



Mount Laurel Township Schools' Student Discipline Code

Educational Philosophy

The Board of Education, Administration and Staff of the Mount Laurel Schools are dedicated to providing students with the opportunity to develop academic skills, interests, and abilities to their fullest potential. The schools strive to encourage students to form an appreciation for lifelong learning including critical thinking skills, good work habits, and self-discipline. We help motivate students to become responsible citizens and community members with a strong sense of values and ethics. To promote an appreciation for diversity with respect for oneself as well as others, our philosophy is to provide an educational program fostering creativity, cooperation, and collaboration. We believe that through a partnership with parents and community we can encourage students to develop an awareness of the environment and of the world, with a sense of integrity and responsibility. Meeting and even exceeding the expectations of our comprehensive educational program can only be accomplished through a shared responsibility and alliance among students, parents, staff and administration of the Mount Laurel Schools.

Student Outlook

Because no school can function successfully without rules, regulations and requirements are developed to which students are required to adhere. However, the most important component of student success is a positive attitude. The following are a list of "senses" which we believe students should develop and exhibit in order to advance to their greatest level of success.

1. **A Sense of Motivation** – School staff and administration understand that school involves hard work and we all know it should. Therefore, students are most successful when they arrive to school with a positive attitude towards expanding their academic, physical, social, and emotional growth.
2. **A Sense of Responsibility** – Your school can offer you every opportunity for a good education, but if you do not have a sense of responsibility, a realization that getting an education depends ultimately on your efforts, then many valuable opportunities may be wasted.
3. **A Sense of Courtesy** – In daily school life, it is routine to come into contact with people of different ethnicities, ages, beliefs, and backgrounds. Courtesy is the sense that helps you get along with others. Mount Laurel Schools require all students to display a sense of courtesy.
4. **A Sense of Good Citizenship** – Citizenship, as it applies to school life, means giving to others, helping in clubs and other organizations, being active in student activities, and setting a positive example in the classroom, the hallways and when attending assemblies and other school events.
5. **A Sense of Sportsmanship** – This sense is especially applicable to athletic games/competition. Students must show respect to all teachers or parent volunteers and consider their decisions as final. Competitors deserve spirited competition, but never hostility. Spectators must show positive spirit and enjoyment without annoying those around them.

The following pages outline specific behaviors and consequences that are enforced by our teachers and administrators.

Teacher-Enforced Behaviors

These behaviors (T1 – T16) may warrant any/all of the following consequences, depending upon the nature of the offense, and/or the discretion of the teacher. Students who repeatedly and/or chronically misbehave will be referred to the designated administrator as a result of their actions, and may face administrative-level assigned consequences.

#	<i>Behaviors</i>	<i>Consequences</i>
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INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

T-1	Disobedience/disrespecting authority in the classroom	▪ Written Warning/Reprimand, Parent Contact Via Phone or e-mail, Detention
T-2	Leaving class without permission	▪ Written Warning/Reprimand, Parent Contact Via Phone or e-mail, Detention
T-3	Cutting teacher detention	▪ Written Warning/Reprimand, Parent Contact Via Phone or e-mail, Detention
T-4	Issuing verbal, visual, or written insults	▪ Written Warning/Reprimand, Referral to Peer Mediation, Parent Contact Via Phone or e-mail, Detention
T-5	Misrepresenting the truth	▪ Written Warning/Reprimand, Parent Contact Via Phone or e-mail, Detention
T-6	Copying/forging signatures, documents, etc.	▪ Written Warning/Reprimand, Parent Contact Via Phone or e-mail, Detention
T-7	Demonstrating disruptive behavior	▪ Written Warning/Reprimand, Parent Contact Via Phone or e-mail, Detention
T-8	Misbehaving during a fire drill	▪ Written Warning/Reprimand, Parent Contact Via Phone or e-mail, Detention
T-9	Arriving late to class	▪ Written Warning/Reprimand, Parent Contact Via Phone or e-mail, Detention
T-10	Chewing gum/eating unauthorized items	▪ Written Warning/Reprimand, Parent Contact via phone or e-mail, Detention
T-11	Writing/distributing notes	▪ Written Warning/Reprimand, Referral to Peer Mediation, Parent Contact Via Phone or e-mail, Detention
T-12	Being in unauthorized areas of the building	▪ Written Warning/Reprimand, Parent Contact Via Phone or e-mail, Detention
T-13	Plagiarism/Cheating	▪ Written Warning/Reprimand, Parent Contact Via Phone or e-mail, Detention
T-14	Violating the dress code	▪ Warning/Reprimand, Remedy/Change Clothing, Parent Contact
T-15	General class rules violation	▪ Written Warning/Reprimand, Parent Contact Via Phone or e-mail, Detention
T-16	Using electronic devices at inappropriate times (cell phone, CD player, radios, etc.)	▪ Warning/Reprimand, Temporary Confiscation of Equipment, Parent Contact

