

STURGEON COMPOSITE CONDUCT POLICY

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

As outlined in our Mission and Vision Statement, Sturgeon Composite High School endeavours to provide a safe and respectful environment for our students and staff. We are proud of our diversity and we respect the human rights of all members of our community. Students and staff will be treated with respect, kindness and fairness and they will treat others in the same manner. The Student Conduct Policy is available for parents and students on our school website. The policy will also be reviewed with students at various times throughout the school year.

The following section is a reference from Section 12 of the School Act.

A student shall conduct himself so as to comply with the following code of conduct:

- (a) Be diligent in pursuing his/her studies;
- (b) Attend school regularly and punctually;
- (c) Cooperate fully with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services;
- (d) Comply with the rules of the school;
- (e) Account to his/her teachers for his/her conduct;
- (f) Respect the right of others;

The following are additional expectations set by the school.

- (a) Refrain from the use of language or behavior that degrades, labels, stereotypes, or incites hatred, prejudice, discrimination or harassment.
- (b) Refrain from any written, physical or verbal behaviour that could reasonably be considered harassing, bullying or threatening. (This includes online behaviour/cyberbullying)
- (c) Refrain from the use of tobacco products including vapes and e-cigarettes (detailed below)
- (d) Refrain from the use of alcohol and illegal substances (detailed below)
- (e) Keep lockers, school building and grounds, clean and neat;
- (f) Keep personal items in lockers or on person;
- (g) Adhere to school dress code (outlined below);
- (h) Respect the community around the school.

Investigation of any inappropriate behaviour will take place in a timely manner.

Consequences for breaches of the Student Code of Conduct may include:

- phone call to parent/guardian
- lunch hour detention and/or community service
- referral for counselling
- in-school suspension
- out of school suspension (followed by meeting with Administration)
- recommendation for expulsion
- referral to School Resource Officer

HARASSMENT/SAFETY/FROSHING

For students to perform at their optimum level, they have to feel safe. Acts of physical violence, intimidation and harassment remove the ability of students to feel safe. Both the **School's policy** and the **School Division's policy on "Harassment"** recognize the severity of these types of infractions. If a student froshes or harasses another student which, (1) insults the student, (2) decreases a positive school climate and/or (3) results in damage to school, public or private property, then that person may be charged by the RCMP with "willful damage" or "mischief" and/or be suspended. **Repeat or flagrant offenses may result in expulsion.**

PHYSICAL ALTERCATION

We believe in a safe and caring learning environment and believe that physical altercations such as fighting, are counterproductive to the major purposes of an educational institution. Students who engage in physical altercations may receive a range of consequences which may include transfer of the student to the custody of parents, suspension from school, recommendation for expulsion from school, or involvement of law enforcement agencies. This policy is in effect during school hours and for all school sponsored activities on and off school property.

SMOKING

Sturgeon Composite is a Tobacco Free facility. **All tobacco products, including chewing tobacco are prohibited on Sturgeon School Division property and students who do not comply with policy may serve an out-of-school suspension, and if they are under the age of 18, may be fined. NOTE:** This includes the use of tobacco products in vehicles.

E-CIGARETTES/VAPORIZERS

The use of any type of e-cigarette/vaporizer is prohibited. Vapoizers may be confiscated and returned to a parent/guardian.

ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

It is the belief of SCHS that a drug culture is counter productive to the major purposes of an educational institution. Therefore, any students found in possession of, involved with, or using illegal substances will be dealt with severely and harshly. Sturgeon Composite High School follows division policy in this regard. The policy can be found here:

http://www.sturgeon.ab.ca/Portals/0/policy-handbook/F_IV_02.pdf.

It states:

1.0 POLICY

1.1 The possession, distribution and/or use of restricted and/or illicit drugs is prohibited.

1.2 The Board believes that the Division, in co-operation with families, community and law enforcement agencies, has a responsibility to:

1.2.1 Educate students regarding drug abuse; and

1.2.2 Ensure that students who are under the influence of drugs while under school supervision receive appropriate consequences, which may include recommendation for expulsion.

1.2.3 Ensure that students who possess drugs and/or drug paraphernalia or traffic in drugs while under school supervision are recommended for expulsion.

