any accompanying penalties.
3. When a student is asked to leave a class, he/she must report immediately to the main office.
4. When a student is referred to the principal by a teacher or staff member, one or more of the following sanctions will apply:
 - a. Principal/Student Conference – The principal will arrange a conference with the student. This conference will be used to attempt to resolve the problem at hand and to gather information, gain insight to the issue, and – if necessary – determine sanctions or punishments. The teacher involved may be included in the conference.
 - b. Detention – Detention is a disciplinary measure which will be used at the discretion of the classroom teacher and the principal. Detention may be imposed for tardiness, failure to meet with a teacher, classroom disruptions, and student infractions that may require disciplinary action.

- c. Parent Conference – The principal will arrange a conference with the student’s parent(s). This conference will attempt to resolve the problem at hand as well as solicit parental cooperation, support, and assistance in addressing the problem.
- d. School/Community Service – In some cases, a student may be given the option or be assigned a task of service to the school or community in lieu of other sanctions. Such service must be successfully completed in a specified time to avoid a more serious penalty.
- e. Restitution – Restitution is the replacement, or payment for repair or replacement, of school materials or property; or for the replacement or repair of the property of another individual.
- f. Suspension – Suspension is a serious disciplinary action and is normally taken only when a student has shown by attitude or action to be seriously lacking the respect and concern that one should have for fellow students, faculty, staff, and/or the authority of the school. Parents will be notified and a conference will be scheduled to discuss readmitting a student to full status at the Block Island School. Students may be liable for suspension for the following:
 - Being in an unauthorized area
 - Cheating
 - Constant lateness or excessive absenteeism
 - Cutting classes
 - Fighting
 - Harassment
 - Showing disrespect for faculty or staff
 - Stealing
 - Truancy
 - Use of alcohol or drugs
 - Possession of alcohol or drugs
 - Weapons violations
 - Smoking
 - Gambling
 - Use of inappropriate language
 - Any other behavior which jeopardizes the well being of everyone concerned or which is disruptive to the learning process at the Block Island School.
- g. Probation – A letter of probation is a letter of final warning that a student will be expelled if guilty of any further misconduct. Such dismissal or expulsion shall remain in effect for the balance of the school year in accordance with the provisions of Chapter XVI of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island.
- h. Expulsion/Dismissal – This is the ultimate sanction used by the New Shoreham School District. A student need not have gone through the process of progressive discipline, or have been placed on probation prior to expulsion. This is used when

a student has failed to respond to lesser sanctions or when a student's misconduct is so serious that it endangers or seriously infringes upon the rights of others.

BUS RULES AND REGULATIONS

The school bus is an extension of the Block Island School facility. Transportation is provided to all students who attend the Block Island School. However, it should be noted that bus transportation is a privilege that can be rescinded. Misbehavior may result in: a) a verbal warning; b) parental notification/conference; c) loss of bus transportation privileges for a specified period; and/or d) indefinite loss of bus privileges.

In general, the same behavior that is expected in the classroom is expected when riding the bus. Some guiding rules are:

1. Students must obey and show respect for the bus driver(s), bus monitor(s), and each other;
2. Electronic radios, compact disc players, headphone sets, games, etc. will not be allowed to be in use at any time on the school bus;
3. Students shall, at all times, remain seated and orderly;
4. Any intentional damage or defacing of the bus will be addressed under the provisions of the discipline code and may result in disciplinary action and/or payment for restoration or repair;
5. A written note to the bus driver and/or the principal is required if there is a request to drop a student off at a location other than the usual site, or if a note is required from the parents to the bus driver stipulating that the student has parental authorization to request differing drop off locations at any time.