

## Sigsbee Charter School's Behavior Plan

The SCS Code of Conduct is a shared vision between parents, students and staff based on the *Discipline with Dignity* approach, created by Richard L. Curwin and Allen N. Mendler (1998). Discipline with Dignity **is a philosophy and attitude focused** on teaching students to make responsible choices and helping them learn from the outcomes of their actions. In this model, discipline is based on **logical consequences**. The cornerstone of the SCS Code of Conduct is that everyone in our school environment will treat each other with respect and dignity at all times.

### The principles that guide each teacher's classroom behavior plan are as follows:

1. Dealing with student behavior is part of the job. Lessons about behavior, communication, and getting along with others are worthwhile expenditures of time and make a lasting impression. Each classroom community will spend ample time developing guidelines, discussing expectations, and identifying structures and routines at the beginning of the year. All students are expected to agree to and abide by these rules.
2. The goal of the Code of Conduct is long-term behavioral change, not quick fixes. Changes in thinking and behavior take time. The goal of this approach is to have students move toward acting responsibly more than acting obediently.
3. Discipline works best when integrated with effective teaching. When curriculum is relevant and engaging, behavior problems decrease. When instruction matches students' level of ability, students are less frustrated and make wiser choices.
4. Rules must make sense. Logical consequences should directly relate to the rule that was broken, though the consequences do not have to be the *same* each time. Students can be treated fairly even when they are not treated the same.
5. All staff members should be a model of what is expected. At SCS, staff members maintain a positive, nurturing demeanor and model appropriate behavior at all times.

### How our staff models positive behavior....

#### At our school, staff members:

- Listen to what students have to say
- Always treat students with respect and dignity
- Make learning meaningful and interesting
- Build individual relationships with students
- Make the classroom a safe and caring community of learners
- Empower students with conflict resolution skills they can use throughout their lives
- Foster responsibility on a daily basis
- Pro-actively engage students in the behavior process

#### Our school culture is based on trusting relationships. Staff members will develop relationships by:

- Greeting students when they enter the classroom or school
- Meeting with them individually to learn about their interests and personal histories
- Being visible
- Avoiding power struggles
- Asking students for their opinions
- Stopping the use of ineffective strategies

## How Parents, Visitors and Volunteers model behavior....

### At our school, all adults

- Listen to what students and staff members have to say
- Always treat students and staff members with respect and dignity
- Follow guidelines designed to keep students safe
- Support staff in developing and supporting student responsibility
- Work together toward long-term change

### Our school culture is based on trusting relationships. Adults will honor these relationships by:

- Addressing problems or concerns directly with an individual
- Avoiding interruptions during instructional time
- Being proactive and timely when giving input
- Focusing on positive action and conflict resolution rather than on accusation or finger-pointing
- Showing appreciation for one another by treating each other with courtesy

## As a result, students learn....

1. I cause my own outcomes
2. I have more than one alternative behavior in a situation
3. I have the power to choose the best alternative
4. I am part of a caring community that respects me as an individual , even when I make a mistake
5. Mutual respect leads to positive action
6. Guidelines created collaboratively in the classroom and at home are transferrable to real world situations
7. The adults around them are working together to bring out my best.