



CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**MIDDLE SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

2026-2027

**33122 VALLE ROAD
SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA 92675
949-234-9200**

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

33122 Valle Road
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

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Uniform Complaint Procedures

Please utilize the current Uniform Complaint process according to Capistrano Unified School District's [Board Policy 1312.3](#) for all discrimination complaints, including Title IX concerns.

How to File a Complaint:

1. Utilize the Uniform Complaint Procedures: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
2. Complete the Uniform Complaint Form: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
3. Send or deliver to the office of Laura Lyon

Nondiscrimination Program, Activity, and Club Statement:

The Board of Trustees desires to provide a safe school environment that allows all students equal access and opportunities in the District's academic and other educational support programs, services, and activities. The Board prohibits, at any District school or school activity, unlawful discrimination, intimidation, harassment (including sexual harassment) or bullying based on a person's actual or perceived ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, immigration status, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. It should be noted that these terms are included to comply with CA Education Code and Title IX protections, not to promote personal beliefs.

Non-Discrimination Statement

The Capistrano Unified School District prohibits discrimination, intimidation, harassment (including sexual harassment) or bullying based on a person's actual or perceived ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, immigration status, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. For questions or complaints, contact the Student Support Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator: Laura Lyon, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resource Services, 33122 Valle Road, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675, 949-234-9373, lllyon@capousd.org. Section 504 Coordinator: Nenoska Frink, Coordinator, 33122 Valle Road, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675, 949-234-9287, nifrink@capousd.org.

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Middle School Policies and Procedures

The Capistrano Unified School District is committed to providing each and every student with a World-Class Education in a safe and supportive learning environment where every student is treated with dignity and respect. Students who adhere to these discipline guidelines and diligently apply themselves to their academic studies will enjoy a multitude of benefits.

The following rules and regulations are in effect on or near school grounds, off campus during school hours, at school-sponsored functions, during distance learning in the event of a campus closure, and while on the way to or from school or school-related activities.

Administrators may find it necessary to add to or remove items from the disciplinary policies described in this handbook to ensure appropriate progressive discipline and overall consistency and fairness. Unless otherwise noted, the disciplinary consequences apply for the entire current school year.

With your student, please review the CUSD Middle School Policies regarding:

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I. STUDENT INTERVENTION PLAN

CUSD Middle Schools utilize the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) approach. *“PBIS is a systemic approach to proactive, school-wide behavior based on a Response to Intervention (RtI) model. PBIS applies evidence-based programs, practices, and strategies for all students to increase academic performance, improve safety, decrease problem behavior, and establish a positive school culture. Schools implementing PBIS build on existing strengths, complementing and organizing current programming and strategies.”*

Our goal is to help each student become a positive and responsible citizen. We know that the majority of students will work toward this goal by respecting the rights of others, respecting personal and school property, and by practicing acceptable behavior. The rules and regulations included in this handbook and shared by your student’s school are in effect on or near school grounds, off campus during school hours, at school-related sponsored functions, bus stops, and while on the way to or from school or school activities. Unless otherwise noted, the discipline consequences apply for the entire current school year.

Interventions are intended to address the major infractions and usual consequences; however, CUSD recognizes that some actions not listed below may cause a disruption to the instructional process and/or environment. In those situations, the school administration reserves the right to take disciplinary action at their discretion and as necessary to maintain a safe and orderly school campus for all students.

All administrative decisions regarding student behavior and resulting consequence(s) are administered within strict adherence to California State Education Code and CUSD Board Policy.

CUSD follows a system that includes positive interventions and progressive discipline where the severity of the consequence depends on the severity of the behavior and/or the pattern of behaviors a student exhibits. All interventions are at the discretion of the school administration and take into account individual student needs and the circumstances of each incident.

Suspension shall be imposed only when other means of correction fail to bring about proper conduct. However, suspension on the first offense is authorized for Education Code section 48900 (a) through (e) offenses and/or when the student’s presence causes a danger to persons (Education Code § 48900.5). Discretion may be used to provide alternatives to suspension or expulsion that are age appropriate and designed to address the specific misbehavior (Ed. Code § 48900(v)).

Note: Any student who is suspended from school may not be on any CUSD campus or attend school-related activities during the suspension. Any student who is involuntarily transferred to an alternative educational site may not attend comprehensive middle school activities, or be on the campus of the school from which they were removed. Failure to abide by these rules may be a violation of law which may be punished by arrest and/or incarceration in the County Juvenile Hall or other appropriate law enforcement facility (Penal Code, Sections 626.2, 626.4, and 653g).

Interventions

Positive Reinforcements: Incentives, both verbal and tangible for students achieving and exceeding school-wide expectations.

Classroom Behavior Supports: Interventions in accordance with the classroom discipline plan.

Counseling: Meeting with the school-site counselor, referral to community resources, conflict mediation, reflective assignment, conflict resolution, etc.

