

WESTERN HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISCIPLINE POLICY 2017-18

Our desire at Western Hills Elementary is to provide a safe learning environment for our students. Therefore, behavior which threatens the personal safety of students or staff, or which prevents teachers from teaching, or students from learning will not be tolerated. School rules focus on creating this safe learning environment. Students who violate these rules are subject to disciplinary action. The purpose of the consequence is to correct the behavior so we do not have that behavior again.

All teachers have a discipline program of their choosing for their own class. This program should be consistent with the general school policies and promote good behavior standards at Western Hills Elementary. Students are expected to comply with the teacher's rules in the classroom. If the student does not comply with the teacher's rules, then the student will probably fall into the school-wide discipline plan.

White slips will be used as part of the school-wide discipline plan. These white slips are issued by teachers and the administration to encourage better behavior for the student and to provide communication with the parent. If you do not understand the white slip, please feel free to call the school at 385-646-5091. A white slip may be issued for the following reasons (although there may be other reasons not included here):

- The student reaches a maximum step in the classroom discipline plan. This means that the teacher has already implemented several interventions which have not worked to promote better behavior.
- Threat to personal safety which includes:
 - Fighting (if severe, student may automatically advance to a higher consequence, or even a safe school violation)
 - Bullying, including bullying using electronic devices and name calling
 - Throwing objects, including snowballs
 - Contact sports including "play fighting"
 - Being in an area which is not allowed
- Stealing or vandalism
- Blatant disrespect or disobedience of an adult
- Sexual harassment (if severe, student may automatically advance to a higher consequence, or safe school violation) This includes inappropriate touching, talking, gestures, or exposure.
- Profanity or other language offenses such as repeated name-calling

Consequences for Receiving a White Slip

Usually a white slip involves a consequence and must be signed by the parent and returned to school. Failure to bring back a signed white slip will result in further consequences. Structured Recess (SR), time out, missed recess, parent communication, in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension may be used as a consequence for a white slip. Although we usually proceed through the steps of the consequences listed on the white slip in order, there are occasions when we may need to proceed to a higher level of consequence because this provides better correctional instruction for the child, protects another child, or the offense is gross. Typically, the white slips will proceed in the following cumulative steps:

1. The first white slip may be a warning. However, the warning may have already been given by the classroom teacher or the playground aides. When the verbal warning is already given, we move to the second step.
2. The second white slip results in one lunch period in Structured Recess where lessons on corrected behavior will be given. Student will miss lunch recess.
3. The third white slip results in 2 lunch periods in Structured Recess for lessons.
4. The fourth white slip results in 3 lunch periods in Structured Recess or the office
5. The fifth white slip results in Structured Recess usually for 10 days. During Structured Recess, the student eats lunch separately with our aides who help the child process how they can choose better behavior the next time. The child remains in Structured Recess for the full 10 days, but could earn a reduction by being cooperative in Structured Recess and showing up without being chased down. If a student is assigned Structured Recess repeated times, then the number of days where the child remains indoors may increase.
6. Further white slips may result in in-school suspension and out-of-school suspension. When a student slips to this level, parent involvement is very important in the change process. Contracts, counseling, and conferences may be warranted.

Also, safe school violations may be referred to the district for intervention. Safe school violations involve weapons, drugs, sexual harassment, or violence of a severe or repeated nature. Offenses toward protected classes of people must be treated differently also (per Supreme Court). If parents have questions about the discipline for their child, they are welcome to schedule a parent conference with me and/or the teacher, by calling 385-646-5091.

Please remember that I cannot discuss the discipline of another child with you, just as you would like privacy for your child. Please do not ask what the other child is getting for a consequence or demand that a certain disciplinary consequence be given another child. For privacy reasons, I cannot schedule a meeting between the parents of two students.

Two students may receive different consequences for the same problem because they may be on different steps in the discipline process.

Please parents, **it is not appropriate for one parent to discipline another person's child** on school property because that interaction is most often interpreted as an adult bullying a child. Report problems to the office and we will take care of it.

Often parents tell students it is alright to hit back if someone hits you first. At Western Hills, all fighting, bullying, harassment, or hitting will receive a consequence whether the violence was first, last, harder, deserved, or undeserved. Your child will receive a consequence for what he or she did that was against the rules regardless of the circumstances. We want to teach that there are other ways of handling problems rather than fighting.

There are certain types of offenses that by law must be reported to the state and become part of the student's permanent discipline record. These include violence, acts against certain protected classes of students (Office of Civil Rights), safe schools offenses, bullying, violence towards staff or students, or repeated uncorrected offenses, etc. These become part of the child's permanent record.

The purpose of discipline is to correct bad behavior. We try to maintain behavior conducive to learning. If, as parents, you refuse to recognize your student's behavior and defend poor behavior, your child will probably continue to get in trouble. Parents, please help us in the discipline process.