Administrator-Enforced Behaviors

These behaviors (A17 – A51) may warrant any of the following consequences, pending the nature/severity of the offense, and/or the discretion of the administrator. Students who repeatedly receive administrative disciplinary actions may be recommended for expulsion procedures.

#	<i>Behaviors</i>	<i>Consequences</i>
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INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

A-17	Disrupting the classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Offense: Detention, Parent Notification• Subsequent Offenses: In or Out of School Suspension, Parent Conference, BSC Referral
A-18	Making verbal insults	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Offense: Detention, Peer Mediation Referral, Parent Notification• Subsequent Offenses: In or Out of School Suspension, Parent Conference, BSC Referral
A-19	Being generally disruptive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Offense: Detention, Parent Notification• Subsequent Offenses: In or Out of School Suspension, Parent Conference, BSC Referral
A-20	Inappropriate bus conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Offense: Detention, Parent Notification• Subsequent Offenses: In or Out of School Suspension, Parent Conference, BSC Referral, Temporary or Permanent Removal from Bus
A-21	Disobeying authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Offense: Detention, Parent Notification• Subsequent Offenses: In or Out of School Suspension, Parent Conference, BSC Referral
A-22	Distributing/possessing inappropriate material	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Offense: Detention, Parent Notification• Subsequent Offenses: In or Out of School Suspension, Parent Conference, BSC Referral
A-23	Using inappropriate language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Offense: Detention, Parent Notification• Subsequent Offenses: In or Out of School Suspension, Parent Conference, BSC Referral
A-24	Inappropriate/disruptive conduct in lunchroom/recess	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Offense: Detention, Parent Notification• Subsequent Offenses: In or Out of School Suspension, Parent Conference, BSC Referral
A-25	Entering another student's locker	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Offense: Detention, Parent Notification• Subsequent Offenses: In or Out of School Suspension, Parent Conference, BSC Referral
A-26	Abusing computer/network privileges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Offense: Detention, Parent Notification• Subsequent Offenses: Temporary or Permanent Suspension of User Account, In or Out of School Suspension, Parent Conference, BSC Referral
A-27	Insubordinate behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Offense: Detention, Parent Notification• Subsequent Offenses: In or Out of School Suspension, Parent Conference, BSC Referral
A-28	Inappropriate physical contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Offense: Detention, Parent Notification• Subsequent Offenses: In or Out of School Suspension, Parent Conference, BSC Referral

A-29	Leaving school grounds without permission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Offense: After School or In-School Suspension, Parent Notification • Subsequent Offenses: In or Out of School Suspension, Parent Conference, BSC Referral
A-30	Throwing objects that may be dangerous to others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Offense: Detention, Parent Notification • Subsequent Offenses: In or Out of School Suspension, Parent Conference, BSC Referral
A-31	Cutting administrative detention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Offense: Detention, Parent Notification • Subsequent Offenses: In or Out of School Suspension, Parent Conference, BSC Referral
A-32	Cutting class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Offense: Detention, Parent Notification • Subsequent Offenses: In-School Suspension, Parent Conference, BSC Referral
A-33	Cutting school, truancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Offense: In-School Suspension, Parent Notification • Subsequent Offenses: In or Out of School Suspension, Extended Detention, Parent Conference, BSC Referral
A-34	Misrepresenting the truth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Offense: Detention, Parent Notification • Subsequent Offenses: In or Out of School Suspension, Parent Conference, BSC Referral

DEFACING/DAMAGING SCHOOL PROPERTY

A-35	Damaging school property or property of others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ First Offense: Detention, Parent Notification, Restitution▪ Subsequent Offenses: In or Out of School Suspension, Parent Conference, BSC Referral, Restitution
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THEFT