Parent Conference: Meeting with parents, teachers, students and other appropriate personnel

wherein the team discusses student challenges and possible interventions.

Student Success Team:	Meeting with parents, teachers, students, and other appropriate personnel to create a plan for intervention strategies and supports for student success, both behaviorally and academically.
Referral:	The referral is reviewed with the student by an administrator. The administrator determines the appropriate intervention based on the student's progressive discipline status.
Detention:	Consequence given for inappropriate behavior. Detentions may take place before/after school and/or during lunch.
Class Suspension:	Students will be removed from a particular class for the period indicated and supervised on campus.
Behavior Contract:	If a student's behavior pattern continues, the administration will place the student on a Behavior Contract appropriate to address the student's behavior.
Parent Escort:	A parent or guardian will attend all or part of the school day as determined appropriate by the administrator.
Suspension:	Students are excluded from school and school activities for the duration of the suspension. Suspension, including supervised suspension as described in Section 48911.1, shall be imposed only when other means of correction fail to bring about proper conduct. A school district will document the other means of correction used and place that documentation in the pupil's record, which may be accessed pursuant to Section 49069. However, a pupil, including an individual with exceptional needs as defined in Section 56026, may be suspended for any of the reasons enumerated in Section 48900 upon a first offense, if the principal or superintendent of schools determines that the pupil violated subdivision (a), (b), (c), (d), or (e) of Section 48900 or that the pupil's presence causes a danger to persons.
Alternative to Suspension:	A District operated classroom for students who are suspended for California Education Code § 48900 violations. Students are under supervision of credentialed teachers and counselors.
Involuntary Transfer:	Revoke School of Choice and/or Inter-District Transfer.
Expulsion:	A recommendation that the student is removed from that site or the District.

Other means of correction include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A conference between school personnel, the student's parent or guardian, and the student.
- Reflective journals
- Letters of Apology
- Referrals to the school counselor, psychologist, child welfare and attendance personnel, or other school support service personnel for case management and counseling.

- Student success teams, guidance teams, resource panel teams, or other intervention-related teams that assess the behavior, and develop and implement individualized plans to address the behavior in partnership with the pupil and his or her parents.
- Referral for a comprehensive psychosocial or psychoeducational assessment, including for purposes of creating an Individualized Education Program (IEP), or a plan adopted pursuant to Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 794(a)).
- Referral for a program for teaching respectful conduct skills or anger management.
- Participation in a conflict resolution program.
- A positive behavior support approach with tiered interventions that occur during the school day on campus.
- Any of the alternatives described in Section 48900.6.

Please Note:

- School site personnel are considered mandated reporters and will report suspected cases of abuse to Child Protective Services (CPS) or law enforcement for a welfare check.
- The school practices a policy of progressive discipline where consequences increase as a result of repeated patterns of behavior or with increasing severity of behavior.
- The school official executing the discipline policies and procedures exercises the right to adapt the decision to meet the fair and appropriate consequence that fits each individual situation.
- The school initiates Behavior Contracts when a pattern of disruptive behavior has been established. Upon violating the Behavior Contract, a student may lose privileges such as school activities (i.e., dances, field trips, etc.) or, for serious infractions, may be recommended for involuntary transfer or expulsion.
- School officials may search individual students, their property, and/or school issued lockers when there is a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence that the student is violating the law or the rules of the District or the school (Board Policy 5154). Scopes of searches must be reasonable. When students are using personal electronic devices on campus, and in violation of a directive to stop, this is a violation of the Acceptable Use Policy and the Technology Policy. Per this handbook, by continuing to use this device, the device may be confiscated and open windows may be searched as “reasonable” based on the student's clear misconduct and defiance.
- During investigations, students will be questioned and may be requested to write a “Statement of Facts.” If these statements are used in an expulsion case, parents may utilize an Anonymous Witness Statement form in accordance with law if there is a substantial risk of harm to the safety of the witness. (Ed. Code § 48918.)
If law enforcement is involved in an investigation, the school will attempt to contact the parent of the student being interviewed. Law enforcement may have their own obligation to notify parents.
- In certain circumstances, law enforcement officers have the right to interview students on school premises (Welfare and Institutions Code § 625.6). Administration shall accommodate the questioning in a way that causes the least possible disruption to the school process and gives the student appropriate privacy (Board Policy 5153). Except in cases of child abuse or neglect, the principal or designee shall notify the student’s parent/guardian as soon as practicable after the law enforcement officer interviews a student on school premises.
- Family Educational Rights Privacy Act (FERPA) prevents staff from discussing any disciplinary consequences of another student.
- CUSD is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen items that a student has brought from home.
- Administration and staff will investigate incidents involving these items at their discretion.
- Parents may be asked to personally retrieve confiscated items.
- Restitution may be sought if school property is damaged in the act of violating school rules or as a result of negligence. This includes school Chromebooks and Chromebook accessories.

