

BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL
CODE OF CONDUCT
2014 - 2015

BUS REGULATIONS

You are expected to ride school buses in a safe and orderly manner, demonstrate courtesy and respect for the rights of others, and follow the bus regulations as explained in the General Information section of this manual.

CAFETERIA

All food purchased in the cafeteria must be eaten in the cafeteria during the breakfast or lunch period only. Loud or disruptive behavior, throwing food, leaving wrappings on the tables or the floor will not be tolerated. Once you finish eating, you are to dispose of your trash in an appropriate manner. Wandering the halls is not permitted. Leaving the cafeteria area without permission is not acceptable. Students must present a pass, signed by a teacher, to the cafeteria supervisor in order to leave

Failure to obey reasonable requests of the school staff will be considered insubordination and will result in an office referral.

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The use of mobile electronic devices are prohibited during the school day from the hours of 7:55 - 2:18. Exceptions would include use directly tied to the learning goals and objectives of a classroom lesson. The use of electronic devices for this expressed purpose should involve all students. Other exceptions will be upon approval of administration. Students who choose to bring personal electronics devices to school must understand that the school is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Engaging in illegal "cyber activities" and/or activities that negatively impact the instructional program or compromise the safety of others will be addressed as necessary by administration. (revised 8/18/2014)

Headphones are not to be worn during passing time in the hallways.

Student cell phones are not to be used or heard between the hours of 7:55 a.m. and 2:18 p.m. Teachers are to confiscate cell phones if they are being used during the school day and turned into the high school office. Each time an electronic device is turned into the office the offense is recorded. On the third offense the principal will meet with the student personally to inform the student that any further incidences will result in progressive suspensions, i.e. one day I.S.S. for the next offense, then two, then three, etc. Parents that text-message their children during the school day puts those students in a difficult predicament. Should they answer the parent text and disregard the school policy? Parents can reach their children as always by calling the high school office. Messages will be given to students between classes except in emergency situations. In those cases, students can be found in minutes.

Illegal "cyber activities" that are done out of school but negatively impact the daily instructional program or safety of the school will be addressed as necessary by administration.

CHEATING, ACADEMIC DISHONESTY, AND PLAGIARISM

Students are expected to conduct themselves honestly and with integrity in their work. All forms of cheating and plagiarism are prohibited. Behavior that is unacceptable includes, but is not limited to:

- copying another student's homework;
- working with others on projects that are meant to be done individually;
- looking at or copying another student's test or quiz answers;
- allowing another student to look at or copy answers from your test or quiz;
- using any other method to get/give test or quiz answers;
- taking a test or quiz in part or in whole to use or to give others;
- copying information from a source without proper attribution; and
- taking papers from other students, publications, or the Internet.

Violators of this policy will be disciplined on a case-by-case basis depending on the seriousness of the violation, prior violations, and other factors. Disciplinary measures include, but are not limited to, redoing assignments/retaking test, receiving a failing grade on the project/test, receiving a lower overall grade in the class, detention, suspension, or expulsion.

CLASSROOM/CORRIDOR CONDUCT

In addition to the school wide code of conduct, each classroom teacher will have rules and procedures for you to follow. Students are required to obey the classroom rules as explained by each teacher, recognizing that different teachers may have different rules. If you have a concern, see your teacher privately.

Students are expected to move through the halls in an orderly and respectful manner. Shouting, running, throwing things or general horseplay will **NOT** be tolerated.

SAFE SCHOOLS AGAINST VIOLENCE IN EDUCATION ACT **MESSAGE TO ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

The Barker Central School District has completed a "Code of Conduct" to adhere to the S.A.V.E. legislation that went into effect July 2001. Several of these areas are included in the student handbook, but all areas of the S.A.V.E. Code of Conduct are in a separate document, which was approved by the Barker Board of Education. These S.A.V.E. Code of Conduct guidelines and expectations are fully outlined and are to be adhered to by all students – effective July 1, 2001. Each principal (high school, middle school, and elementary) has a copy of this S.A.V.E. documentation and will be communicating these guidelines to all of their students in September.

CONSUMPTION OF FOOD AND BEVERAGES

Eating or drinking is not allowed in school hallways. Students may only consume food and beverages in the cafeteria during breakfast and lunch periods, or as otherwise allowed by individual classroom teachers. Water fountains exist throughout the school. Water, in clear containers only, will be allowed if necessary. Open bottles or containers may be confiscated and checked for appropriate content.

