



STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Sparrow Academy

2022-2023

Overview of Discipline Policy

The mission of Sparrow Academy is to approach the whole child in a compassionate, safe, progressive learning environment, where all children are able to reach their maximum potential.

Our core belief at Sparrow Academy is based on the paradigm of a compassionate, progressive approach to education. We understand that children respond to their environment and we strive to take a purposeful, relational approach to our children, parents and teachers in order to create a place of safety and acceptance for children to learn. Sparrow Academy is attuned to the latest research and studies in education, neuroscience and the healing arts, and has taken that knowledge to create a school for children who need that understanding.

We take a purposeful, relational approach to all individuals, especially those children who need a calm, relaxed environment, those exposed to trauma, and those who are dealing with emotional stress. We seek to understand the connection between presenting symptoms and behaviors and the child's life experience in order to better educate the child. We offer an environmentally aware atmosphere that focuses on meeting the needs of the child before the child acts out to have needs met.

We understand that our brain controls all behaviors. In order to calm the behaviors of children, we must work to calm their brain. Neuroscience tells us the brain can be calmed through the five senses. Therefore, our classrooms are calm, sensory-aware environments. We strive to understand why behaviors happen instead of blaming the child for the behavior. Once the behavior is understood, we can then help the child behave in a more appropriate manner.

We also believe that ultimate healing only comes from God. Therefore, guiding children to a personal understanding and relationship with God is imperative to success. We lead children in a daily time of prayer and reflection. Additionally, all children take part in direct instruction on the Bible and attend weekly chapel services.

Equality Statement

The Sparrow Education Foundation, Inc. admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at our school and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, and national or ethnic origin in administration of our educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Parental Involvement

Sparrow Academy understands the importance of families being actively involved in the education of their children. Therefore, we strive to involve families in a meaningful manner. In addition to the standard parental involvement programs found in typical schools, we offer families a wide variety of parenting resources and expect parents to implement approaches to building relationships at home to complement the techniques used at Sparrow Academy.

School Climate and Discipline

At Sparrow Academy we take a proactive, innovative approach toward classroom management and student discipline. We will strive to meet the needs of children before they act out to have their needs met. We understand that our brain controls our behavior. Therefore, in order to calm student behaviors, we must first calm the brain.

We take a positive, proactive approach to meeting the behavioral needs of our students in a manner that promotes respect for self and others. At Sparrow Academy we implement a "responsibility modeled approach" toward discipline, instead of the traditional "obedience modeled approach." The key points to our classroom management program will focus on the following aspects:

- Managing student behavior is part of the job of an educator.
- All children deserve to be treated with dignity.
- Discipline works best when coupled with effective teaching strategies.

- All adults will strive to make positive, consistent connections with children.
- Acting out equals stressed out and can be an act of sanity.
- Being fair is not always equal. Each child and situation will be handled by considering all of the pertinent facts.

Approach to Discipline

The approach to discipline at Sparrow Academy incorporates the components of a variety of programs and research. We take a common sense, proactive approach. We use what has been called the "Rule of Good Judgment," when disciplining a child. Our program is based on the neuroscience research of Dr. Bruce Perry and Dr. Spencer Kagan. We implement components of Discipline with Dignity developed by Richard Curwin and Allen Mendler and the idea that children do well if they can, developed by Dr. Ross Greene. Our program is proactive and strives to ensure a calm, peaceful environment for children and teachers.

Sparrow Academy does not have a lengthy document that sets out to define every offense a child may commit, along with an "if that, then this" set of consequences. Instead, Sparrow Academy employs professionals who look at a situation, consider all of the factors and then make an informed decision that will help the child learn a better way to handle a similar situation in the future. We see behavior just like academics. If a child can't read, we teach, if a child can't multiply, we teach, if a child can't behave appropriately, we teach.

At Sparrow Academy we endeavor to not use out of school suspension. We understand that children need to be in class in order to learn. Most children with emotional illness know how to "leave." At Sparrow Academy we want to teach children how to stay. Only after multiple interventions have been unsuccessful, will out of school suspension be considered.

Behavioral Expectations

All students at Sparrow Academy are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is respectable and God-honoring. Students are expected to treat their classmates, teachers, staff members and self with dignity. If a student is in need of a behavior plan, the staff of Sparrow Academy will expect the student to strive to meet his/her individual behavioral goals and to follow the behavior plan developed. All infractions of a student's behavior plan will be documented and provided to the child and parent, as needed. A student's continued refusal to work towards the goals set in the individual behavior plan may result in dismissal from Sparrow Academy.

General Rules and Regulations

Attendance

Regular school attendance is extremely important for student success. While we understand at times students will miss class due to appointments, these should be kept at a minimum. The school day begins at 7:45 each morning and ends at 2:45. Any student arriving after 7:45 will be considered tardy. All early check outs will be documented on the student's attendance record. Excessive absences, tardies and early dismissals could result in dismissal from Sparrow Academy. Ten or more unexcused attendance issues per quarter will result in your child being placed on probationary status.

Bullying

The staff of Sparrow Academy will strive to maintain a bully free atmosphere. All accusations of bullying will be investigated and dealt with in an appropriate manner. In order for an incident to be considered bullying, the following criteria must be met.

1. The behavior is unwanted, offensive, threatening, intimidating, insulting, causing discomfort or humiliation, or interferes with the individual's school performance which results in the victim feels stressed, injured, or threatened.
2. The behaviors are repeated.
3. There is an imbalance of power between the bully and the victim.

Dress Code

Tops: A Sparrow Academy T-shirt is to be worn daily.

Bottoms: Students may wear pants or appropriate length shorts made of any fabric desired. Shorts must be at least mid-thigh length. Pants and shorts should be free of rips or tears. Pajama pants are not allowed.

Shoes: Students must wear closed-toe shoes of the appropriate size. Boots and crocks are not allowed.

Any clothing that has words, terms, or pictures that may be offensive to others is unacceptable. Examples include but are not limited to: drug references, violent images, skulls, profanity, etc.

Individual Behavior Plans

Students at Sparrow Academy who are in need, will work with teachers and staff to develop personal behavior goals and a plan to reach the goals. The plan will be individualized for each child and will include short and long term targets, steps for reaching goals, student, teacher and parent interventions, and rewards and consequences. Once developed, the plan will be reviewed with each student's parent or guardian. This individual plan will list specific, inappropriate behaviors and will list the progressive disciplinary actions that will be taken for individual students. All plans will be reviewed and revised as needed to meet the changing needs of the student.

Medication

Students are not allowed personal possession of any medication while at school. All medications will be stored in a locked cabinet in the school clinic. Medication will be administered by a trained staff member based on a doctor's order that must be on file with all medications. All medications must be brought to the school by an adult. Students should not bring medication for the clinic. Medication must be in the original labeled container prepared by a pharmacist or manufacturer accompanied by a completed Authorization for Medication form.

Cell Phones/ Devices

Students are not allowed to use personal cell phones or devices during school hours. If usage becomes a problem for a student, the device will be taken by administration and the parents notified to pick up the device.

Textbooks and Library Obligations

Students are responsible for maintaining all books and materials in good, usable condition. Any lost or damaged materials will be the responsibility of the student/parent.

Visitors

Students may not have visitors during the school day. Any parent or parent representative wishing to observe their child in class must obtain permission from the principal prior to the visit. Any outside counselors or other professionals wishing to visit with students must have proper documentation and should arrange visits in a manner which would minimize the disruption of the student's educational process.