II. ATTENDANCE/TARDY

Attendance

As parents, you have the responsibility to make school a **#1** priority for your child. **An average absence rate of more than one day per month is considered excessive.** By making sure your child is in school every day, you ensure their opportunity to learn. Research indicates that when parents actively participate in their child's education, the quality of learning improves.

Such participation also improves student test scores and creates an atmosphere that enhances student success. Regular attendance at school is critical to the success of all students. Regular attendance is required by the law. (Ed. Code § 48200.)

Please call or email the school to report your child's absence and provide the following information:

- **The date(s) of the absence**
- **The person calling**
- **Your child's full name**
- **The reason for the absence**

If you do not call in or email regarding your child's absence, your child must have a note with your signature indicating the above information for the day(s) the student was absent from school. If you do not contact the office by 11:00 a.m. on the day of the absence, an automated calling and/or e-mail system will contact you regarding your child's absence.

Excessive Illnesses

When a student has had 14 days of absences in the school year that qualify for illness or equivalent of period absences, any further absence for illness shall be verified by a physician with appropriate documentation. Parents will receive a warning letter after 10 days of illness.

Excused Absences

Excused absences may include illness, medical or dental appointments, death or serious illness in immediate family, religious holidays, quarantine, immunization exclusion, or other reasons as outlined in California Education Code (*section 48205*).

When a student has an excused absence, the student's teacher will provide the student with the opportunity to make up missed work or reasonably equivalent work. (Ed. Code, § 48205(b).)

Truants/Unexcused Absences

Students who are on campus but miss their assigned class without permission from school staff are considered truant. **If a student is more than 30 minutes late, the student is considered truant.** Also, those students who leave campus, stay home without permission from a parent/guardian, or have an absence that remains unexcused after 72 hours, will be recorded as truant.

When a student has accrued 14 full day absences in the school year that qualify for illness, any further absence for illness shall be verified by a physician with appropriate documentation. Failure to provide this documentation will result in a truancy.

Unexcused absences include all absences or truanacies

Unexcused absences may include but are not limited to traffic, vacations, shopping, staying home to visit with friends or family needs, transportation breakdown, working, missing the bus, negligence, truancy, too tired, etc. A total of 3 days of unexcused absences or truanacies or 18 period absences can trigger the **School Attendance Review Board (SARB)** process and may receive disciplinary actions at school for truancy. Parents will be sent a letter notifying them that their child is habitually absent/ truant. Additional unexcused absences/truanacies will prompt a mandatory meeting with the District Attorney's office and potential prosecution.

Tardy-Late to School

Any student who arrives late to school must check in to the attendance office to get a pass to enter class. Students who arrive to class late create a disruption, regardless of the reason, and will be marked tardy. California State law will excuse tardies for illness and medical appointments; unfortunately, we are unable to excuse tardies for traffic, rain, car difficulties, or any other circumstance not listed under "Excused."

Tardy-Late to Class

A student is tardy when he/she is not in a seat or in line for class when the first bell rings to begin class. The only way to excuse a tardy is for a student to have a note (with the student's name, date, and time) signed by a staff member. Since classroom tardies disrupt the educational environment and affect the classroom teacher directly, parents cannot excuse classroom tardies. *An absence is recorded if a student is more than 30 minutes late to class. Being tardy to class may have an impact on a student's grade and learning. Individual classroom consequences are determined by the teacher in addition] to consequences that may be school wide.

Dismissal for Medical, Dental, or Personal Appointments

If your student must leave during the school day, you may send a note with your student identifying the time and nature of the early dismissal. Your child **will bring the note to the office before school** and receive a "Special Excuse" slip. Your student will show this slip to the classroom teacher at the beginning of the appropriate class period. The teacher will send the student to the attendance office at the designated time. A parent or guardian must come into the office to sign the student out before the student may leave campus and will be asked for a photo identification. Your child may not leave campus in the custody of anyone other than a parent or guardian or person authorized on the emergency card. This is for your child's protection. You should make best efforts to schedule appointments outside the school day to minimize disruption to the learning environment.

Illness at School

If your child becomes ill at school, your student should request permission from their teacher to report to the office. If the child is too ill to continue their day at school, the health office will call the parent or guardian to pick up the child. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES** is a child to call parents/guardians directly to pick them up and leave the premises without school personnel being notified and being released through the office.

Independent Study Contract (ISC)

An ISC may be approved for an individual student the superintendent or designee determines that the student is prepared to meet the District's requirements for independent study and is likely to succeed in independent study as well as or better than the student would in the regular classroom setting.

To request an ISC, please notify the office ***AT LEAST 5 SCHOOL DAYS PRIOR TO THE FIRST DAY OF ABSENCE*** so that the request can be reviewed, and if approved, class assignments may be organized. This process helps students to keep up with schoolwork, but there is no substitute for teacher instruction and class interaction. Please schedule vacations appropriately. Board Policy 6158.

ISCs should not be requested during the first week of school or the last two weeks of the school year unless specifically approved by the principal due to extenuating circumstances.

