

JRHS CODE OF CONDUCT 2024-2025

Introduction

JRHS is an inclusive school. We are committed to affirming and promoting equity, dignity, diversity, and inclusion in all facets of school life.

Discrimination is any form of unequal treatment based on imposing extra burdens or denying benefits to any marginalized community. It may be intentional or unintentional. It may involve direct actions that are discriminatory, or it may involve rules, practices or procedures that appear neutral, but disadvantage certain groups of people. Discrimination will not be tolerated, and sanctions may be imposed.

Each student has the obligation to act in accordance with the John Rennie Code of Conduct and to comply with administration and staff directives at all times. In order to ensure that the rights of all (as outlined in the John Rennie High School Mission Statement and the LBPSB Safe and Caring Schools Policy), are safeguarded, we all share the responsibility to govern ourselves according to these rules.

“All members of the school community must treat one another with dignity and respect at all time - especially when there is disagreement”

Bullying and Violence

- I understand that there are respectable and acceptable ways in which to handle my frustrations and anger. I will not use bullying, violence, fighting, threatening behavior, verbal abuse, harassment (racial, sexual or other), persistent truancy or opposition to authority in order to express my anger or frustration. I will seek the help of a guidance counselor, teacher, administrator, or health professional in the school whenever necessary.
- I understand that bullying is any repeated direct or indirect behavior, comment, act, or gesture, whether deliberate or not, including in cyberspace, which occurs in a context where there is a power imbalance between the persons concerned and which causes distress and injuries, hurts, oppresses, intimidates or ostracizes. Bullying is an unacceptable behavior and will not be tolerated at John Rennie. *** cyberspace includes but is not limited to social media, texting, posting and other online activities.

- I understand that John Rennie High School will not tolerate in our programs, activities, or on school property, any symbols of hate that are disruptive to the learning environment; contain language, symbols, or images that are discriminatory; are recognized to promote hate or violent conduct; or contain threats. These include, but are not limited to, student and adult apparel, accessories, gestures, or other symbols such as those that depict symbols of hate.
- I understand that violence is any intentional demonstration of verbal, written, physical, psychological or sexual force which causes distress and injures, hurts, or oppresses a person by attacking their psychological or physical integrity or well being, or their rights or property. No form of violence will be tolerated at John Rennie.
- I understand that I should report to an administrator, guidance counselor, teacher or health professional in the school, any incident of bullying and/or violence that I have witnessed. I understand that all information I provide will be kept confidential and that my rights will be protected.

Cyberbullying and Digital Misconduct

- I understand that any inappropriate use of social media that is deemed to constitute an act of bullying, intimidation, harassment, extortion or violence is unacceptable. Students involved in any form of Cyber Misconduct may be suspended or recommended for a transfer or expulsion depending on the gravity of the situation. Other sanctions may also be applied.
 - No electronic device may be used to bully, harass, intimidate or threaten the security and wellbeing of any member of the John Rennie community.
 - The school cannot assume responsibility for the use of social media particularly outside of school hours. Parents should be sure to monitor their child's online activity and report any hate speech, threats, photos containing nudity, illegal substances or weapons directly to the police.
 - Being in possession of and/or circulating photos of a minor child depicting nudity or committing a sexual act is a criminal offense.
 - No technological devices (i.e. phones, recording devices, tablets, computers, smartwatches, smart glasses, etc.) may be used to invade the personal privacy of other students and staff members or to disrupt the safe and secure culture for learning. It is prohibited to photograph or to record a student or staff member without their explicit consent.

Technology Use

- The use of personal electronic devices (smartwatches, listening devices, tablets, cellular devices, smart glasses, etc...) is only permitted before 8:05 for Sport Etudes students and 9:00 for all other students, during recess, during your lunch block, and after 3:35 pm).
 - Devices are not permitted during class time or during passing time.
 - Devices are not permitted in classrooms and should remain at home or be left in the locker **on silent**.
 - If a student is asked for their electronic device by a staff member, they must give it to them without argument. Their phone will be kept at the office and returned at the end of the day. If this happens often, a meeting with parents will be called.
 - Parents are asked to refrain from communicating with students during class time. Please contact the main office in case of an emergency.
 - Cell phones will not be allowed in the planning room or office area.
 - Unless it is a teacher-led activity, the playing of audio devices out loud is prohibited.

Dress Code

- I understand that John Rennie High School has a designated school top. This top must be worn as the outer layer of clothing while on school property or during participation in a school ordained activity or outing. This includes during Physical Education courses. The top may not be altered in any way (cut, rolled, dyed, shortened, held back with a clip or tied, etc.). If a student arrives at school without a school top they will be asked to return home to get one or have a parent drop it off before being admitted to class.
- I understand that I am free to choose my bottom wear at school. My manner of dress should reflect the academic nature of our building where we come to learn, socialize and work in a diverse community. My appearance reflects my good judgment and my respect for myself and others.
 - Clothing must not display violent language or images, images/language depicting/suggesting drugs, alcohol, vaping, hate speech, profanity, and pornography or that represent the exploitation of any group or display an image, statement or symbol that is inconsistent with the mission of our educational institution.

- Outdoor jackets and bags (backpacks, belt bags, purses etc.) are not to be worn/brought to class or to the cafeteria.
- Hats and hoods may not be worn inside the building.
- Sunglasses may not be worn in the building except for documented medical reasons.

