



OAKLEY SCHOOL

Honor Code

Introduction

The community at the Oakley School is based on individual choice, civility, self-respect, and integrity. Students are encouraged to express their individual freedoms while at the same time respecting the dignity and freedom of others. In order to support the dignity and respect of all students, the Oakley School has a code of conduct and an honor code. In addition to standard rules (lying, keeping the school clean, unexcused absence, etc.), there are rules of conduct that have less to do with “right” and “wrong”, but address the mission of the Oakley School in creating an environment that is safe, healthy and conducive to intellectual and emotional growth.

The Honor Code

Students need to feel safe from physical, sexual, emotional and property violations. For this reason all students are expected to abide by the following Honor Code, and will not engage in the following:

1. Any real or implied threat of violence/hurting/abuse (verbal and/or non-verbal) or other unsafe and dangerous behavior to others or self (i.e. bullying, hazing, threats, harassing, pushing, shoving, kicking, biting, self harm, eating disordered behavior, tattooing, body piercing, branding, etc.). The school does not tolerate the use of crude racial, religious, or sexist remarks or demeaning, belittling and threatening comments.
2. Any real or implied threat of violence/hurting/abuse related to guns, knives, and explosives will result in dismissal from the school and law enforcement involvement.
3. Any form of sexual acting-out or inappropriate intimate contact including massaging, cuddling, petting, kissing, sexual contact of any kind, exhibitionism, sexually offensive comments, or possession of pornography in any form including computer, magazines, video etc.
4. Any form of damaging or defacing of faculty, staff or other student’s property.
5. Any cheating (academics), falsification of information, deceit, or theft concerning the honor code (including unauthorized use of property of fellow students, staff or facility).
6. The possession, distribution, aiding and abetting, or use of contraband (tobacco, drugs, cigarettes, weapons, alcohol, diet pills, masking substances, over the counter medications, etc.).
7. Any other behavior that creates an unsafe environment that is not mentioned under the above categories (i.e. gambling, breaking confidentiality, keeping secrets or colluding regarding an honor code violation, etc.).

Student Relationships

The Oakley School wants to communicate to students that intimacy is an important and positive dimension of the human experience. However, we also believe that a casual attitude toward sexuality in a person of any age, but particularly among adolescents, can have a devastating effect upon the emotional development of the self. The healthy social skill development of any teenager is enriched by interaction with the opposite gender. On the other hand, we also believe that sexual contact between adolescents is not essential to foster such pro-social or optimal psycho-sexual development. In fact, high school students who fall into intensely romantic relationships end up missing many of the important experiences that makes up adolescence. Before sexuality can be expressed physically, friendship between the individuals must be learned. For all of the above reasons, Oakley is not a school where any intimate contact between students is tolerated.

Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco

The Oakley School is committed to a drug-free and smoke-free campus. Alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, paraphernalia or behaviors associated with the drug culture, including dress, are not tolerated. Some Oakley students may have had a drug or alcohol problem in the past. They have invested great time, effort and made a commitment to their sobriety before they chose to enroll at Oakley. Not only does Oakley support students in their resolve to stay drug free and/or sober through on-campus support services, but is vigilant in preventing any and all alcohol and/or drug activity on campus.

Contributing to the Safety of the Oakley School

The Oakley School enrolls students who have in the past struggled, to certain degrees, respecting themselves and/or behaving responsibly with the freedoms offered in their communities. Most students have experienced success at other programs which provide limited freedoms to provide safe environments allowing for an intense level of therapy and change. The Oakley School offers many more freedoms than these other programs to create opportunities for students to make more independent choices. In order to maintain these freedoms, staff and students alike are expected to monitor those choices being made and intervene when unsafe behaviors are recognized by exposing the unsafe behavior to the appropriate adults. As long as we are all involved with keeping the school safe, students can enjoy a higher level of independence.

Violations of the Honor Code

The Oakley School is committed to each student we enroll. At the same time, the School is committed to maintain a positive, healthy and growth promoting environment. Violations of the Honor Code constitute an attack on the supportive, safe student environment. As a result, any violation of the Honor Code will result in a disciplinary action. Such action may range from losing certain privileges for a short period of time to more severe actions. Disciplinary actions are not punitive, but are formal, structured interventions that point and support the student in the right direction. If the violation is severe and/or repetitive in nature, the student may be dismissed from the school.

I have read and fully understand the Honor Code of Oakley. While a student at the Oakley School, I pledge to follow the Honor Code.

Print Name

Signature