***NOTES:**

ISC is granted on a case-by-case basis and may be denied for several reasons, as these are voluntary contracts. Reasons for denial include, but are not limited to requests made within 5 days of the grading period, during CAASPP testing, during finals as well due to low grades and/or poor attendance. ISC requests during the last 10 days of school will be reviewed for approval on a case-by-case basis.

For students who have an IEP or a Section 504 plan, an ISC may result in a change of FAPE offer; please discuss any change of FAPE offers within the confines of an IEP team meeting or Section 504 team meeting.

III. STUDENT DRESS AND GROOMING STANDARDS

Dress Code Philosophy

Appropriate dress and grooming contribute to a productive learning environment. The Board expects students to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to wear clothes suitable for the school activities in which students participate. Student dress choices should respect the District's intent to sustain a community that is inclusive of a diverse range of identities. The primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s). The District is responsible for ensuring that student attire does not interfere with the health or safety of any student, that student attire does not contribute to a hostile or intimidating atmosphere for any student, and that dress code enforcement does not reinforce or increase marginalization, shaming, or oppression of any group based on race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, immigration status, disability, or religion.

1. Basic Principle: Certain body parts must be covered for all students at all times.

Clothes must be worn in a way such that genitals, buttocks, breasts, and stomach are fully covered with opaque fabric. All items listed in the "must wear" and "may wear" categories below must meet this basic principle.

2. Students Must Wear*, while following the basic principle of Section 1 above:

- A **Shirt** (with a minimum of a 1 inch wide strap and fabric in the front, back, and on the sides immediately under the armpits), **and**
- **Pants/jeans or the equivalent** (for example, sweatpants, opaque leggings, or shorts), **or**
- **A dress or skirt, and**
- **Shoes** (as appropriate for the environment and activity).

**Courses that include attire as part of the curriculum (for example, professionalism, public speaking, and job readiness) may include assignment-specific dress, but should not focus on covering bodies in a particular way or promoting culturally-specific attire. Activity-specific attire requirements are permitted for extracurricular activities and physical education.*

3. Students May Wear, as long as these items do not violate Section 1 above:

- Sun-protective clothing, such as hats and hoods, or wear body or hair protection as necessary as long as the student's face is not obstructed; these items are allowed to be worn outdoors during the school day.
- The student's face must be visible to staff, and headwear must not interfere with the line of sight of any student or staff.
- Athletic attire, as necessary for athletic activities.

4. Students May Not Wear:

- Clothing and accessories, including backpacks, must not display profanity (including a foreign or slang word or term or a phonetic spelling or mirror image of a word or term regardless of the source), obscene or sexual content, racial slurs, hate language, profanity, violence (including depictions of weapons, explosives, death, or graphic injuries), or drug, alcohol, or tobacco-related content.
- Clothing or accessories considered unsafe, dangerous, or a health hazard.
- Any clothing that significantly and/or intentionally reveals visible undergarments.
- Swimsuits (except as required in class or athletic practice).
- Any item that obscures the face (except as a religious observance or medical/safety necessity).
- Strapless tops or halter-tops.

The California legislature has determined that gang apparel is hazardous to the health and safety of the school environment and therefore, the wearing of such apparel may be restricted.

5. Dress Code Enforcement:

The Board desires to provide an orderly and caring learning environment in which students work diligently on their studies, share responsibility for maintaining a positive school climate, and take pride in their school and their achievements. District staff, per Board Policy 5140, *Positive School Climate*, shall encourage positive student conduct. Staff and students shall encourage attitudes and behaviors that promote mutual respect and harmonious relations. To ensure effective and equitable enforcement of this dress code, school staff shall be properly trained to enforce the dress code consistently using the requirements below. School administration and staff shall not have discretion to vary the requirements in ways that lead to discriminatory enforcement. Sites will follow progressive discipline as outlined in the discipline handbook.

- Student dress code enforcement should not result in unnecessary barriers to school attendance.
- Inconsistent and/or inequitable discipline should be minimized whenever possible.
- Students will be removed from spaces, hallways, or classrooms as a result of a dress code violation as outlined in Sections 1 and 4 above. Students in violation of Section 1 and/or 4 will be provided 3 options to dress more appropriately during the school day:
 - Students will be asked to turn their garment inside out (if feasible) or put on their own alternative clothing, if already available at school, to be dressed more to code for the remainder of the day.
 - Students will be provided with temporary school clothing to be dressed more to code for the remainder of the day.
 - If necessary, parents may be called during the school day to bring alternative clothing for the student to wear for the remainder of the day.
- No student should be singled out for dress code enforcement because of racial identity, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, body size/type, cultural or religious identity.
- Students should not be required to display their body in front of others (students, parents, or staff) in school including but not limited to the below actions:
 - Kneeling or bending over to check attire fit;
 - Measuring straps or skirt length;
 - Asking students to account for their attire in the classroom or in hallways in front of others;
 - Calling out students in spaces, in hallways, or in classrooms about perceived dress code violations in front of others; or,
 - Accusing students of “distracting” others students with their clothing.

