

Parent Copy

Discipline Policy of School of The Heights

School of The Heights views discipline as not simply punishment but as training in righteousness, with the goal of Godliness (1 Timothy 4:7). The responsibility for discipline lies primarily with the parents, with the school assisting them as they fulfill their God-given obligation (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Ephesians 6:4). Therefore, we do not allow or believe in using the following methods as a means of discipline at STH: Corporal punishment, including paddling or hitting, belittlement, and meaningless tasks.

Discipline is primarily a parental responsibility. It is up to the parents to see that the students behave correctly. Parents do not relinquish their responsibility to the school. Instead, the school is here to support the parents in their discipline. If the school and the home are not working together on discipline, whatever the school does will be ineffective. While we employ various methods, the responsibility for student compliance finally rests with the parents, not with the school.

PURPOSE OF DISCIPLINE

The purpose of discipline in a Christian school is two-fold, first, to bring the Student to maturity in Christ, and second, to develop qualities of good citizenship. We reach these goals, specific standards of conduct are established. Students are asked to discipline themselves in relation to this code because the best form of discipline is self-discipline under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Indeed, the goal of all outward discipline is self-discipline within the framework of positive relationships between them.

Positively, the school seeks to cooperate with the home in forming good habits in the Student such as cheerful obedience to authority, courtesy and respect for others, responsibility, cleanliness and orderliness, truthfulness and honesty, morally correct conduct, and wise use of time, talents and material possessions. STH seeks, in other words, to build Godly character traits into the lives of its students and pursues an active program in doing so, both through instruction and example. A rebellious spirit or negative attitude, which is unchanged after much effort by the faculty, can be a poor influence on other students. Continued deliberate disobedience to a teacher or school rules harms the school's testimony.

As a general rule, classroom actions that evidence disrespect, lack of courtesy, general disturbance, abuse of permission, incomplete classwork, lateness, and other offenses shall be handled by the teacher. However, situations that the teacher evaluates as chronic, flagrant, or otherwise worthy of special handling will be referred to the Principal/Administrator. These situations will be dealt with as they seem most helpful to the individual and the student body as outlined under the guidelines in this document.

CODE OF CONDUCT

To best fulfill the goals of the discipline process, STH has established a Code of Conduct that defines expected student behavior and establishes the procedure and process for addressing disciplinary matters.

Students are expected to demonstrate the following behaviors and characteristics:

- Integrity is keeping one's word, speaking the truth, doing one's own work, carrying out responsibility (doing assignments adequately and on time), and respecting authority.
- Self respect toward School of The Heights and its employees and students, and the property of others.
- Courtesy extended in all relationships – Student to Student or Student to teacher/staff
- Stewardship of the property, supplies, and equipment of STH, as well as wise stewardship of personal items.
- Preparation for class and readiness to learn.
- Reconciliation through Biblical and appropriate repentance and forgiveness when offenses have been committed or received.

GENERAL SCHOOL RULES (At the teacher's discretion, other class rules may be made).

1. Students **MUST** respect others' rights and property and the authority of the Principal/ Administrator, teachers, and **ALL** school staff.
2. Students **MAY NOT** be in classrooms or school buildings without the supervision of a teacher or school staff.
3. Students are not to yell, run, or be rowdy in the walkways.
4. Students should not push, yell at, or bother others when walking as a class.
5. There is **NO** talking in the line to or from anywhere on campus.

6. Electronic devices are not allowed in school. Cell Phones are to be turned off while on campus and kept in the Student's backpack. STH is not responsible for loss or damage. Cell phones are not allowed to be used on school grounds.
7. Students must not damage or deface school property or property belonging to others. The Student and parent are responsible for paying for any damage done.
8. Students should help keep our school clean by placing trash in the trash containers and picking up trash even if they didn't throw it down.
9. Drinking fountains are to be kept clean. There is to be no shoving or pushing around the drinking fountains.
10. Children are NOT to speak to anyone who is on the sidewalk or in a car.
11. Students must display modesty. Refer to the Dress Code.

STEPS FOR DISCIPLINE:

Disciplinary action will be taken for infractions of school policy and rules. These may include detention, probation, suspension, or as a final resort, expulsion. The teacher in the classroom manages most disciplinary issues, and the process can involve any of the following, separately or in combination as appropriate.

The Teacher/Staff member will always begin by implementing the *Give 'Em Five Strategy*.

1. Support - Focus on the Student's strength.
2. Expectation - Refer to shared expectations, such as classroom rules or STH Keys to Character.
3. Breakdown - Describe how the expectation was not met.
4. Benefit - State how a different benefit could benefit the Student.
5. Closure - Finish with a positive statement, so both the Student and educator can move forward without damaging the relationship.

If the unacceptable behavior continues to occur, the following steps may be taken:

- Notification of behavior problems to parents by phone
- Detention
- Student conference with the Principal.
- A parent-teacher-student or parent-teacher-Principal conference

More extreme or persistent cases of misconduct will be managed by the administration and treated with one or more of the following measures:

- Detention
- Conference with the Principal and Teacher
- Probation, combined with appropriate application of consequences relevant to the offense
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension
- Withdrawal, until restitution and restoration can be confirmed via visible student behavior and pastoral counsel and recommendation; reinstatement on probation
- Expulsion

***Please sign and return this portion with your child's registration packet**

School of The Heights Discipline Policy

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

I have received a copy of the School of The Heights Discipline Policy. I will do my best to support the teachers and staff working on my child's behalf. I will resolve any issues that arise in a professional and timely manner to help my child. I have reviewed this information with my child/children. I understand that failure to adhere to the policy will lead to dismissal/expulsion.

Date:

Parent Signature

3rd -6th Grade Student Signature