

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

The School aims to:

1. Balance the freedom and responsibility of the individual with the need for cooperation, order, restraint, and goodwill within the group.
2. Provide an environment where the young person will experience encouragement, affirmation, and community.
3. Ensure for each student physical and psychological safety.
4. Enable each student to develop a high standard of moral integrity gained through growth in self-discipline.
5. Help students grow into mature, responsible adults.
6. Maintain a high standard for student behavior that reflects positively on self, family, school, and community.
7. Nurture each student with loving firmness, respect, and fairness.

The School expects each student to:

1. Treat others with dignity and respect.
2. Treat him/herself with that same respect.
3. Respect both work and property of others and to bring only necessary materials to school.
4. Have consistent attendance and punctual arrival.

In the event that a student fails to observe the above expectations, the following notes describe the usual approach and procedures for working with the student. The school reserves the right to modify these procedures.

- In the event of minor misbehavior, the student and teacher discuss the issue cooperatively to resolve the problem.
- Chronic misbehavior is reported to parents by the Head teacher and the Head of School and Director of Student Services are informed. A parent/teacher conference or telephone call will be scheduled to discuss how to best support the child and the situation.
- Major misbehavior, especially that involving injurious behavior, is taken to the Head of School and the Director of Student Services. The Head of School, Director of Student Services, and parents, along with the teacher(s), and student, as appropriate, meet to resolve.
- In the event of major or chronic misbehavior a student may be excluded from school, suspended, or expelled.
 - HMS reserves the express right to dismiss a child from the HMS at its sole discretion after notice to and communication with the parent(s) or guardian(s).

The Hockessin Montessori School expects full parental cooperation with the above policy. All rules apply before, during and after school, and at all times on school sponsored outings.

MAJOR MISBEHAVIOR

The school considers the following to be major misbehavior:

- Interference with the rights of others, including physical abuse (such as hitting, punching, kicking, or biting), verbal abuse (such as teasing, taunting, threats or intimidation), bullying (such as physical aggression, social alienation, verbal aggression and intimidation)
- Damage to, abuse of, or stealing any school or personal property
- Possession, use or sale of drugs listed in the current Federal Controlled Substances Act
- Possession, use, or sale of alcohol, tobacco substances, or inhalants
- Possession, use, or sale of weapons or explosives
- Use of obscene, profane, suggestive, or intimidating written or verbal language
- Repeated disruptive or uncooperative behavior

- Conduct committed off-campus and outside school hours that is illegal or negatively reflects on the school
- Misuse of computer/Internet/email privileges

The Hockessin Montessori School reserves the right to dismiss any student at any time if in its sole judgment the student's continued presence at the school is detrimental to himself, to others or to the community as a whole.

The Hockessin Montessori School reserves the right to assess and collect reimbursement fees for any damage done to the school or grounds by a student whose actions were deemed excessive and not within developmentally appropriate behaviors.