CONSEQUENCES

1st Offense Warning and change into replacement clothes. Parents are notified.

2nd Offense Detention and change into replacement clothes. Parent/student enters into a contract.

3rd Offense Detention and change into replacement clothes. Parent conference.

4th Offense Detention. Check in with the administration daily.

These dress code guidelines shall apply to regular school days and summer school days, as well as any athletic events, performances, and graduation ceremonies.

Students who feel they have been subject to discriminatory enforcement of the dress code should contact a site administrator. Individual school sites may have uniform requirements of other dress guidelines. These will be shared with students by the school. When school sites have “theme” or “spirit” days, students are still expected to ensure that their dress aligns with the student dress parameters. Schools may supply alternative dress code

suggestions for school events or dances, such as semi-formal attire.

IV. STUDENT CONDUCT

General Student Conduct Expectations

As consistent with the CUSD PBIS model, during the first week of school, all students review the expected behaviors acceptable in a school environment. Additionally, all students attend a Behavior Expectations Assembly.

All students will be held accountable for infractions including, but are not limited to: Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism; Assembly Misconduct; Inappropriate Bus Behavior; Unauthorized Cell Phone Use; Classroom Disruption: Disrespect of Teacher; Defiance of Authority; Detention/Intervention Defiance; Dress Code Violation; Drug or Alcohol Use/Possession; Drug Selling/Furnishing; E-bike infractions; Unauthorized Use of Electronic Devices; Extortion; False Fire Alarm; Fighting/Assault; Encouraging a Fight; Fighting in a Group; Fireworks/Incendiary Devices/Matches/Cigarette Lighters etc.; Food Out of Bounds; Fraudulent Written Material; Gang Related Activity; General Misconduct; Gum; Harassment/Bullying/Intimidation/Provoking; Imitation Tobacco, Drugs, Alcohol, or Imitating Tobacco, Drug, or Alcohol Use; Littering/Throwing Food/Spitting; Obstruction of Investigation; Out of Bounds; Out of Class Without a Pass/Hall Pass Abuse; Play Fighting/Horse Playing; Profanity/Vulgarity/Obscene Acts; Profanity Toward Staff; Public Displays of Affection; Racism in Any Form Including “Jokes” and Symbols; School Disruption, Laser Pointers; Sexual Harassment: Including ‘Pantsing,’ Derogatory Comments, Pictures, Photos, Gestures and any other Inappropriate Actions of a Sexual Nature; Riding Skateboards/Scooters/Similar Devices on Campus; Selling or Soliciting on Campus; Tardies; Technology Violation, as outlined in the Student Acceptable Use of Technology, Board Policy 6163.5;

Terrorist Threats; Theft (including the possession of stolen property); Threat/Assault Against Staff/Students; Vaping/Tobacco/E-Cigarettes/Any Materials Related to; Truancy; Vandalizing Tools; Weapons - Including Toys, Imitations or anything that could be used or was used in the fashion of a weapon with or without intent of injuring self or others.

Sports equipment and toys brought to campus in violation of expectations and without permission will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day to a parent. The school is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen items that a student has brought from home.

ARRIVAL TO / DEPARTURE FROM SCHOOL

Students may use bicycles, scooters*, or skateboards to come to or leave school, under the following conditions:

1. Students must walk the bicycle, scooter, or skateboard at all times on campus.
2. Students must use their own lock to secure their bicycle, scooter, or skateboard locked in the designated lock up area.
3. Secured helmets for riders and passengers are mandatory when riding a bicycle, scooter, or skateboard.
4. The school is not responsible for any damage, theft, or personal injury.
5. Students must secure their bicycle or scooter with a personal lock during the school day.
6. Must not be parked in a manner that blocks any ingress or egress areas of the campus.
7. Must be parked in designated area(s).
8. Any of these items left in undesignated areas may be moved and/or subject to confiscation and parent pick-up.
9. School is not responsible for property damage resulting in the movement of bicycles (including eBikes), scooters or skateboards from unauthorized parking areas.
10. Permits will be required for all items on campus; items without a permit may be confiscated and subject to parent pick-up.

11. Bicycle riders must comply with the District's Bicycle Safety Protocol program and receive a permit for their bicycle.

*Use of an electric scooter requires possession of a valid driver's license per California Vehicle Code.

*Use of hoverboards, Class 3 e-Bikes (Per CA AB1096), and any other motorized vehicle are prohibited on campus by students.

*For complete information regarding e-bicycle and bicycle rules, permit requirements, and safety expectations, please refer to your school's E-Bicycle/Bicycle Policy

*Skateboarding is not allowed on the middle school campus at any time. Motorized skateboards are not allowed on campus at any time. Skateboarding is a reasonable form of transportation for many students; however, the student's specific middle school may have no facilities to store skateboards. Furthermore, skateboarding on campus represents a dangerous risk of injury and damage to property. The middle school is not responsible for any damage or loss of skateboards, or personal injury from skateboarding.

