

# Code of Conduct & Dress Guidelines

Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School  
Updated November 2020

Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School encourages a positive learning environment and social leadership by our students in the community. Having a safe and supportive learning environment is an important goal for our school. Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary staff and students are asked to conduct themselves with dignity, care and kindness for one another.

Our school operates in a spirit of mutual care, cooperation and understanding. Students are trusted to follow rules that are established for the benefit of the students, staff and visitors at MEMSS. As students mature, they will experience greater personal responsibility and greater expectations of self-discipline. Accordingly, responses to misbehavior will likewise increase. Considerations will be made for students with special needs if those students are unable to comply with expectations due to a disability.

At MEMSS our objectives with respect to disciplinary action are to educate students about appropriate behavior and to apply respectful and restorative consequences where deemed appropriate.

## **Members of the Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary Community will:**

1. Treat each other with respect and dignity both at school and in dealings with the larger community. MEMSS students should respect their school and those within it at all times.
2. Act in ways that ensure the health, safety and well being of yourself and others.
3. Use polite and courteous language.
4. Behave in a manner that supports and encourages learning.
5. Demonstrate personal responsibility in maintaining the physical environment of the school.
6. Adhere to school and district rules, policies and regulations.

## **BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS:**

We expect that all students will conduct themselves in ways that promote a safe, caring and orderly environment while at school and attending school-related functions outside of school. At MEMSS, there is ZERO tolerance for violence of all types, including physical, emotional, sexual and verbal.

## **Specifically, we expect that students will:**

1. Display care and respect for oneself, others, and the learning environment.
2. Attend classes on time with the required materials.
3. Work diligently in all courses and contribute to building positive learning environments
4. Maintain academic honesty in course work by not engaging in plagiarism, copying other students work and submitting it for assessment as your own, or engaging in any other activities that call into question academic integrity and honesty.
5. Inform appropriate adults of incidents of bullying, harassment or intimidation.
6. Follow the instructions and requests of all staff members and those acting under the authority of the school.

7. Be excellent ambassadors for the school and act in a manner that brings credit to the school.

**Discrimination:**

Actions that discriminate against a person or group or class of persons to hatred or contempt because of race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation, age, gender identity or expression, will not be tolerated at MEMSS. We expect everyone to treat each other with dignity and kindness.

**Harassment:**

Harassment is any action or repeated behavior (such as comments, gestures or contact) that is unwelcome, offensive, intimidating or denies dignity and respect to any individual or group. Harassment can be verbal (unwanted comments), physical (direct contact), emotional or sexual (sexting). Sexual harassment constitutes behavior that you don't like or want – for example, unwelcomed kissing, touching or flirting. Staff and students have the right to attend school in an environment free from harassment and this behavior will not be tolerated.

**RESPONSES/CONSEQUENCES:**

Students are expected at all times to be respectful to all school staff and their personal property. Students who engage in any acts which are discourteous (e.g. using offensive language, making threats, harassing students and staff) or which display a reckless or willful disregard for others' property (e.g. acts of vandalism) are subject to consequences.

Where and when appropriate, restitution will serve a part or all of the consequence. Restitution is a process whereby a student acknowledges the harm done by his/her behaviour and has the opportunity to make it as right as possible with those harmed or that which has been damaged.

Responses for some behaviors will include positive school activities and restorative action. More serious or chronic behaviors can result in suspension. However, responses are meant not only to fit the behavior, but also to discourage similar or repeated incidents while recognizing the value and integrity of the people involved.

**MOUNT ELIZABETH MIDDLE SECONDARY SCHOOL DRESS GUIDELINES:**

The intent of our dress guideline is to set expectations to assist students, staff, and parents in decision-making with respect to clothing. Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary is a learning and working environment, in which there is an expectation of reasonableness. Clothing and footwear should be comfortable and appropriate for students to participate safely in all school activities including Physical Education, science experiments, shop class, foods class and outdoor education experience. Clothing should demonstrate a respect for the school community and the B.C. Human Rights Code. For example, articles of clothing that promote direct or indirect messages or graphics referring to alcohol, drugs, gang culture, sex, weapons, violence and/or profanity will not be permitted. Clothing may not encourage sexism, racism, homophobia, or discrimination regarding gender identity, sexual preference, race, religion, or origin. Any person deemed to be dressed in an inappropriate manner, will be advised discretely and given an opportunity to meet the school dress guidelines.

## Accountability, Integrity, and Respect An Overview:

	Classroom	Common Areas	Cafeteria and Lunchrooms	School Grounds
<b>A C C O U N T A B I L I T Y</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Know and follow classroom rules and take responsibility for your actions</li> <li>-Be on time, prepared and attend regularly completing assigned tasks</li> <li>-Communicate your needs in an appropriate manner, ask for help when necessary</li> <li>-Listen to instruction</li> <li>-Do your best</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Clean up after yourself</li> <li>-Allow enough time to get to class on time</li> <li>-Know and follow school rules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Clean up after yourself</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Clean up after yourself</li> <li>-Drive safely in the parking lot</li> <li>-Park in appropriate location, adhere to fire lane and handicap signs</li> <li>-Use crosswalk to leave school grounds</li> <li>-No one is permitted to smoke or vape on school grounds</li> </ul>
<b>I N T E G R I T Y</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Use positive and respectful actions, thoughts and comments</li> <li>-Be honest with yourself and others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Use positive actions, thoughts and comments</li> <li>-Be honest with yourself and others</li> <li>-Use garbage and recycling bins</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Use positive actions, thoughts and comments</li> <li>-Be honest with yourself and others</li> <li>-Use garbage and recycling bins</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Use positive actions, thoughts and comments</li> <li>-Be honest with yourself and others</li> <li>-Use garbage and recycling bins</li> </ul>
<b>R E S P E C T</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Use appropriate language</li> <li>-Respect personal space and property of others</li> <li>-Respect the thoughts and opinions of others</li> <li>-Turn off cell phones</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Follow and respond appropriately to adult directions</li> <li>-Use appropriate language and tone</li> <li>-Respect others personal space and property</li> <li>-Keep hallway clean using garbage and recycling bins</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Use appropriate language and tone</li> <li>-Keep cafeteria and lunchrooms clean, use garbage cans and recycling bins</li> <li>-Follow and respond appropriately to adult directions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Keep school grounds clean, use garbage and recycling bins</li> <li>-Drive safe in parking lot</li> <li>-Park in appropriate locations adhering to fire lane and handicap signs</li> </ul>