



Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology

Expectations for Student Conduct

Each Governor's School student is responsible for her or his own actions while on school property or under the supervision of Governor's School faculty members during school activities. Students are expected to be punctual to class and to respect fellow class members, CVGS faculty and school property. CVGS faculty and staff will not tolerate a student who jeopardizes his or her own safety or the safety of others. In addition, CVGS faculty and staff will not tolerate disruption of the learning process.

Students who choose not to comply with the school policies or with the local, state and federal laws are subject to disciplinary action and any applicable consequences of the legal system.

One Minute of Silence

"In accordance with the Code of Virginia 22.1-203, this policy establishes a one-minute period of silence during the second class period of each school day. Students will remain in their seats, silent, and make no distracting display so that each student may, in the exercise of his or her individual choice, meditate, pray, or engage in any other silent activity which does not interfere with, distract, or impede other students."

Pledge of Allegiance

State regulations require that students stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance while facing the flag either with their right hands over their hearts or in an appropriate salute if in uniform. However, no student can be compelled to recite the Pledge if the student, parent of the student, or legal guardian of the student objects on religious, philosophical, or other grounds. Students who are thus exempt from reciting the Pledge must remain quietly standing or sitting at their desks while others recite the Pledge. Exempt students must not make any display that disrupts or distracts others who are reciting the Pledge.

Drug, Alcohol, Weapon, Explosives, or Assault Related Offenses

Governor's School students are not permitted to possess, sell, or consume drugs, look-alike drugs or alcohol, or possess weapons, look-alike weapons, or explosives on campus, in school vehicles, at school functions, or on any school sponsored trips. The following information from the Heritage Handbook applies to Governor's School students since CVGS is located on Lynchburg School Board Property:

"Drugs and Alcohol

While on school property or under the supervision of school personnel, a student shall not possess, purchase, or attempt to possess, sell, use, or be under the influence of tobacco, any drug, look-alike drug, drug paraphernalia, or intoxicant. Students bringing any medication

either prescribed for them by a physician or over-the-counter must leave the medication with the school nurse to dispense.

Students using drugs or in possession will be turned in to the evidence officer at the Lynchburg Police Department. Police will be called for all drug/alcohol offenses. All local, state and federal laws pertaining to the sale/possession of drugs and alcohol will be applied. Students who are suspected of being under the influence of alcohol, while on school property or at a school function, can be required to submit to a “breath analyzer” test. This test measures alcohol content in the blood stream and is conducted by an administrator. Refusal to take the test is an assumption of guilt and all Lynchburg City School Board policies and regulations and state statutes will apply.”

Further, according to Lynchburg City Schools’ policy, students shall not possess or have on their persons, in their lockers, vehicles, on school grounds, at school-sponsored functions or extracurricular activities, or on any school bus any weapons and/or explosives. Weapons include firearms, knives, look-a-like weapons, laser lights and other dangerous objects or instruments which could cause injury to another person. Explosives include fireworks, firecrackers, dynamite caps and other explosive substances or devices.

Finally, Lynchburg City Schools defines an assault as an attack upon another person that involves intentional hitting, striking, or applying of unwanted force. Any student found to have committed an assault will be subject to disciplinary action.

Disciplinary Response to Drug, Alcohol, Weapon, Explosives, or Assault Related Offenses

Should an incident falling into one of the afore-mentioned categories be suspected, each student suspected of involvement will have a conference with the Director and/or the instructor to discuss the incident in detail. Since CVGS is on Lynchburg School Board property, the Lynchburg City School Board policies regarding drug/alcohol/ weapons/explosives and assaults will apply. A copy of the LCS policies is available for review in the CVGS main office.

In the event of a substantiated violation, the CVGS Director will take the following steps to implement the Lynchburg City Schools policy previously described:

1. Notify the Lynchburg City Schools superintendent, the superintendent-in-charge, and the home high school superintendent and immediately suspend the student from CVGS and;
2. Confiscate the weapons, explosives, drugs or alcohol and turn them over to the Lynchburg Police Department for appropriate action and;
3. Notify the parent or guardian by phone (and with a follow-up letter) of the offense, the results of the conference with the director, and the director's recommendations to the superintendent-in-charge and;
4. Request the superintendent-in-charge to recommend to the Governor’s School Board that the student be permanently dismissed from the Governor's School and;
5. Refer the student to his/her home school officials for counseling and placement.

Non Drug, Alcohol, Weapon, Explosive, or Assault Related Offenses

Cell Phones and Other Portable Electronic Devices

CVGS permits students to possess cell phones and other portable electronic devices. However, such devices may not be used during class time except with the specific permission of the teacher or CVGS Director.

Using Heritage High School Facilities

CVGS students should enter the building using the outside CVGS entrance. When in Heritage High School (HHS) halls, it is imperative that Governor's School students observe all HHS rules and avoid being disruptive. Governor's School students are expected to identify themselves to HHS faculty, staff, and administration when asked and are to respectfully listen to and comply with instructions.

Heritage High School has enacted a dress code. When in HHS halls, Governor's School students must abide by this dress code. A copy of this dress code is posted on the doors from CVGS into HHS. Heritage High School also has a restrictive cell phone policy, and students must abide by that policy while in the HHS halls.

Fund Raising

Students must not sell products for home high school fund raising projects during school hours.

Disciplinary Response to Non Drug, Alcohol, Weapon, Explosives, Assault Related Offenses

First Offense

Students will have a conference with the Director and/or the instructor to identify the problem and the policy in question. The student will be put on probation, and the Director will send a letter to the student's parent or guardian and home high school principal explaining the reason for the disciplinary action.

Second Offense

Students will have a conference with the director. Automatic suspension from the Governor's School will occur for a given number of days. The Director will notify the home high school principal and a parent or guardian in writing concerning the disciplinary action taken. Students suspended by the director will not be allowed to make up academic work missed during their suspension. They will receive a grade of zero on missed assignments.

Parents or guardians are encouraged to schedule conferences with the Director at any point during the disciplinary process. Parents or students who are 18 years old may appeal a suspension or dismissal to the Director and may appeal the recommendation of the Director to a subcommittee of the Governor's School Board.

According to Governor's School Board policy, students who are suspended or expelled from their home schools will be automatically suspended or expelled from the Governor's School for

the duration of the penalty. In this type of suspension, CVGS will follow the home school's policy regarding making up academic work missed during the suspension.

Appeals Process

In order to provide due process for CVGS students, faculty decisions may be appealed by a student's parent or guardian to the Director. The Director's decisions may be appealed to the Superintendent-in-Charge. Interested parents or guardians should contact the Director for more specific information on the appeals process.