CLOSED CAMPUS

All CUSD campuses are closed to non-students. Visitors are required to check-in at the main office upon arrival to campus and present valid photo identification. Students may not leave campus without written permission from the Attendance Office. Food delivery services are prohibited (e.g. Uber Eats, Postmates, DoorDash, etc.). Any delivered items from food delivery services will be discarded and not available to students.

EXPECTED SCHOOL BUS BEHAVIOR

The District provides bus services to students residing specific distances from school as part of its commitment to transport students to and from school. It is critical that each student behaves in a manner that is in accordance with all school rules, is safe, and does not hinder the bus driver. Students are expected to respect the authority of the bus driver as a school official. This standard of acceptable behavior begins when the student arrives at the bus stop. Failure to follow School Bus expectations may result in loss of bus privileges.

ASSEMBLY/ACTIVITY CONDUCT

Assemblies, and lunch activities are produced by the administration or Associated Student Body to increase school spirit, provide positive motivation, and increase awareness of issues facing students today. During these events, many students are congregated in one area; therefore, each student is expected to be on his/her best behavior. Students are expected to participate positively at the assembly, rally, or activity and not behave in any manner that would detract from the purposes of the event (e.g., heckling, talking, disruptive items, throwing objects, etc.). Attendance at assemblies and rallies is mandatory unless otherwise specifically stated, and roll is taken by the classroom teacher before and after the assembly/rallies. Any student not in the assembly/rally or not reporting back to class is considered truant.

PROFANITY/VULGARITY/OBSCENE ACTS

Students will be disciplined for committing an obscene act or engaging in habitual profanity or vulgarity. This may include words, deeds, actions, possession of photos, pictures, drawings, videos, recordings, and/or any other materials.

CUSD CHROMEBOOKS

It is the responsibility of the student to maintain the Chromebook and its accessories (power cord) in good working order. Students are not to willfully dismantle or damage the device. This includes but is not limited to the removal of keys, cracked screens, or damaged plastics.

Students must comply with the Acceptable Use Policy (Student Acceptable Use of Technology Administrative Regulation 6.7) while using the Chromebook. This includes refraining from accessing any website, such as a proxy site, that willfully bypasses the district filtering. Continued inappropriate use of websites on school devices during instructional time may result in restricted use or loss of chromebook access at school.

Loss or willful damage to a district Chromebook or Chromebook accessories will be the financial responsibility of the student and parent/guardian. (Ed. Code, § 48904(a)(1).)

Intentional damage of Chromebooks and/or accessories may result in disciplinary consequences.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE

Electronic devices include, but are not limited to cell phones, calculators, wearable technology, tablets, computers, e-readers, pagers, and cameras. While students may bring personal electronic devices on campus, these devices must be turned off during class time unless approved by the teacher (including tutorial). Misuse of electronic devices may result in the confiscation of the devices. The school is not responsible for damage to or loss of electronic devices.

Note:

If a student uses an electronic device to cheat on any test/assignment, students will be disciplined per CUSD's "academic integrity policy."

If a student uses an electronic device to record, view, display, share, or distribute video and/or any other like behavior including AI (Artificial Intelligence) generated content with regard to inappropriate material, student will be disciplined per "student conduct."

If a student uses an electronic device to bully/harass/intimidate/or any like behavior, student will be disciplined per bullying and other applicable policy.

Flags

Per Government Code 431, the U.S. Flag and the California flag are displayed at the entrance of each school. A flag is available to each class for the completion of a daily patriotic exercise, as required by Education Code § 52720. To maintain a politically neutral and instructionally focused environment, only the U.S. and California flags may be displayed unless an instructional exception is approved.

LYING TO A STAFF MEMBER/WITHHOLDING INFORMATION

All students are expected to tell the truth when asked a question. The act of deliberately withholding information to deter an investigation is considered lying and may be subject to disciplinary actions.

STUDENT CONDUCT WITH POSSIBLE SEVERE CONSEQUENCES (Suspension/Recommendation for Expulsion)

DISCRIMINATION

CUSD prohibits discrimination, intimidation, harassment (including sexual harassment) or bullying based on a person's actual or perceived ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, immigration status, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING

Bully-Free Environment: CUSD maintains an educational environment in which bullying and cyberbullying in any form are not tolerated. All forms of bullying and cyberbullying by CUSD students are prohibited. Anyone who engages in bullying and cyberbullying in violation of Board Policy will be subject to appropriate discipline. Students who have been bullied or cyberbullied should promptly report incidents to any staff member. Complaints of bullying and cyberbullying will be investigated promptly and corrective action will be taken when a complaint is verified. Board Policy 5141 prohibits reprisals and retaliation following the submission of a complaint.

