Policies Regarding Student Discipline and California Ed Code 48900

In order to maintain a safe and orderly environment at Willis Jepson Middle School, students at Jepson are expected to follow the “School Rules”, which includes being responsible for their actions, following directions, showing respect and respecting the rights and property of others.

Keep in mind, students are under the authority of the school when on the way to school, at school, and on the way home.

Theft

It is important to protect your possessions at all times. Many of our incidents of loss or theft occur when we forget to lock our lockers, or fail to protect our belongings. When you suspect that something you own may be loss or stolen, go to the front office to report it immediately. It is important to know that many times things that are lost or stolen are not recovered. However, the earlier you report it the more likely a chance there is to recovering your belongings. Willis Jepson is not responsible for items lost or stolen.

Bullying

Willis Jepson is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our students so they may learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. For the purposes of this school policy, Bullying shall be defined as exposing a person to abusive actions repeatedly over time. Being aware of children's teasing and acknowledging injured feelings are always important. Bullying becomes a concern when hurtful or aggressive behavior toward an individual or group appears to be unprovoked, intentional, and (usually) repeated. Any student who engages in bullying on school premises, in a manner that causes or is likely to cause a substantial disruption of a school activity or school attendance, shall be subject to discipline, which may include suspension or expulsion, in accordance with district policies and regulations.

Cyber-bullying

Social Networking pages (i.e. Facebook, amongst others), Instant and Text messaging, email and other like ways of communicating with one another via technology has become a virtual reality for students around the world. Although there are many benefits to this type of mass communication efforts, there are other times when the virtual world has a direct impact on the school climate. At Willis Jepson, when cyber-bulling and/or on-line threats disrupt the learning environment for students, we will take the necessary disciplinary steps to maintain a safe and positive environment for all students. Assembly Bill 86 was passed in 2009 to support school authority by adding cyber-bulling to school disciplinary codes. Cyber-bullying is defined as on-going harassment through e-mails, text messages and social networking sites, which is having a negative effect on the educational environment.

When the circumstances involve cyber bullying, the administration encourages students and parents to save and print any electronic or digital messages that they feel constitute cyber bullying and to notify a teacher, the principal, or other employee so that the matter may be investigated.

Hazing/Harassment/ Hate Violence

Hazing and harassment are grounds for disciplinary action up to and including suspension. Hazing is described as “any method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or student body or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to these organizations which causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm, to any pupil”. The Governing Board prohibits the unlawful sexual harassment of any student by any employee, student, or other person in or from the district.
Any student who engages in the sexual harassment of anyone in or from the district may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Any student who feels that he/she is being sexually harassed should immediately contact the principal or designee at his/her school. A student may be suspended or expelled from school if it is determined that he/she has caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause, or participated in an act of hate violence.

**Weapons and Dangerous Instruments**

Students at school have the right to be free from fear and danger presented by firearms and other dangerous weapons. The VUSD Board of Education and Ed Code 48900(b) prohibits students from having in their possession weapons, replicas of weapons, explosives of any kind, or dangerous instruments of any kind in school buildings, on school grounds, on buses, or at any school related activity unless written permission has been obtained from the superintendent or designee. Students possessing, exhibiting or threatening others with a weapon, dangerous instrument or replica, or using any kind of explosive device, shall be arrested and subject to legal prosecutions, suspended, and recommended for expulsion.

**Fighting/ Mutual Combat**

Fighting is considered an illegal violation. Any student involved in a fight at school, or while coming to school or going home from school may be arrested, subject to legal prosecution, as well as school discipline. While the severity of the charges depend on the severity of the fight, students and parents need to know that there will be zero tolerance for this kind of behavior at Willis Jepson.

School Administration and Staff will actively work with students to resolve conflicts and avoid fighting. Students who have reason to believe a fight may occur should immediately report this to school staff, a parent, or another adult. School staff make every effort to prevent fights from occurring, below are some further suggestions for doing so.

**Tips for Avoiding/Preventing a Fight:**
- Talk to an adult or school staff;
- Leave an anonymous note in the office;
- Repeat to the other student “I don’t want to fight…”
- Back away and get to a safe location;
- *Stay off social media, work to resolve conflicts and misunderstandings.*

**Tobacco/ Drugs/ Alcohol**

Possession or use of tobacco or any products containing tobacco (and nicotine containing devices i.e., any type of electronic cigarette or inhaling/smoking device), are prohibited and will result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension. A student who is under the influence of ANY controlled substance, alcohol, and/or any other intoxicant will receive disciplinary action up to and including suspension. The possession or unlawfully offering to sell any drug paraphernalia or any liquid substance or material that was represented as a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, and or intoxicant is prohibited. Disciplinary action will be taken up to and including suspension.
**Behavioral Consequences**
At Willis Jepson Middle School, we are working together to provide a positive and safe learning environment by respecting others, our work, property and ourselves. We realize that the parent has a great responsibility in the area of discipline. We feel it is important for the school and parent to work together toward this goal. We strive to maintain a discipline policy that is both fair and consistent.

In general, the Vacaville Unified School District Discipline Guidelines outline the consequences assigned for any offense. However, the administration reserves the right to skip and/or change the consequence at our discretion, based on the severity or continued recurrence of the offense.

Students who receive two misbehavior letters for chronic or ongoing misbehavior will be placed on a Behavior Contract. If a student receives three misbehavior letters, the student may be referred to the Vacaville Unified School District SARB Board.

**Teacher Class Suspension/ ADP**
When a student disrupts the learning environment, and other strategies have been attempted to redirect inappropriate classroom behavior, a teacher may suspend a student from their class, for the remainder of the period, and all of the next class period. It is the responsibility of the teacher to contact home, and communicate to the parents the reason for the class suspension. Students sent to the ADP classroom will be provided access to the curriculum. Students who disrupt the ADP classroom, or do not follow directions, will be suspended from school.

**Discipline Demerits will be assessed as follows:**

- TCS/ADP = 1
- Administrative Referral = 1 (may include a consequence of lunch detention)
- Saturday School = 4
- Missed detention = 1
- PED Violation = 1st offense 1, 2nd offense 1, 3rd offense 1
- Dress Code Violation = 1st offense 1, 2nd offense 1, 3rd offense 2
- Suspension (including In House) = 10 per day

**Most Serious Offenses:**
California Education Code Section 48915(c) states that the principal or superintendent shall immediately suspend, pursuant to section 48911, and shall recommend expulsion of a pupil that he or she determines has committed any of the following acts at school or at a school activity off school grounds:

1. Possessing, selling, or otherwise furnishing a firearm.
2. Brandishing a knife at another person.
4. Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or sexual battery as defined in subdivision (n) of Section 48900.
5. Possession of an explosive.
6. Causing serious physical injury to another person, except in self-defense.
7. Robbery or extortion.