DANCE REGULATIONS

The basic purpose of dances is to provide you and approved guests with an opportunity to socialize after regular school hours in a controlled, adult supervised environment. Unless otherwise publicized, all dances are from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

To help make dances enjoyable for everyone, your cooperation with the following is required:

1. Separate dances will be held for grades 9 - 12 and 7 - 8.
2. Requests for dances are to be approved by the advisors and submitted to the Student Council and the Principal's office at least one month in advance of the date requested. However, it is suggested that the sponsoring group request a date much earlier to reserve the date wanted.
3. The student group, which is sponsoring the dance, must secure the number of teacher and other adult chaperones required by the High School Principal. If this number of qualified chaperones is not arranged at least three (3) days before the dance, the dance will be cancelled.
4. Dances are limited to Barker Central School students. Guests, including alumni, may be approved for 9 - 12 dances only. The student who invites a guest is responsible for informing him/her of the rules. Guest permits are to be obtained from the office by the student who wishes to bring a guest. Parents of students requesting a guest must compile a guest pass application and obtain administrative approval prior to the Wednesday before the dance. Under no circumstances, however, will Middle School students be admitted. The Principal may refuse permission for a guest to attend based on the age of the guest or previous disruptive behavior of the guest or the student.
5. You must arrive by 8:00 p.m., immediately enter the building, and remain inside in the specific area designated by the chaperones for the entire dance. If you leave the building before the dance has ended, you will not be readmitted, and you must leave school property promptly. If you must arrive after 8:00 p.m., obtain prior approval from the Principal's office.
6. Anyone arriving at the dance who, in the judgment of any teacher or chaperone, appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or is in possession of same, will be immediately removed from the dance area, have parents notified, removed from the building, and referred to the office for further disciplinary action.
7. Demonstrate acceptable behavior.
8. Driving, while entering or leaving school grounds, must be reasonable, prudent, and safe, never exceeding 10 miles per hour.

DANCE REGULATIONS (continued)

9. It is your responsibility to arrange for transportation home after the dance. Except in an unusual circumstance, if you are not picked up within 30 minutes after the end of a dance, you will be referred to the office and will not be permitted to attend the next dance.
10. Loitering any place outside the school building is prohibited whether on the way to, during, or after the dance.
11. All other regular day school rules are also in effect at dances.
12. **Students who owe disciplinary consequences will not be allowed to attend dances.** Also students who are absent from school the day of a dance will not be allowed to attend. If the dance is on Saturday, you must attend school on Friday.
13. Students are to check coats and/or book bags at the entrance to the gym and will not be permitted to go to their lockers at any time during the dance. Chaperones may inspect the contents of purses, backpacks, etc. upon entering or at anytime during the dance.

DETENTION

Administrative

This detention will be issued by the administration. A written referral will be placed in the student's discipline file. These detentions will be served from 2:25 - 3:05 p.m. in the detention/suspension room. Extended detention will be from 2:25 – 5:15 p.m.

Teacher

1. You are required to attend detention on the date assigned. Students who skip teacher detention ***will receive two nights Principal's detention.***
2. Teachers may assign detention for breaking of classroom rules or school wide rules.
3. Detention will be with the teacher from 2:25 – 3:00 p.m.
4. Bring homework to do.
5. Employment (school sponsored or otherwise) is ***NOT*** a reason to skip teacher detention.
6. When BOCES students return to Barker (after teacher detention has ended), they will serve detention from 3:00 – 5:15 p.m.
7. Once detention is assigned, the date will not be changed unless done so by the principal.

Extended Detention

This is also an after school program for students who have violated school rules; however, extended detentions are held from 2:25 –5:15 p.m.

DISCIPLINE OPTIONS

Guidelines for student behavior and other school policies are always under review. If changes occur in any of the information presented in the handbook, students and parents will be notified in writing by means of the District Newsletter or by a separate high school mailing.

DISCIPLINE OPTIONS (continued)

Every encounter between a student and a staff member is a learning/teaching experience. The District reserves the right ***to modify*** these guidelines when necessitated by circumstances. Behavior not covered by the guidelines will be dealt with according to its severity.

