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### **Philosophy of Conduct & Citizenship**

The Mahwah Township Public Schools collectively believe that everyone has the right to be part of a supportive, safe learning environment where positive behaviors are recognized, and misconduct is an opportunity to teach, learn, and grow. We value partnering with our families to help students succeed. Consistent, fair, and respectful responses to behavior are essential to the educational process and, ultimately, the success of our schools.

<b>School Responsibilities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● To give students the tools to make positive and safe choices</li><li>● To foster students' self-esteem by providing opportunities to explore their abilities and characteristics</li><li>● To encourage citizenship in our school community and beyond</li><li>● To promote a climate and culture in our schools that supports achievement and cultivates mutual respect, responsibility, and integrity</li></ul>
<b>Student Responsibilities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● To treat and be treated with respect and courtesy</li><li>● To learn, grow, and share knowledge without disruption</li><li>● To feel safe at school</li><li>● To take responsibility for learning</li><li>● To work together to be caring members of our schools</li><li>● To be accountable and responsible for our decisions</li><li>● To be positive contributors toward supporting a safe school</li></ul>

### **Ways to Praise**

Recognition can vary from individual schools, with some examples including, but not limited to:

<b>Examples of Celebrating Students' Success</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Morning Meeting Recognition</li><li>● Positive Praise</li><li>● Principal's Luncheon</li><li>● Teacher's Luncheon</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Spirit Awards</li><li>● Student of the Month</li><li>● Cooperative Games</li><li>● SEL Awards</li></ul>



### **Response to Misconduct**

The Mahwah Township Public Schools believes in a restorative approach that maintains the dignity and safety of all students by utilizing the Responsive Classroom model, as well as related SEL approaches. When redirection/correction is needed with student behavior, adults at school address the behavior by utilizing a *progressive discipline* approach, designed to support and educate the student while preserving the child's dignity.

#### **Examples of Minor Infractions to Be Addressed By the Classroom Teacher**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disrespectful language</li><li>• Dishonesty</li><li>• Disruption/Calling Out</li><li>• Pushing/Horseplay</li><li>• Property misuse</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Profanity</li><li>• Conflict with a classmate</li><li>• Inappropriate object-toy</li><li>• Any of the above reported from recess or lunch (first offense)</li></ul> |
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#### **Examples of Ways Teachers Support Students**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Redirection or provide the child with alternative options</li><li>• Teacher and student conference</li><li>• Parent contact</li><li>• Guidance counselor support</li><li>• Verbal correction/warning</li><li>• Loss of privileges during the school day</li><li>• Strategic seating</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete reflection form with an adult</li><li>• Change seat/group</li><li>• Object confiscated</li><li>• Calm corner break/Visit to the Zen Den</li><li>• Peer conflict mediation</li><li>• Guide the child in fixing problems in an age-appropriate manner</li></ul> |
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#### **Examples of Major Infractions to Be Addressed by Building Principal**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Resistant behavior, for example, abusive language and/or acts of aggression</li><li>• Fighting: punching, kicking, etc</li><li>• Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying (<a href="#">HIB</a>)</li><li>• Ongoing disruption (3rd Offense)</li><li>• Elopement</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Patterned/repeated behaviors</li><li>• Inappropriate object-Weapon lookalike</li><li>• Theft</li><li>• Vandalism/Damaging property</li><li>• Inappropriate touching or exposure</li><li>• Bus misconduct (<i>please see <a href="#">bus contract</a></i>)</li></ul> |
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#### **Examples of Ways Administrators Address Infractions**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Admin and student conference</li><li>• Parent Contact/Conference</li><li>• Guidance Counselor Support</li><li>• Complete written reflection form review with an adult</li><li>• Verbal correction/Warning</li><li>• Making amends</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Utilizing the Nurse's Bathroom</li><li>• Peer Conflict Mediation</li><li>• Loss of privileges during the school day</li><li>• Assigning a seat at lunch</li><li>• Lunch Detention</li><li>• Suspension - In School/Out of School</li><li>• Contact police</li></ul> |
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