

Student Good Conduct Rule

The objective of the Good Conduct Rule is to establish and provide for the enforcement of specific standards for all students attending Indianola Middle School who are involved in extra-curricular (athletics, clubs, etc.) and/or co-curricular activities (band, vocal music, orchestra, etc.) or where students attend class to participate in this activity. This rule shall govern the following activities: interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, drill team, instrumental music, orchestra, vocal music, drama, debate, speech, student publications, and all other school sponsored clubs, organizations, and activities. This does not include activities that are not sponsored by the Iowa Middle/High School Athletic Association or the Iowa Girls Middle/High School Athletic Union.

It is the philosophy of Indianola Community Schools that participation in extra-curricular and/or co-curricular activities is a privilege to be earned by not only demonstrating a particular talent or ability, but also by demonstrating lawful and reasonable conduct. This policy shall be in effect for the entire calendar year (365 days), both during the regular school year as well as all vacation periods.

The district's Middle School administration shall promptly investigate any report of a violation of the Good Conduct Rule. Based on factual circumstances relevant to said report, the Middle School administrative team shall determine whether the student has, in fact, violated the Good Conduct Rule. Such factual determination shall be based upon substantial evidence when the information is obtained or reported from non-school personnel in an informal administrative investigation. This investigation shall not be limited by any formal rules of evidence or procedure.

The following behaviors or actions by a student shall be in violation of the Good Conduct Rule and shall be determined by a student being observed by a source deemed reliable by the Middle School administrative team after an investigation, or student admitting to violating these rules.

- ◆ Possessing or using any tobacco product.
- ◆ Possessing, using, selling, manufacturing, distributing, or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage.
- ◆ Possessing, using, selling, manufacturing, distributing, or being under the influence of any controlled substance, or a "look-alike" substance unless such substance was prescribed for that student by a valid prescription or order of a licensed medical practitioner while acting in the course of his or her duties.
- ◆ Possessing, using, selling, manufacturing, or distributing any drug paraphernalia or apparatus used to allow the person using it to be involved with a controlled substance.
- ◆ Committing an act that would be a violation of the law, other than minor traffic violations. This would involve such acts as assault, breaking and entering, theft and shoplifting, vandalism, fraud, possession of a dangerous weapon or object, etc. A determination that a student has violated the Good Conduct Rule by the commission of a crime may be made without regard to whether the student is prosecuted or convicted of such crime by other authorities.
- ◆ Repeated violations of rules and regulations established by the Board of Education.

First Offense

A student violating the Good Conduct Rule shall be ineligible to participate in 1/3 of the entire season of all regularly scheduled public performances in all activities that he or she is engaged in at the time of infraction, or in the next activity in which the student is involved. If a student is involved in more than one activity at the time of the Good Conduct Rule violation, the activity in season will take precedence in determining how many events the student will be ineligible for.

Students will be allowed the option of completing three scheduled counseling sessions with one of the Middle School counselors dealing with issues pertaining to the Good Conduct Rule violation. If you choose this option, you will reduce your consequence by 1/3 of the original consequence. (Example: The original consequence in football would be three games. If you chose the counseling option, it would be two games.) The expectation is that the student must participate in all practices or obligations during that activity in order to gain eligibility after the suspension. If the student is absent for unexcused reasons they may be removed from that activity and the consequence would be imposed during the next activity the student participates in.

This violation will be in effect for one calendar year. If there are no violations within that year, the student will have a clean slate and any other violation after that date will return to the first offense.

Second Offense

A student violating the Good Conduct Rule for the second time within one calendar year shall be ineligible to participate in 1/2 of the entire season of all regularly scheduled public performances in all activities that he or she is engaged in at the time of infraction, or in the next activity in which the student is involved. If a student is involved in more than one activity at the time of the Good Conduct Rule violation, the activity in season will take precedence in determining how many events the

student will be ineligible for. The expectation is that the student must participate in all practices or obligations during that activity in order to gain eligibility after the suspension. If the student is absent for unexcused reasons they may be removed from that activity and the consequence would be imposed during the next activity the student participates in.

Students will be allowed the option of completing scheduled counseling sessions with an outside agency (at their own expense) dealing with issues pertaining to the Good Conduct Rule violation. (Example: Prevention Concepts.) If you choose this option, you will reduce your consequence by 1/2 of the original consequence. (Example: The original consequence in football would be five games. If you chose the counseling option, it would be three games.) This violation will be considered completed after the ineligibility is served and upon documentation of the completion of the counseling sessions.

This violation will be in effect for one calendar year. If there are no violations within that year, the student will have a clean slate and any other violation after that date will return to the first offense.

Third Offense

A student violating the Good Conduct Rule for the third time within one calendar year shall be ineligible to participate in all regularly scheduled public performances in all activities which the student is involved for one calendar year (365 days) from the date of the infraction. Students must also complete scheduled counseling sessions with an outside agency (at their own expense) dealing with issues pertaining to the Good Conduct Rule violation. (Example: Prevention Concepts.) Any additional violation of the Good Conduct Rule within that year will result in an additional one calendar year (365 days) ineligibility period which starts with the day of the latest infraction. This violation will be considered completed after the ineligibility is served and upon documentation of the completion of the counseling sessions.

This violation will be in effect for one calendar year. If there are no violations within that year, the student will have a clean slate and any other violation after that date will return to the first offense.

Special Considerations

Students who are participating in Middle School activities during the summer between grade 8 and grade 9 are considered to be in grade 9.

Students wishing to serve a suspension for a Good Conduct Rule violation in an activity they have not been in before must meet with the in-season coach, the Athletic Director, and the Assistant Principal to determine whether he/she will be allowed to serve the suspension during that activity. The student will need to arrange this meeting. Any student serving a Good Conduct Rule Violation suspension must complete the season for the suspension time to be fulfilled.

This rule applies to all seniors who have graduated and are participating in state association or school sponsored activities during the spring and summer months.

Any ineligibility for activities under this policy shall be in addition to any other action or temporary suspension or expulsion from school under other school district rules and regulations.

Students who are removed from a class for inappropriate behavior, trancies, or in the opinion of the Middle School administrative team, not displaying appropriate behavior at school, at extra-curricular or co-curricular activities, or on school owned property may be ruled ineligible to participate in practice or public performances. The Middle School administrative team will make this determination.

Appeal Process

Any student may, by written notice to the Middle School principal or assistant principal within seven (7) days of notice of ineligibility, appeal such decision to the superintendent of schools. Upon receipt of the notice of appeal or notification thereof, the superintendent of schools shall appoint a panel consisting of four teachers to hear such appeal. The superintendent of schools and the panel shall confirm the ineligibility, or shall declare the student eligible. If the student wishes to appeal the superintendent's decision, they must do so in writing within three (3) days of such decision to the Board of Education. If the student is not in acceptance, he or she may appeal the Board of Education's decision to the State Board of Education. Any student who is ruled ineligible prior to the appeal will remain ineligible until the appeal process is completed.

ref. School Board Code: 503.4

We sign below to signify we understand this policy. We also understand we must sign this document before our son or daughter will be allowed to practice or participate in any public performance for any extra-curricular or co-curricular school sponsored groups while representing the Indianola Schools.

Student's Signature

Date

Student's Printed Name

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

