

# CALIFON PUBLIC SCHOOL

## A PHILOSOPHY OF DISCIPLINE

The Califon School provides many opportunities for students to grow and learn. We encourage student participation in a variety of experiences that promote individual growth academically, physically, socially and emotionally. Our goal is to provide the best educational opportunity possible for every student. We recognize that every student has the right to grow and learn in a safe and orderly environment that is conducive to optimal individual development, and we realize that student discipline is a necessary and important part of this total educational process. The effectiveness of this process depends on the communication and understanding between home and school.

## WHAT IS DISCIPLINE

Discipline is more than simply punishment for inappropriate behavior. It is the training that develops self control. Discipline in school helps students channel their energies toward learning. Its aim is to teach children to be accountable for their own actions - to take responsibility for what they do and say. Where specific rules exist, students should develop personal expectations for their own conduct in keeping with their level of maturity. Therefore, discipline is a legitimate and inseparable part of the school curriculum.

The Califon School Discipline Code has been developed with four concepts in mind:

1. Be consistent
2. Reinforce good behavior
3. Involve communication and mutual support between parents and the entire school community.
4. Encourage self-discipline and respect

A list of school-wide expectations and guidelines follows, but specific rules governing classroom procedures will be established by your child's teacher and communicated to you. Your cooperation and support is essential.

## EXPECTATIONS AND RULES

These expectations and rules apply to all students from the time they arrive at school in the morning until they return home after school, and at any other school related activities.

1. It is the right of every individual to be safe and to feel safe in our school. Therefore, any attempt to physically, emotionally, sexually or verbally violate this right will not be tolerated.
2. Every individual will respect school property and be responsible for restitution.
3. Every individual will treat others with courtesy and respect. Everyone has the right to feel good about himself.
4. Every individual has the right to benefit from the educational program and have the opportunity to learn, develop, and grow in our school. Therefore, no one will interfere with the ongoing progress of education within the classroom, or with activities outside the classroom, by displaying behavior that disrupts or threatens to disrupt the learning process.
5. Every individual has the right and responsibility to learn proper ways of communicating thoughts and feelings. Therefore, every individual will have the opportunity to learn and use appropriate language.

In addition to these overall expectations and guidelines, the following rules will also apply to specific areas and situations as follows:

## CLASSROOMS/CLASS TRIPS

**Students will be expected to do the following:**

- Arrive promptly and be prepared for class.
- Conduct themselves in a manner that meets the expectations outlined by the teacher.
- Adhere to the same accepted behavior in the event of a substitute.

## HALLWAYS

**Students will be expected to do the following:**

- Walk in a quiet, orderly manner whether alone or in a group so as not to disturb other classes.
- Stay to the right side of the hall.

## **PLAYGROUND**

**Students will be expected to do the following:**

Honor a group space  
Keep your body to yourself  
Avoid name calling  
Stay away from the fence  
Attempt to include others in play  
Bring and be responsible for your own equipment  
Proper language and behavior is expected at all times  
Stay on the playground area unless given permission to leave

### **Consequences:**

Time out for the rest of the recess period  
Three times out on the bench in one marking period and student will be sent to office  
Fighting goes to the office immediately  
If sent to the office, student calls home under the CSA's supervision  
If child misbehaves after call home, he or she will miss recess for one week

## **LUNCHROOM RULES - GRADES 1-4**

Stay in your seat  
Use inside voice  
Keep your body to yourself  
Eat your own lunch  
Clean your space  
Bring home leftover lunch

### **Consequences:**

Time out table/Recess in office - 3 warnings per marking period  
Lunch and recess with administrator - call to parent  
Eat home for a week

## **DISCIPLINARY PROCESS**

All staff members will be responsible for enforcement of the above rules throughout the school, and all students will be expected to adhere to them. However, as children grow, change, and have new experiences, the self control needed to meet these expectations and follow established rules may sometimes become quite difficult.

The staff at Califon School understands that growing into responsible, young adults is not an easy process. Sometimes children make mistakes and need help to correct inappropriate behaviors and develop the inner controls that are necessary to become responsible individuals. Therefore, disciplinary guidelines and procedures have been established to provide as much consistency as possible.

Listed below are possible methods used by our staff to help correct inappropriate behavior:

1. Talking with the student
2. Talking with the parents/guardian
3. Setting up a plan of action which may include any or all of the following:
  - a. Counseling - to promote positive feelings about self & promote the ability to make good decisions.
  - b. Parental involvement
  - c. In-school restrictions
  - d. Referral to administration

## **REFERRALS**

<b><u>Infraction</u></b>	<b><u># of Demerits</u></b>
Student sent to office by <u>any</u> teacher	1
Fighting on school grounds as well as to and from school	3
Use of profanity	1/2
Inappropriate physical contact with the opposite sex	2

The following consequences follow these infractions:

1st 3 demerits  
Next 1 demerit  
Next 1 demerit

In-school suspension (1 day)  
Out of school suspension (1 day)  
No class trip

Parents will receive a call from the CSA every time a demerit is given plus an accumulation as of that day. Exemplary behavior for a given month will rescind one demerit.

The Chief School Administrator of the Califon School has the sole authority to suspend any student from school. N.J. School Law, Title 18A:37-2 indicates causes for suspension or expulsion of pupils include, but are not limited to, any of the following: continued and willful disobedience; open defiance of the authority of any teacher or person having authority over him/her, habitual use of obscene language or of profanity; defacing school property; conduct of such a character as to constitute a continuing danger to the physical and emotional well-being of other pupils; physical assault upon another pupil; taking or attempting to take, personal property or money from another pupil or from his/her presence by means of force or fear; participating in an unauthorized occupancy of any part of any school; incitement, which is intended to and does result in truancy by other pupils; knowing possession or knowing consumption, without legal authority of alcoholic beverages or controlled dangerous substances on the school premises or being under the influence of intoxicating liquor or controlled dangerous substances, paraphernalia, or weapons while on school premises. No suspension of a pupil will continue beyond the second regular meeting of the Board of Education unless continued by action of the Board of Education. The power to continue any suspension reported to it, or reinstatement of expulsion of a student shall rest with the Board of Ed. as per New Jersey Statute 18:37-5)

Before being considered for expulsion by the District Board of Education, the case must be referred to the Child Study Team for Re-evaluation or Comprehensive Evaluation in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6:28-2,8(3) or (f).

**Disciplinary Guidelines  
Parent/Student Acknowledgment**

**I/we have received a copy of the Disciplinary Guidelines for the Califon School and have read and understand them.**

**Parent's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER NO LATER THAN  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2012.**