The purpose of a student discipline code is to help maintain a positive, orderly school environment so that all students have the opportunity to do their best. If a student discipline code is to be effective, the cooperation of students, staff, parents, and administration is absolutely necessary. This code of conduct has been designed so that the disciplinary practices and procedures are consistent, reasonable, fair, and equitable. ***All examples and procedures of the disciplinary code are applicable in school, on school buses, during school-sponsored field trips, and from the time of departure from school until arrival home including school activities on weekends and/or evenings.***

DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

No student shall be subjected to harassment on school property or at a school function: nor shall any student be subjected to discrimination based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex.

Discrimination and Harassment mean a single or series of related incidents where a student is subjected to discrimination and /or harassment by anyone on school property or at a school function.

Such conduct shall include, but is not limited to, physical contact, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.

To be determined as discrimination or harassment, the incident(s) are of such a severe or pervasive nature that it unreasonably and substantially interferes with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional and/or physical well-being, or reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety.

DEFINITION OF HARASSMENT/BULLYING UNDER THE AMENDED DIGNITY ACT:

- Harassment and bullying shall mean the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by threats, intimidation or abuse, including cyber bullying, that
 - (a) has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's education performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being; or
 - (b) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety;
 - (c) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury or emotional harm to a student; or

DEFINITION OF HARASSMENT/BULLYING UNDER THE AMENDED DIGNITY ACT: (continued)

- (d) occurs off school property and creates or would foreseeable create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, where it is foreseeable that the conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse might reach school property.
- Acts of harassment and bullying shall include, but not be limited to those acts based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice; disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.
- For the purposes of this definition the terms "threats, intimidation or abuse" shall include verbal and non-verbal actions.
- "Cyber bullying" shall mean harassment or bullying as defined above where such harassment or bullying occurs through any form of electronic communication.

DISRESPECT

DISRESPECT is the failure to demonstrate this attitude through one's behavior. ***RESPECT*** is an attitude, reflected in a person's behavior, in which a person views other individuals as being as important as himself/herself.

Teachers are encouraged to counsel students regarding disrespectful behavior if it becomes abusive or disruptive to class instruction. Teachers will warn students of such behavior and will issue a verbal reprimand. Such reprimands will be issued in ways, which will not belittle, humiliate, or publicly ostracize students and should include teacher expectations and possible corrective actions.

Continued disrespect will result in an office referral with disciplinary action to exceed a verbal reprimand.

DRESS and PERSONAL APPEARANCE

Students are expected to exercise good taste and judgment in what they wear in school. Any form of dress which is considered contrary to good hygiene, is distracting or disruptive in appearance, poses safety issues and/or is detrimental to the mission of the school, will not be permitted.

The Student Dress Code for the Barker School District is now outlined in the new S.A.V.E. (Safe Schools Against Violence In Education Act) Legislation, which took effect on July 1, 2001. These specific guidelines must be adhered to by all students and will be fully enforced.

In addition to the Dress Code outlined by S.A.V.E., the following guidelines in the Barker High School Student Handbook will also be enforced and adhered to by all students.

Coats and hats are NOT to be worn in the building. Clothing that shows written or printed matter that is profane, sexually explicit, or advocates weapons, drugs, tobacco, alcohol, or weapons may not be worn. Students who violate the dress code will be asked to remove the offensive clothing or sent home.

DRESS and PERSONAL APPEARANCE (continued)

- A. We take pride in the appearance of our students and teachers. Your clothes reflect the quality of the school, of your conduct and of your schoolwork.
- B. Common sense should be used when choosing footwear. Please be aware of the following: high-heeled and/or "open-toed" shoes and sandals are considered unsafe during emergency evacuations (especially outdoors during the Winter). Safe footwear should also be considered when working with machinery or potentially harmful chemicals, i.e. technology and science classes.
- C. The following items of dress are not appropriate during the school day or at school functions:
 - 1. Swim wear, halter tops, and midriff tops, and/or spaghetti straps. All shoulder straps allowed should be a minimum width of one inch. This will be enforced by all staff. Any students violating this will be asked to change and/or the school will provide a t-shirt to be worn.
 - 2. Shirts, jackets, etc. that have imprinted inappropriate sayings or pictures.
 - 3. Clothing worn inappropriately (low or unbuttoned to the point of immodesty, too tight, see-through, underwear showing, etc.)
 - 4. Hats are not to be worn or carried in school unless they are part of a school sponsored activity, taking place in school. For identification purposes, a person's eyes and face must be visible at all times. For example: hair covering eyes and/or face.
 - 5. Shirts are to be worn in the school at all times, including the P.E. area.
 - 6. Muscle shirts can be worn by boys in gym class only.
 - 7. No PJ's or slippers are to be worn during the school day.