CUSD schools proactively foster a positive, safe, and inclusive school climate by implementing strategies designed to prevent and address all forms of bullying, including cyberbullying, through:

- Creating a positive school environment that promotes safety, responsibility, and academic engagement for all students via a school-wide implementation of Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS).
- A beginning-of-the-year school-wide assembly, which defines bullying, and its consequences.
- Ongoing, school-wide student and staff educational opportunities.

Definition of Bullying– Board Policy 5141

Bullying shall mean repeated unwelcome, pervasive, and/or severe verbal, written, or physical conduct, through any means (including social media, texting, etc.) directed at a student or staff member by a student that has the effect of any or all of the following:

- Placing a reasonable pupil or pupils in fear of harm to that pupil's or those pupils' person or property.
- Causing a reasonable pupil to experience a substantially detrimental effect on the pupil's physical or mental health.
- Causing a reasonable pupil to experience substantial interference with the pupil's academic performance.
- Causing a reasonable pupil to experience substantial interference with the pupil's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

What to do if you feel you are being bullied/harassed:

- Talk to your parents or other trusted adults. They can help stop the bullying.
- Talk to your teacher, school counselor, or principal. Telling is not tattling, it is asking for help.
- Do not fight back. Do not try to bully those who bully you.
- Try not to show anger or fear. Students who bully like to see that they can upset you. Calmly tell the student to stop... or say nothing and then walk away.
- Limit the interaction.
- Limit your message to five (5) words or less. Example: "Leave me alone." "Try to avoid situations in which bullying is likely to happen."

How to report bullying/harassment as a victim or a witness?

Students can report any incidents of bullying or harassment, which may include:

- Say Something (Number is posted on school website), saysomething.net

- Incident Report Form in the office
- Speak to or email a staff member
- Referral from a staff member or a bystander who witnessed the event

Assistant Principal and/or Counselor will investigate the incident:

- Ensure all parties are familiar with Board Policy 5131.2 as it relates to bullying.
- Follow up with the concerned party and discuss the results of the investigation.

Consequences for bullying/harassment may include, but are not limited to:

- Incident report is completed
- Situation logged in the discipline file and filed both at school and at the District office
- Counseling
- Conflict Mediation
- Behavior Contract
- Detention, Suspension, Involuntary Transfer, Expulsion
- Notify School Resource Officer

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Students and staff have a right to feel safe and free from any unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature, possession of pornographic photos/pictures, including photos/pictures/digitally altered or inappropriate images, including AI-generated content, and/or or images on cell phones or electronic devices used to harass or intimidate others. (Further information and explanations are defined in CUSD’s Board Policy 5183.)

PHYSICAL ALTERCATIONS

Students are expected to exhaust every resource to achieve a peaceful resolution to a conflict including but not limited to walking away, conflict resolution, or involving a staff member. Any student in violation of this rule may be subject to consequences and reported to law enforcement.

Promoting/Encouraging/Planning/Video-Posting

Students will not partake in the planning, encouraging, “cheering on”, arriving at a predetermined place, videoing, posting on social media and/or any other means of acting in the manner of an irresponsible bystander, and may be subject to disciplinary action for doing so.

Engaging in a Physical Altercation

Any attempt, threat, arriving at a place predetermined to be the place where a fight may occur, and/or direct or indirect involvement of an act of physical aggression is not tolerated.

Even if not the aggressor, students who engage in physical contact will be considered “mutual combatants” and will receive disciplinary consequences. Any participation considered to be significantly aggressive or egregious or involving a weapon or threat of a weapon could be considered for recommendation for expulsion per Education Code section 48915.

Fighting as a Group

Students must not participate, promote, plan, or engage in any type of fighting. Students may not use the factor

of a group as an act of intimidation. When more than 2 people are involved, it will be considered a group fight. Students are expected to stay out of fights that are in progress.

RACISM

We value and encourage students to celebrate their ethnic diversity, cultural differences, and respect for all individuals. However, any form of discrimination or persecution against another student or staff member based on race, whether expressed verbally or in writing, is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Examples of racism include but are not limited to cultural insensitivity remarks or slang phrases, statements that hint at derogatory references to one's race, as well as direct racist statements.

Examples of racism include, but are not limited to:

- Racial slurs and derogatory language
- Name calling on the basis of perceived racial stereotypes
- Verbal/nonverbal or written hate language
- Displaying racist symbols
- Derogatory social media posts related to race or ethnicity
- Racially insensitive/inflammatory material(including jokes)
- Physical violence on the basis of race or other listed category hate violence

THEFT

Possession of stolen property, the attempt to steal, or the act of stealing school or personal property may result in a possible District expulsion and involvement of law enforcement. Students engaging in stealing, or holding stolen property for other students, will be subject to discipline.

VANDALISM

Maliciously defacing, destroying or damaging school property or personal property by any means. Students are expected to participate in keeping the campus clean and free from any type of graffiti.