A-36	Stealing/Extortion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ First Offense: Detention, Parent Notification, Restitution▪ Subsequent Offenses: In or Out of School Suspension, Parent Conference, BSC Referral, Restitution
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THREATS AGAINST ANOTHER

A-37	Obscene/profane, harassing language or gestures (verbal, written, or visual)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ First Offense: Warning, Parent Conference, and/or Suspension (ISS option) up to 3 days depending on the nature of the incident.▪ Subsequent Offenses: Suspension up to 5 days
A-38	Obscene/profane, harassing language or gesture directed at <i>staff members</i> (verbal, written, or visual)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ First Offense: Suspension up to 3 days (depending on the nature of the incident), Parent Conference, BSC Referral▪ Subsequent Offenses: Suspension up to 5 days, Parent Conference, BSC Referral
A-39	Making biased/racial/sexually harassing remarks/behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Offense: In or Out of School Suspension, Parent Notification, BSC Referral• Subsequent Offenses: Suspension, Police Contact, Parent Conference, BSC Referral
A-40	Making a verbal, visual, or written threat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ First Offense: In-School Suspension, Parent Notification▪ Subsequent Offenses: Suspension, Parent Conference, BSC Referral

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

A-41	Sexual Misconduct, (self and others)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ First Offense: Suspension up to 3 days, Parent Conference▪ Subsequent Offenses: Suspension up to 10 days, BSC Referral, Parent Conference, Behavioral/Psychiatric Evaluation, Police Contact
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FIGHTING

A-42	Hitting/punching/striking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ First Offense: In or Out of School Suspension, Parent Notification, BSC Referral▪ Subsequent Offenses: Suspension, Parent Conference, BSC Referral
A-43	Fighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ First Offense: Suspension up to 3 days, Parent Conference, BSC Referral▪ Subsequent Offenses: Suspension up to 5 days, Parent Conference, BSC Referral, Possible Police Contact
A-44	Harassment, Bullying, Intimidation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ First Offense: Peer Mediation Referral, Suspension up to 3 days, Parent Conference▪ Subsequent Offenses: Suspension up to 5 days, Parent Conference, BSC Referral

GANG ACTIVITY

A-45	Involvement in Gang Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Suspension Up to 10 days, Police Intervention, Parent Conference, Required Behavioral Psychiatric Evaluation Prior to Re-admittance
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POSSESSION OF WEAPONS

A-46	Possessing weapons or items that may be dangerous to others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Suspension Up to 10 days, Parent Conference, Police Contact, Required Behavioral Psychiatric Evaluation Prior to Re-admittance
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POSSESSION OF DRUGS

A-47	Possessing, using, or distributing tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs (may include legal drugs as well)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Suspension Up to 10 days, Parent Conference, Police Contact, Required Behavioral Psychiatric Evaluation Prior to Re-admittance
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VIOLENCE

A-48	Setting off fire alarm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Suspension Up to 10 days, Parent Conference, Police Contact, Fire Marshall Contact, Required Behavioral or Psychiatric Evaluation Prior to Re-admittance
A-49	Firecrackers, matches, lighters, smoke bombs, stink bombs (possession of same)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First Offense: Suspension Up to 3 days, Parent Conference, Police Contact, Required Behavioral or Psychiatric Evaluation Prior to Re-admittance ▪ Subsequent Offenses: Suspension up to 5 days, Parent Conference, Police Contact
A-50	Making verbal, visual, or written, or physical threats of violence toward another student, adult, or member of the school community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Suspension 5 days, Parent Conference, Police Contact, Required Behavioral or Psychiatric Evaluation Prior to Re-admittance
A-51	Taking part in terrorist activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Suspension Up to 10 days, Parent Conference, Police Contact, Required Behavioral or Psychiatric Evaluation Prior to Re-admittance

Note to Parents:

Please review these rules and guidelines with your children.

Know that disciplinary action will be applied consistently and uniformly with due process as outlined in the New Jersey Administrative Code. Student and staff confidentiality will be protected in accordance with federal and state law.

Certain infractions may require action that exceeds the above-named consequences and requires law enforcement notification. Those conditions are detailed in the district's Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials.

A copy of that agreement is available through our Office of Communication Services, 330 Mount Laurel Road, or may be found at: www.state.nj.us/lps/dcj/pdfs/agree.pdf

State and federal statute may supercede in some instances.