If found wearing such attire, students refusing to change will be sent to the high school office. They may be asked to return home and change clothes prior to returning to class or clothing may be provided for them. The parent/guardian will be called, and students will be responsible for any work missed as a result of leaving and returning to school.

DRUG, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO ABUSE

- 1. Barker Central School has been identified by local, state and federal laws as a *Drug Free Zone*. The school is committed to the prevention of alcohol and other substance use/abuse. No student may use, possess, sell, or distribute alcohol or other substances, nor may he/she use or possess drug paraphernalia, on school grounds or at school-sponsored events, except drugs as prescribed by a physician. The term "alcohol and/or other substances" refers to the use of all substances including, but not limited, alcohol, inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look a likes, and any of those substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs". The inappropriate use of prescription and over the counter drugs is also forbidden.
- 2. Additionally, the following persons are not permitted to enter school grounds or school sponsored events: any person who gives any visible and/or physical indication that he/she has used or consumed alcohol and/or other substances, or any person who school personnel have reasonable grounds to suspect has used alcohol and/or other substances.

DRUG, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO ABUSE (continued)

3. Any narcotics found will be confiscated immediately. The parent/guardian of the student(s) involved will be called and appropriate disciplinary action taken, up to and including permanent suspension. The District may bring legal charges against the student(s) involved, including a lawsuit. In its effort to maintain a drug free environment, the District shall cooperate to the fullest extent possible with local, state and/or federal law enforcement agencies. Because of the *Drug Free Zone* status, penalties may be **doubled** for convicted violators.
4. Smoking is prohibited anywhere on school property. It is against State and Federal law. Possession, displaying, and handling of tobacco products on school property are also prohibited. Students caught smoking on school property is also prohibited. Students caught smoking on school property will be subject to in school, out-of-school suspension, and a fine of \$50. Smoking or lighting matches on a bus is a civil crime and students will be treated in accordance with the law. A Niagara County Sheriff's dog will be brought into the school on occasion to check lockers, back packs, etc. for drugs.

EXTORTION OF FELLOW STUDENTS

Any student attempting to force another student to pay money or give information in return for protection is guilty of extortion and will be dealt with in accordance with the law.

FALSELY REPORTING AN INCIDENT

Falsely reporting an incident is a Class A misdemeanor and, as such, is very serious. When it is confirmed that a student has engaged in such a practice, he/she will be disciplined according to law. This includes fire alarms, bomb threats, dialing 911, etc.

FIGHTING

1. Respect for fellow students is as important as respect for yourself and respect for staff. Treat others as you yourself want to be treated – no hassles, no bullying, no arguments, no fights.
2. Be very cautious of hearsay information. This causes problems because often the information is inaccurate and people intentionally want to make unnecessary trouble for others. The increased use of email, chat lines, and instant messaging has caused a dramatic increase in fighting in and out of school. Rumors and, in some cases, pictures are spread rapidly over the Internet. Students on the receiving end of these hurtful messages should report them to their parents immediately. If your ability to function normally at school is difficult due to information being shared electronically, it is recommended that you stop communicating via that method and see your counselor or the principal to work out your difficulties with other students.
3. Fighting, pushing, shoving, or horseplay **will not** be tolerated. In addition to the fact that such actions show disrespect for others, serious physical injuries can result from such actions. ***Fighting may result in suspension or ISS.*** In almost all cases, both parties will be suspended. Harsh comments or threats are just as inflammatory as initial physical contact.

INSUBORDINATION

In schools and in the world of work, insubordination results in serious consequences. Insubordination includes:

1. The failure of a student to comply with a reasonable request of a teacher or other member of the school staff.
2. Refusal to give a staff member your correct name or other information when asked.
3. A verbal or nonverbal expression of disrespect toward school personnel.
4. Dishonesty, including but not limited to lying and cheating.