Any student involved in the defacing of school or personal property, directly or indirectly, is considered to be vandalizing. Any damage incurred will be considered vandalism and subject to discipline and/or restitution.

Vandalism Tools

Students must not bring or have in possession any item that would aid in the vandalism of school property.

These items include, but are not limited to, permanent felt tip markers, paint, etching tools, burglary tools. "Sharpies" are not allowed on campus. These items will be confiscated and the student will be subject to discipline.

V. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Ethics is defined as moral principles or practice. CUSD students, teachers, administrators and parents are encouraged to base relationships on a fundamental notion of trust. With trust comes the ability to establish productive staff-student-parent relationships. Therefore, academic dishonesty (hereinafter “cheating”) in any form (including students working together in pairs or groups unless specifically directed to do so by the teacher) will not be tolerated.

Cheating undermines the academic process, destroys students’ integrity, and shatters the trust necessary for productive relationships. Teachers are often required to indicate violations of Academic Integrity on applications and recommendation forms. This Academic Integrity Policy applies to both Online Learning and In-Person learning programs.

Cheating on Test, Quiz, Project, Homework, Classwork, or Major Assignment

This is defined as intentionally giving or using human or electronic assistance relating to an exam, test, quiz, project, or major assignment without the expressed permission of the teacher, including working in pairs or groups, or misuse of any form of technology. These acts include, but are not limited to, improper use of technology tools, including generative AI, without attribution or in a way that violates academic integrity or student conduct policies. Additionally, having visible access to a cellular phone or any other prohibited electronic devices during a quiz or test may be considered a violation of the school academic integrity policy, regardless of whether the device was in use.

Cheating may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Copying another student’s homework
- Copying another student’s answers on a test
- Using an unauthorized prompt sheet
- Using unauthorized technology (phone, watch or other device) during a test or quiz
- Making homework available to another student so they may copy the answers
- Plagiarizing another author’s work
- Cutting and pasting from the Internet into an assignment without notation for the Author
- Cutting and pasting portions from another students work
- Forged notes (student signing his or her parents’ name)

Alteration of Materials

Any unauthorized taking, altering, or distributing of student or teacher materials including passing materials to students who have not yet taken the class or items from previous class periods or previous school years.

Fabrication/ Plagiarism

This includes any falsification or invention of data, citation, or other authority in an academic exercise or the intentional use of another’s words, ideas, or work as one’s own. Plagiarism includes the misuse of published material and unpublished work of others, including but not limited to projects, lab, or internet information.

Technology

All students will follow all rules, regulations, and guidelines in the Student Acceptable Use of Technology, Board Policy 6163.5, which can be found on the District webpage.

VI. VAPING, NICOTINE PRODUCTS, DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND ALL CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

District schools are free of nicotine products, alcohol and/or other drugs. Use of these substances adversely affects a student's ability to achieve academic success, is physically and emotionally harmful, and may cause serious medical and legal consequences. Every effort will be made to reduce the chances that students will begin or continue the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Use of alcohol, or tobacco, like any other controlled substance, is illegal for minors.

Rules governing controlled substances may include, but are not limited to, any form of alcohol, drugs, inhalants, salvia, edibles, vaporizers/vaping devices, and "look-alikes."

To protect and enhance indoor air quality and contribute to the health and well-being of all students, employees, and visitors, the Capistrano Unified School District shall be entirely smoke-free and vape-free.

Vaping, nicotine products, drugs, alcohol, and all controlled substances are prohibited in all areas of campus within the Capistrano Unified School District without exception, including school-related events. Any student in violation of this rule may be subject to consequences up to and including expulsion and report to law enforcement.

Common Language

Smoking refers to the use of traditional tobacco products and/or marijuana.

Oral Products refer to the use of chewing tobacco and edible THC products.

Vaping refers to the use or possession of electronic nicotine or marijuana delivery systems and/or electronic smoking devices. These are commonly called e-cigarettes, e-pipes, e-hookahs, e-cigars, and all other vaping devices. The content of the "juice" may also determine the consequences associated with vaping; however, any possession or use of a vape device will incur consequences.

Medications (Over-The-Counter and Prescription): All medications, over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription, must be processed through the School Health Office. OTC and prescription drugs may only be administered per doctor's orders via the Medication Authorization Form (completed by the parent and health care provider). Students in possession of medication or distributing medication without authorization will be subject to disciplinary actions.

Alcohol/Drugs/all other Controlled Substances: listed in Chapter 2 (Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code.

Drug, Alcohol, Over-the-Counter Medications, and/or other Controlled Substances

Students are prohibited from possession or being under the influence of a prescription/illegal/controlled substance, alcohol, intoxicant, and/or being in possession of any such paraphernalia/containers /devices/ substances.

Drug dealing, negotiating for sale, distribution, or furnishing of prescription medication or a controlled substance

According to Education Code § 48915, sales of drugs are a mandatory recommendation for expulsion. This rule also applies to, but is not limited to, any form of alcohol and drugs, including prescription drugs.