

Policy for Encouraging Positive Student Behavior

When children receive positive interactions from adults and others they develop healthy self-concepts and self-discipline. They learn to take responsibility for their own behavior and anticipate the outcomes of the choices they make. Based on this belief of how children learn and develop values, SVMS will practice the following policy for encouraging positive student behavior.

1. We provide boundaries for the children, which allow opportunities for them to process and problem-solve before a misbehavior occurs.
2. We model appropriate behavior for the children.
3. We encourage peaceful conflict resolution skills.
4. We modify the classroom environment in order to motivate productive behavior.
5. We listen to the children and offer choices.
6. We follow through consistently on the conditions of the privileges we offer, withdrawing privileges and positive outcomes until the students do their part.
7. We treat each child as a person and respect his/her needs, desires and feelings.
8. We use short, supervised periods of "renewal time" when the child is feeling out of control and needs calming down and refocusing.
9. We stay consistent in our behavior, guidance and discipline.

Students are always welcome to participate and will be included in groups and class so long as their behavior does not interfere with any teaching or learning processes.

We refer to boundaries rather than rules because boundaries reinforce for the student the relationship between his or her behavior choices and their consequences, good and bad. Boundaries can also create a sense of safety, structure and predictability in our classrooms and are a terrific way to increase student accountability. Boundaries convey the conditions under which a positive consequence is available to the student, and the lack of this desirable outcome is directly related to the student's misbehavior, lack of cooperation, or failure to meet the conditions specified.

This discipline policy is based on the work of award winning author and national presenter Jane Bluestein Ph.D. She promotes strategies that help teachers connect with children in positive ways and encourages positive student behavior in an emotionally safe, cooperative, and "win-win" school environment.

Please sign the Discipline Policy Statement included on the Signature Sheet stating that you understand our policy and return the signature page to school.