Insubordination is never acceptable. The faculty expects to teach Barker High School students that conflicts are best resolved in ways which are nonthreatening and which do not disrupt classrooms or the learning atmosphere in the school.

Students who are insubordinate will be referred to the office with disciplinary action to exceed a verbal reprimand. Students who show a serious disregard for school authority and established rules of behavior risk the loss of school privileges as well as other disciplinary action.

KNIVES, FIREWORKS, WEAPONS (firearms, pellet guns, etc.)

1. Weapons, knives, fireworks (firecrackers, smoke bombs, popping pellets, etc.) are not allowed in school.
2. Use of or possession of any of these items or similar ones will not be tolerated. Students will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include arrest.

LAVATORIES (loitering)

Students are to report any vandalism or mechanical problems observed in lavatories immediately.

LEAVING SCHOOL OR SCHOOL GROUNDS

No student, under any circumstances, is to leave school or school grounds without being officially excused. The only persons in the high school authorized to officially excuse students are the High School Principal and the School Nurse. Students are to sign out of the high school office and sign in upon returning to school.

PROFANITY

Profanity which is directed at any member of the school staff or which is in response to adult intervention will result in detention or suspension. Profanity among students is also inappropriate. Students who use profanity will be referred to the office for appropriate disciplinary action. After one referral for use of profanity, any subsequent referrals may result in disciplinary action to exceed a verbal reprimand.

PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

No public display of affection of any type for grades 7 & 8 is allowed in school.

Any display of affection in grades 9 – 12, other than holding hands, is **NOT** acceptable and will result in disciplinary action.

RESPECT FOR SCHOOL AND OTHERS' PERSONAL PROPERTY (vandalism and theft)

School property, including items such as lockers, desks, chairs, audiovisual equipment, shop/science equipment, ceiling tiles, lavatory fixtures, etc. have been purchased at great expense to provide support for your education. As such, all property belongs to the school district and must be treated with care just as you respect your personal property to be cared for. The same applies to the personal property of others. ***If it is not yours, leave it alone!*** Damage, intentional or accidental, will not be tolerated. Vandalism and/or theft are crimes in addition to violation of school rules.

Students who are victims of theft should notify the office. The student will meet with the principal and/or the Safety Resource Officer (SRO) to determine what course of action can be taken.

RESPECT FOR STAFF

All staff, teachers, secretaries, custodians, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, volunteers, aides, visitors are to be treated with courtesy and respect at all times. You are to do what you are asked whether it be in the classroom, the hallways, the cafeteria, or anywhere else in school or on the bus. Staff members have your best interests at heart and, at the Principal's direction, they are obliged, not only to follow school rules themselves, but also to encourage and motivate you to follow those rules as well. This is proper training for whatever career you choose.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION

Any act of sexual harassment will not be tolerated in school, on school property, or at school related activities. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome flirtation, sexual advances, proposition, continual or repeated verbal abuse of a sexual nature, use of degrading sexual words and the display of sexually suggestive pictures.

Any student who believes that he/she has been subject to sexual harassment has the right to file a complaint with the high school principal. This complaint will receive prompt and appropriate attention.

Students guilty of harassment may be given detention and/or suspension. Parents will be contacted, and if warranted, the principal may request that charges are pressed on the aggressor.

STUDENT DRIVING

If you wish to drive and park a vehicle in the student parking lot, the following procedures should be followed:

1. File a Student Car Registration Form with the high school office.
2. Receive permission from the building principal.
3. Park in the designated parking area for students.
4. **Those of you who have a record of tardiness to school, may lose the privilege to drive.**

STUDENT DRIVING (continued)

5. Maximum speed on school property is 15 MPH. Since the protection of life and property is a major concern, there is to be no reckless driving in the parking lot. Students parking in the school parking lot without permission will be ticketed by the police. Do not chauffeur other students on or off school grounds during school hours unless consented to by the parent and approved by the principal. Under no circumstances may a student enter a car unless he/she is the driver/owner, or accompanied by the same. No students are to be in parked cars during the school day or at evening events. If the need arises during the course of the school day, students are to ask permission of the administration to go their cars. Students are to park in areas designated for student vehicles only. Students must comply with all parking/driving regulations as detailed on the parking application. Any violation of these rules may result in the revocation of student parking privileges.

***REMEMBER: Permission to drive to school is a privilege, not a right!
Students not following the rules will lose the privilege to drive.***