

Standards of Behavior

Introduction

As members of the Laboratory Schools' community, we believe that the standards governing our participation and behavior within the Laboratory Schools should be clearly stated, reasonable and just. The philosophical framework governing our standards reflects the consensus of the Board of Directors, students, faculty, administration, staff and parents. These standards are based on the expectation that members of the Laboratory Schools community will:

- respect and show concern for one another and for oneself
- respect and show concern for shared spaces and materials
- respect and show concern for the academic, social and moral life of the Laboratory Schools

Relationship to the Lower School Community Agreement

As students mature and move from more supervision and structure in the lower grades to greater freedom in the middle and high schools, it is also recognized that greater responsibility accompanies such freedom. The Lower School Community Agreement, which follows these standards, specifies the behavioral expectations for the Lower School community and consequences for not achieving those expectations.

The Lower School Community Agreement implements the following general standards of behavior, which have been approved by the Board of the Laboratory Schools for the entire Laboratory Schools community.

Members of the Laboratory Schools' community shall not:

1. violate the law, such as the law pertaining to illegal substances.
2. harm or degrade any individual or group by action, threat, or malicious language.
3. cheat or otherwise act dishonorably in academic work.
4. infringe upon the property of others.
5. disrupt, by word or action, an atmosphere conducive to learning in the classroom, good sportsmanship in athletics and congeniality in social situations.
6. violate the published rules and requirements for the use of school facilities.
7. infringe upon the use of shared spaces and materials by:
 - excessive noise in and around classrooms (including lounges and landings) and the library.
 - interrupting the safe and orderly flow in hallways, stairways, on playgrounds, and on sidewalks.
 - disruptive public displays.
 - defacing, destroying or otherwise damaging buildings, equipment or books.

Community Agreement for the Lower School

In the Lower School we agree to be *kind, thoughtful and responsible* members of the community.

Students who consistently follow established rules are happier children because they feel safe. In a school community, consistent expectations for behavior followed by students, parents, faculty and staff:

- create a sense of order and predictability
- create a climate of respect
- create an environment where children can take risks and learn from mistakes
- create an environment where children encourage the best in each other
- serve as guidelines for behavior to help children learn self-regulation

The goal of the Lower School Community Agreement is to create an atmosphere of learning in an environment that values safety, responsibility, and civility, while taking into consideration the developmental stages of our students. In addition, we hope to provide experiences for our students to learn how to be global citizens.

In the classroom, the Lower School Community Agreement is a tool for teachers to support positive behavior. By using these expectations, teachers can work with students to determine what these expectations mean, not only in their classroom, but also in the larger community. This statement provides a shared language that reflects our goals for all individuals in our community. The Lower School Community Agreement supports parents partnering with teachers to create a clear understanding of what is expected at school, so parents and teachers can work together to support children to make good choices. Kind, thoughtful and responsible members of the community recognize that there are important expectations to follow and agree to adhere to the policies outlined in this handbook.

Consequences for Not Following the Lower School Community Agreement

Choosing not to follow this agreement may result in certain consequences. These consequences will be reasonable, related to the misconduct, and appropriate to the developmental level of the child. There may be one or more of the following:

- repeating the process in the appropriate manner.
- spending time in a separate place until ready to be part of the group again.
- apologizing to those who were hurt or offended.
- restoring or making restitution for damaged or stolen property.
- notifying parents of the behavior.
- notifying the principal of the behavior.
- dismissing the child from school for the day.
- dismissing the child from school permanently.

Expectations for the Use of Personal Electronic Devices

Students may not bring cellular or electronic devices such as computer games, laser pointers, personal computers, mobile phones, or other internet-enabled devices such as iPods, Smart Watches, etc. for use at school. We will not assume responsibility for the protection of these items that are not a necessary part of the learning environment of the School. If these items are used during the school day they will be confiscated for the day and turned in to the Lower School office for parents to retrieve. This does not include technology specifically approved by the School to support special learning needs. Arrangements should be made in advance with your child's teacher and the Lower School Learning & Counseling department. Cell phones must be turned off, kept in backpacks, and not used during the school day. Children have easy access to school phones throughout the school day and after school as well. The School will not be responsible for the loss, theft, or damage of any electronics equipment brought to school. In addition, students are expected to comply with the Computer User agreement of the Laboratory Schools found on our website (www.ucls.uchicago.edu) that governs all computer use by students.

Harassment Policy

All members of the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools share the responsibility for ensuring that harassment is not tolerated at the Laboratory Schools. Students, teachers, administrators and staff must work together to be sensitive in our actions and language and to understand that inappropriate words or actions might make others feel uncomfortable, intimidated, or physically or emotionally hurt.

Harassment is verbal or physical conduct, or conduct using technology, which is so severe or pervasive that it has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or educational program participation, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or educational environment.

BULLYING is a form of harassment that injures another person. Bullying consists of physical, verbal and/or emotional abuse, usually based on some type of imbalance of power, with those who believe they are more powerful abusing those who are perceived as less powerful. Bullying occurs when, over time, a person is

repeatedly exposed to negative treatment by another person or group of people. This includes actions involving the use of the Internet, cell phones, or other electronic technologies. (*Please see Computer-Based Harassment below.*)

It is essential that all community members report any harmful and inappropriate behaviors in a timely fashion to a trusted adult, so that the concerns can be addressed. *However, it is important to note that not all forms of social conflict constitute bullying or harassment.*

COMPUTER-BASED HARASSMENT

Computers and the Internet have opened new opportunities for communication, but at the same time have created possibilities for new forms of harassment. While we do not seek to regulate private speech among computer users, the terms of harassment as defined here will be applied to all forms of electronic media. Postings that refer negatively to members of the Lab community, either by name or by inference, will be treated as harassment. *This policy covers postings from school computers and those originating on computers outside of school, including personal computers and other devices.*

UNLAWFUL HARRASSMENT

Unlawful harassment consists of verbal and/or physical conduct toward a member of our School based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, age, or disability, that is so severe or pervasive that it has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a person's participation in school programs or activities, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment. The Laboratory Schools will not tolerate unlawful harassment.

Reporting Any Form of Harassment

If you or your child observe or become aware of harassment of any member of our community, it is essential to immediately report the incident to a teacher, counselor, School administrator or any trusted adult. It is your responsibility as members of this community to step forward and share your concerns and observations. Please do not assume that adults already know, or that someone else will share the information. Receiving more information is much better than receiving none at all.

Students who believe they are victims of any harassment or have witnessed such any activities, are encouraged to immediately report the incident to a teacher, counselor, School administrator or any trusted adult. Students may choose may be accompanied by a parent/guardian, friend, or advisor in making such a report.

The Laboratory Schools prohibit retaliation and will protect students who report incidents of harassment. Any student may be subject to consequences if found participating in any such retaliation.

Harassment Complaint Resolution

Each and every harassment complaint will be taken seriously and a preliminary investigation will be conducted. This process normally will include informal conversations with the individuals involved, as well as any other student or adult who may have information regarding the complaint. The goal of these conversations is to satisfactorily resolve the complaint informally. As practicable, families of all students directly involved in a report of harassment will be notified that such a complaint has been reported and of the general outcomes of the incident. Specific outcomes pertaining to students that are not their own will not be shared in order to protect the privacy of the other students involved.

All Schools Drug Prevention Policy and Procedures

A fundamental role of the Laboratory Schools is to provide its student body with academic and social skills necessary to become healthy, productive citizens who will contribute positively to the school and community. Substance abuse is inconsistent with the needs of healthy, growing and developing individuals. We believe it is the responsibility of the Schools to take steps to promote, enhance and maintain a drug free environment.