Use of Illegal Substances

- I understand that I may not bring or use weapons, alcohol, nicotine, drugs of any kind or drug paraphernalia on school property as outlined in the school board's *Safe and Caring Schools Policy*.
 - I will not smoke or vape on school property.
 - Possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances is prohibited.

Behavior Towards Others

- I understand that I must be respectful of all staff members and comply with their directives while in the school and during participation in school organized activities or outings.
 - Disruptive, insubordinate or violent behavior that impedes the learning or teaching environment is not permitted.
 - School property as well as the property of others is to be respected.
 - The use of appropriate and respectful language is expected while at school.
 - The use of slurs and/or language that is discriminatory in nature will not be tolerated. This language includes but is not limited to negative comments about race, ethnicity, religion, ability, gender identity, sexual orientation, neurodiversity or appearance.

School /Classroom Behaviour

➤ I understand that the habits expected of me in school are designed to better prepare me for any role I play in society in the future.

- School property, textbooks, library books, furniture should be respected and kept free from damage and graffiti to avoid incurring a cost for damages or community service.
- Students should arrive to class on time and bring all required materials. Assignments should be submitted on the due date to avoid loss of marks.
- If students are absent for an in-class evaluation without a valid reason they could be assigned a zero or asked to redo the evaluation outside of regular school hours.
- The John Rennie Code of Conduct, as well as the specific rules and regulations, apply when using the labs, theater, library, school or city bus, work areas, and when on field trips or representing the school at an event or in any other capacity.
- A lock will be provided by the school for all students. This lock must be locked and remain on the locker assigned to the student at all times. If the lock is broken or lost, the student will be charged for a new lock. Locks that are not issued by the school will be removed. Students should keep their school lock for the coming years.
- Lockers are school property. These are assigned to specific students who must occupy their assigned locker only. Administration reserves the right to search lockers at any time. The school is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen personal items.
- Laser pens, lighters, water guns, balloons, or any other objects that may be disruptive or dangerous are not permitted on school grounds. These items will be confiscated.
- Skateboards, rollerblades, and scooters cannot be used inside the school.
- Students are not permitted to order food or have it delivered to the school. Senior students who wish to order food should meet delivery people off school property. Deliveries to the school will be turned away.
- Students are only allowed in the service area of the cafeteria if they intend to make a purchase. While in the dining section, students should be seated at the designated tables.

- Cycle 1 (Secondary 1&2) must remain on the school premises during school hours. Leaving school property will be considered “skipping”.
- Students who demonstrate inappropriate behavior may lose the privilege of attending field trips, outings or other extra-curricular activities. The final decision will remain at the discretion of the school administration.

Attendance/Lates

- I understand that punctuality and regular attendance are expected of me. I also understand that attending school regularly is a legal requirement for students until June 30th of the school year in which they turn 16 years of age.
- Parents are expected to call the school before the day begins to advise of an absence or late (before 8:05 am for SE; before 9:00 am for regular).
 - Classes begin at 9:00 am (8:05 am for Sport Études). Students arriving late must enter through the main office doors and report to the receptionist.
 - Students without a note or phone call justifying their lateness will be assigned a detention. **Please note that parents can only justify late entries three times per term.**
 - Students without a valid excuse for lateness will be assigned a 25 minute detention at lunch. Failure to attend this detention can result in a double lunch detention, a double detention after school or being asked to come in to attend school on a pedagogical day.
 - Students are not permitted to leave school without permission. The school must be advised in writing or with a phone call **before** a student can leave. Students need to sign out at the main office prior to departing.
 - Students who arrive late after lunch must report to the receptionist for a late pass and will be assigned a detention.
 - Attendance during Restricted Days and exams is compulsory and requires medical documentation.
 - Parents should download the Mozaik app to receive live notifications of their child's absences. This is considered the official means of monitoring student attendance. Any discrepancies can be reported to the receptionist.
 - Students arriving before 8:00 am should have parents drop them off at the back doors. After 8:00 am, all parents are to use the drop off zone on Douglas Shand.

- Students are not permitted to park their vehicles (scooters or cars) on school property.

Please note that for the safety of students and staff, the front parking lot is not available for drop-off or pick-up and is reserved for staff and adapted transportation.

Plagiarism and Cheating

- Any plagiarized paper, test, assignment can result in a grade of zero.
- School assignments should reflect the student's own work or be properly cited.
- The use of any processing tool driven by AI technology such as ChatGPT is strictly forbidden.
- If a cell phone and/or electronic device is found on your person during an evaluation, a grade of zero can be assigned.

Consequences

Consequences may include, but are not limited to:

- Detentions (before school/lunch/after school/PED days)
- Confiscation of technological devices
- Supervised lunch periods, etc.
- Mandatory counseling, anger management or social skills programs, etc.
- Loss of privileges (extra-curricular, co-curricular, trips, etc.)
- Restorative service (community service)
- In-school suspension
- Planning Room at JRHS
- YMCA Alternative to Suspension Program
- Planning room at another LBPSB school
- Central Planning Room located at Horizon High School
- At-home suspension
- Homebound Tutoring
- Transfer of schools
- Expulsion
- Referral to an outside agency
- Police intervention

In all instances, these measures are applied at the discretion of the principal or their delegate, taking into account the circumstances, severity and frequency of offenses.