

DISCIPLINE

One goal of our school is to assist each child in developing self-discipline. It is essential that each child demonstrate good habits of discipline that have already been formed at home. Good discipline promotes good academic progress. All students are expected to respect the faculty and property of High Mount School. Reimbursement will be made to the school for any damage a child may cause to any property or material.

Each teacher is primarily responsible for enforcing the rules and regulations of the school. At the beginning of the year, students will be informed of all classroom rules and school regulations. Each child must learn to be responsible for his/her own actions and decisions. If a student knows what is expected and acts to the contrary, he/she should be ready to accept any and all consequences. However, since each action and the circumstances surrounding it are different, the consequences will differ. There are occasions when large groups of students may be involved in an incident and it is not possible to single out which students are guilty.

Failure to comply with the rules and regulations of the school will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the discipline policy. Problems that occur are usually handled between the student and the staff member who is involved. If efforts at this level are ineffective, the teacher will contact the parent and, when deemed necessary, the administrators.

The school's discipline policy will be explained to all students on the first day of school. A copy of the policy can be found in the student handbook. If conflicts or problems do arise, parents and students are expected to follow the steps that are found in the "Communication" section of the student handbook. We can best serve the students by working together, inquiring about situations should a misunderstanding develop, and by supporting one another.

Suspensions and expulsions are serious disciplinary alternatives and will be used when students are guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct. The administration can suspend a student for a period of time not to exceed 10 days except in the case of bus suspensions, which may be longer for safety reasons. The High Mount Board of Education has the authority to expel a student. The following procedures will be used in the event of a suspension or expulsion:

Suspension

1. The suspending school official shall give the student oral or written notice of the charges and evidence to support the charges.
2. The student has the right to tell his/her side of the incident in a conference with the suspending school official. The school official will then inform the student whether or not the suspension is to be imposed.
3. If the suspension is to be imposed, the parents shall be notified by phone (if possible) and by registered or certified mail. A copy of the rules and regulations allegedly violated shall be sent to the parent along with the number of days of the suspension. The notice of the right to appeal the suspension to the Board of Education will also be included. If the parent decides to appeal the suspension, the appeal must be submitted in writing within 10 school days after the suspension.

Expulsion

1. An expulsion will occur only after the parents have been requested to appear at a meeting of the Board of Education or with a hearing officer to discuss the disciplinary infraction.
2. The request will be sent by registered or certified mail and will state the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.
3. If an expulsion occurs, the Board of Education shall state the reasons for dismissal and the date on which the expulsion becomes effective. If a hearing officer is used, the Board of Education action will follow receipt of a written report.