



Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

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August 10, 2017

Dear Fairbanks North Star Borough Parents:

Welcome back to school! It is the time of the year when we have a few items we need parents to review with their children. Your child will review the *2017-2018 Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Behavioral Consequences Handbook* with his or her teacher. This handbook has many important sections including bus conduct, responsibilities of school authorities, student discipline, *Responsible Technology Use Agreement*, and disciplinary due process.

While it is very important for you to review the *Students Rights, Responsibilities, and Behavioral Consequences Handbook* (SRRBC) each year as a family, there are a few key infractions and subsequent discipline consequences that sometimes come as a surprise to families. While only a small number of students find themselves in situations like these, the district would like to draw your attention to a few.

- 1) **Aiding and Abetting Behavior:** This is found on page 29 of the SRRBC handbook. It is referenced in School Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 1045.3 as well. Note **“the consequences imposed for aiding and abetting behavior shall be consistent with the consequences imposed for the violation of the primary offense.”** This means if a student engages in any of the bulleted areas of **assisting, knowingly withholding information, failing to report beforehand, keeping it a secret, or interfering with an investigation**, they could end up with **the same discipline** as the student who committed the actual offense (depending on mitigating and aggravating circumstances). An example: Student A has a gun at school or on the bus; student B knows but does not tell. Both students A & B get the same consequence. This can have serious ramifications for extended periods of suspension or expulsion if related to an action with a weapon, drugs, or other serious behaviors. It is **important for parents to review this carefully with their child** so this is clearly understood. Your proactive counsel ahead of time in this area will save a lot of concern later.
- 2) **Failure to Report:** This is found on page 34 of the SRRBC handbook. It is referenced in School Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 1046.9 as well. This means if a student knows about dangerous objects or criminal acts on school grounds, on school buses or at school-sponsored activities they need to report it to school authorities. If they do not, the student may be subject to disciplinary action which could result in a suspension of up to 10 school days or longer.
- 3) **Weapons:** This is found on pages 39-41 of the SRRBC handbook. These are also referenced in Administrative Regulations 1048.7. Please review these pages carefully with your child. Note specifically the definition of **“firearms”** in 1048.7; **“deadly weapons”** in 1048.7; and **“weapons other than firearms or deadly weapons”** in 1048.7 of the administrative regulations. There are many items listed that are not allowed in school, and those include but are not limited to, any **pistol, revolver, pellet gun, BB gun, rifle, shotgun, air gun, spring gun, paint ball gun, or zip gun.**

Administrative Regulation 1048.7 discusses an object or device that is used or looks like a weapon, other than a firearm or deadly weapon. Toy guns and toy knives as well as squirt guns are also discussed in the administrative regulation. Review this as well since toy guns often look like the real thing and thus are prohibited.

Most families understand the first part of the prohibited weapons, but each year there are a few

children who bring a paint ball gun, an air gun or a 'look-alike' toy gun or toy knife to school, not thinking they are really considered a weapon. Depending on the age, the object, and how it was used in school, the consequence can be severe, up to a recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion. **NO GUNS or KNIVES of any type, or a 'look-alike,' EVER, PERIOD - no exceptions.** As a side note – this prohibition on having any kind of weapon on school grounds includes after school hours as well (weekends, evenings, anytime.) Weapon violations and consequences apply on **any school property** at any time of the day or night – always.

Knife Possession: This is found on pages 39-41 of the SRRBC handbook (Administrative Regulation 1048.7 – Deadly Weapons and Weapons Other than Firearms or Deadly Weapons.) Sometimes children will be playing with a pocket knife at home or have it in their backpack from a camping trip and bring it to school. It is important that this not happen. Key points to review will be **No KNIVES at school at any time** or on school property after hours.

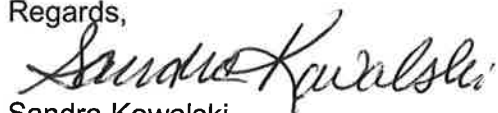
- 4) **Intimidating Behavior/Bullying:** This is found on page 36 of the SRRBC handbook and refers to School Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 1048.2.

Consequences for misuse of cellular telephone or other mobile learning devices; composing, sending, forwarding, copying, printing, or delivering an e-mail, text message or other communication that harasses, intimidates, threatens, bullies, or discriminates against another individual or group is found under Administrative Regulation 1048 – Intimidating Behavior/Bullying. Guidelines were established by criteria from the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

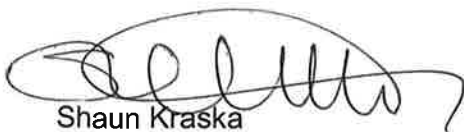
We have over 13,000 elementary and secondary students who attend our schools. The good news is the vast majority of our students have no disciplinary action related to any of the mentioned – Aiding and Abetting, Failure to Report, Firearms, Deadly Weapons and Weapons. We want that number to reach 100%. It takes all of us – students, families, staff and community – to champion the expectation that our schools must be safe zones for our children. We thank you for your part in stressing the importance of this as you review the valuable information in the *Student's Rights, Responsibilities, and Behavioral Consequences Handbook* **this week** at home. Parents can find the handbook on the district website <http://www.k12northstar.org>. This information will also be covered at school. **Home** and **school** working as partners in safety for all children in our community – that's the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District at its best!

Please contact your school principal if there are any parts of the *Student Rights Responsibilities and Behavioral Consequences Handbook* for which you would like further clarification or information.

Regards,



Sandra Kowalski
Assistant Superintendent



Shaun Kraska
Assistant Superintendent

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