2.0 GUIDELINES

2.1 Further to Policy F/IV/7 – Student Conduct, Principals shall take disciplinary action with a student found at school or at a school sanctioned activity, who has consumed, is under the influence of, is in possession of, is trafficking in or is distributing drugs.

2.2 Students will be held responsible and accountable to Sturgeon School Division and its agents for their behavior and conduct beyond the hours of school operation, if that behavior or conduct has a connection back to the school and demonstrated detrimental impact on the welfare of individual students.

ALCOHOL

The use or possession of alcohol while under the school's jurisdiction may result in one or more of the following: transfer of the student to the custody of parents, suspension from school, expulsion from school, or involvement of law enforcement agencies. This policy is in effect for all school sponsored activities on and off school property. School jurisdiction includes:

- a) Possession or use of alcohol in the school;
- b) Possession and/or use of alcohol on school grounds;
- c) Possession and/or use of alcohol in personally owned vehicles;
- d) Possession and/or use of alcohol while in the custody of the school (eg: leaving school grounds to drink alcohol, being under the influence while riding the school bus, etc).

DRESS CODE

In keeping with the philosophy of Alberta Education, we strive to help our students become productive citizens who are ready to enter the work force or are ready to pursue post-secondary education. As a result, students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates respect and to dress appropriately for a school/work place setting.

- (a) Footwear must be worn at all times in the school.
- (b) Students must not wear clothing or accessories that have sharp points or edges.
- (c) Students must not wear clothing/accessories that are offensive or depict illegal/immoral behavior.
- (d) Students must wear clothing that covers their chest, back and midriff and is appropriate in a work setting.
- (e) Shorts and skirts must be appropriate for a work setting.
- (f) Make-up must be appropriate for the work setting.
- (g) No attire that results in exposed undergarments.

The final determination about modesty and/or appropriateness of dress lies with school staff. Students who are dressed inappropriately will be asked to change; if they do not have a change of clothing, a parent will be contacted to pick them up in extreme situations.

VANDALISM

We are proud of our school and want to ensure that vandalism does not occur. The willful and malicious destruction of property will not be tolerated. Students caught damaging school property will be required to pay for damages; may be reported to the police; suspended from school; or, in some instances, may be recommended for expulsion from school. Our students are our ambassadors and act as proud citizens of our school. We rely upon students to take ownership of the school climate and environment. Any student who wishes to report any type of concern or share pertinent information is encouraged to speak to one of the administrators or counsellors who will treat the information as confidential, and are in a position to respond accordingly.

WEAPONS

Any student found in possession of a weapon, or replica of a weapon, whether on their person, in their vehicle, or in their locker or desk, may be suspended and/or recommended for expulsion.

NOTE: A weapon is anything used, designed to be used, or intended for use in causing injury or death to any person, or for the purpose of threatening or intimidating any person.

PERSONALLY OWNED DEVICES

A personally owned device has two primary functions as it relates to it being used at Sturgeon Composite High School.

- a) Personal use which would include access to social media, communicating with parents, use as a media device and other personally related functions.
- b) Educational use where the device is used to access educationally related resources or to facilitate or enhance the educational opportunities afforded to students.

While in class, the primary function of any personally owned device will be educational therefore personal use of that device must be limited. The device should be used to perform educational functions while in class and any other function will be at the discretion of the teacher. Teachers are responsible for the educational integrity of the classroom and therefore will expect students to focus on their educational pursuits while in class and not on the personal use of their device. If a student refuses to comply with a request by a teacher to not use the device for personal use, they will contact home to inform the parent of the situation. Subsequent refusal to comply is considered as defiance of a teacher and will be dealt with by administration. A teacher may require that a personal device is not brought to a specific class.

In some instances, a personally owned device does not substitute for other educational devices. For example, students need a calculator for any examinations especially for diploma examinations personally owned devices are not allowed in examination rooms. **Alberta Education Policy states that students may not bring cell phones and/or personal audio devices into the examination room.**

If a student must be contacted for any reason during the school day, parents/guardians should contact the General Office and the message will be relayed to the student. For emergencies only, the student will be contacted immediately in the classroom. Parents are encouraged not to text/phone their children during class time.

Students will not engage in activities with electronic devices that could result in invasions of privacy and/or sexual harassment. No photos, video or audio recordings will be taken of student or staff member without the subject's permission. Students will not engage in any form of bullying with electronic devices. Police may be involved due to the new cyberbullying laws.