



VISTA CHARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

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SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

"The mission of VISTA is to create a learning environment that allows students to have power in developing their identity within personal, interpersonal and educational realms.

We provide a quality education for all students, by creating a learning community that involves students in their development of the knowledge, skills, attitude, behaviors, aspirations, and beliefs needed to be successful academically and possess life long learning skills.

Student success in the middle grades is critical to success in high school, college, and future careers."

It is with this part of our Mission in mind, that we expect all of our students to understand and obey the following code of conduct that will create a safe learning environment, where the focus is on academic achievement, citizenship, the development of every students' talents, and physical development through exercise. We will hold all of our students accountable to this.

The teachers and staff of this school believe that, if VISTA Charter Middle School achieves this mission, our students will have a place where they can, *"find their passion."* Furthermore, It is our intent that, as students develop their identity, they choose to make wise choices in the behavior they exhibit, as they understand that self-discipline, in the form of appropriate behavior conducive to learning, is part of their development as contributing and productive members of society.

As parents choose to enroll their children at VISTA Charter Middle School, they understand that they are choosing, on their own accord, to follow and support the code of conduct set herewith, and that if at any point in time, they or their children fail to do so, our school has the right to inform and support parents, as well as enforce it.

We must all understand that the image that our school will portray is, in grand part, determined by the behavior of our students and the physical appearance of our building. Therefore, we must all -students, teachers, administrators, staff and community members - make VISTA Charter Middle School a better place in which to learn and work.

Rules

The following rules apply while on school premises, school buses, or any other school property, during school activities at or away from school, or off the school grounds if the situation is initiated at school. Students shall be given due process before a disciplinary action is taken. Any student conduct that would constitute criminal conduct under the California Education Code is also a violation of VISTA Charter Middle School - Code of Conduct. The rules also apply to any form of student misconduct directed at an employee, at any place, at any time.

I. Failure to Obey Instructions / Insubordination / Disrespect: *No student shall fail to comply with any lawful instructions or requests of teachers, student-teachers, principals or other authorized personnel during any period of time when he or she is properly under the authority of such school personnel. No student shall fail to provide information, or supply false information, when it is requested.*

2. Disruption of School: *Students shall not cause any disruption that inhibits fellow classmates from learning or that obstructs the normal operation of the school.*

3. Use of Obscene Language / Materials / Actions / Gestures: *Students shall not use obscene, vulgar or profane language, make inappropriate gestures/actions or possess vulgar materials.*

4. Violation of Bus Rules: *Students must follow all Bus Rules as outlined in Code of Conduct/Discipline – Bus Rules.*

5. Dress Code: *See Code of Conduct/Discipline – Dress Code*

6. Harassment/Bullying: *Students shall not harass other students, school employees, persons that are guests of the school or persons conducting business for the school. This category also applies to remarks or actions of a sexual, racial, ethnic or religious nature that are deemed offensive.*

7. Intimidation/Threats: *Students shall not, through verbal, written, technological or any other means, make statements that state that physical or emotional harm may come to another person or to an institution. Bomb threats will result in expulsion from school.*

8. Attendance: *No student shall fail to comply with state attendance laws including, but not limited to, truancy or tardiness from a specific class or school. No student shall leave school property or an assigned educational location once he or she has come under the supervision of a school employee, prior to specified dismissal times, without official permission.*

9. Forgery: *Students shall not misrepresent a signature on any document.*

10. Theft: *Students shall respect the personal ownership rights of others. Students shall not take ownership of items of others. The principal may exercise the prerogative of reporting thefts to local authorities.*

11. Damage of Property: *Students shall not cause or attempt to cause damage of school property, including buses and bus seats, walls, restrooms, classrooms and their furniture and technology, or personal property. Students shall not touch or handle another person's property without their authorization. Students must pay for any damages they cause to school equipment, materials or facilities and may be subject to additional disciplinary action. Students shall not bring to school permanent markers and liquid correction fluid.*

12. Academic Dishonesty: *Students shall not give or receive unauthorized information regarding classwork or class activities, misrepresent the results of researched or laboratory assignments, or give or receive unauthorized assistance on assignments. Use of electronic translators without permission is a violation of this rule. Repeated violations may result in failure of academic subjects.*

13. Inappropriate Displays of Affection: *Students shall refrain from displays of affection. Students are not to hold hands, hug, kiss or demonstrate other similar acts of affection. In unusual circumstances involving sorrow or extreme joy, hugging is natural and acceptable.*

14. Unauthorized or Unsupervised Areas: *Students may not be in areas for which they have not been authorized or areas that are unsupervised.*

15. Hazing (Initiations): *Initiations of any sort are prohibited. Initiations and/or hazing are those activities into which students are coerced in order to become part of a group or activity or to avoid harm.*

16. Technology Misuse/Abuse: *School computers/technology are provided for student use for teacher-assigned work in courses or programs at our school. (See Code of Conduct/Discipline - Technology Usage Policy). Portable electronics are not allowed on campus, with the exception of cell phones, which must be turned off during normal school hours.*

17. Dangerous Weapons and Instruments: *Students shall not possess, handle, transmit or conceal any dangerous weapon or instrument on school property, in a school vehicle or at any school-sponsored activity. It will be recommended to expel those students in violation of this policy. Firearms (including starter pistols), objects that are indistinguishable from and/or represented as firearms, explosives, incendiary devices and knives (any object with a blade and a handle) are considered dangerous weapons.*

Other instruments/devices may also be defined as dangerous weapons depending on their use or intended use. Should a student have knowledge of a weapon or dangerous instrument on school property, in a school vehicle or at a school-sponsored activity and not report it to a school employee, the student may be held to the same disciplinary measures as that of the perpetrator. Specific violations include but are not limited to:

1. *Use, possession, sale or distribution of a firearm*
2. *Use, possession, sale or distribution of any explosive, incendiary or poison gas*
3. *Use, possession, sale or distribution of a dangerous weapon other than a firearm or explosive, incendiary or poison gas (including knives and any other object with a blade and a handle)*
4. *Use, possession, sale or distribution of objects that are indistinguishable from and/or represented as firearms, explosives, incendiary devices and knives*

18. Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages and Drugs: *Students shall not possess, use, transmit, conceal, make arrangements to sell or purchase, or use the aforementioned items immediately prior to or during school or a school function. Look-alike drugs and drug paraphernalia are included and will be dealt with accordingly. (Code of Conduct/Discipline – Alcohol, Tobacco, Drug and Other Use/Abuse Policy.) Specific violations include but are not limited to:*

1. *Use, possession, sale or distribution of intoxicating Alcoholic Beverages*
2. *Use, possession, sale or distribution of drugs other than tobacco or alcohol*

19. Tobacco: *Tobacco, in any form, shall not be carried or used by any student on school property or at school events, home or away. Paraphernalia used for the consumption of tobacco products is prohibited. The Principal may refer violators of the tobacco policy to the proper authorities.*

20. Assault: *Students shall not act or threaten to act in such a way as to cause physical injury to other students, any school employee or other persons. Specific violations include but are not limited to:*

1. *Fighting/Violence*
2. *Serious Bodily Injury*
3. *Threats of fighting, violence, or serious bodily injury*

21. General Misconduct: *Students shall refrain from throwing objects, or being abusive or excessively disruptive in their behavior. Respect the rights, feelings and safety of others.*

22. Gross Misconduct: *Repeated violations of the Code of Conduct*

23. Other violations: *Other conduct violations not covered in the above rules.*

Consequences

A violation of any rule may result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to:

In Class:

- 1st time: Verbal/non-verbal warning
- 2nd time: Verbal/non-verbal warning
- 3rd time: In-class Reflection
- 4th time: Reflection is sent home for parent signature and returned to class the following day. Parent contact is made by teacher.
- 5th time: Student sent to partner class to complete a pre-made assignment and

parent contact (phone or in person) will be scheduled with admin.

During Passing Time

- If student truly understands what action he/she committed and apologizes, no more action will be taken;
- If student does not understand, is obscene, rude, etc. He/she gets sent to office for a call home.

Additional Consequences include, but are not limited to:

- 1 Behavior Contract
- 2 After-School/Saturday Detention
- 3 Loss of other privileges
- 3 Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
- 4 Expulsion
- 5 Compensatory payment of damages

Notice: The use of video surveillance equipment may be used in the investigation of violations of the Code of Conduct and may be used by school officials for educational purposes and safety. Therefore, these records will remain in possession of the school/district. Students may receive discipline as a result of what is recorded.