

St. Thomas Aquinas - STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

St. Thomas Aquinas is committed to providing students with a school environment that is both safe and conducive to learning. We believe that parents are the most important educators of their children, and that we need to work in partnership with them to teach students to be responsible for their own actions. We believe that we are all unique and worthy persons and God calls each of us to work together in love, hope, and courage in our school community. Spirituality is the cornerstone of Catholic Education. We encourage personal integrity, which results in sincerity, honesty, and compassion. We demonstrate responsibility in the choices we make. We believe that by striving for understanding, we provide for an environment that stimulates growth and accepts differences. We maintain forgiveness as a basic belief of our Catholic faith that must be lived in our school, community, and home. We believe that showing respect for ourselves, each other and for our environment provides for harmony and personal growth. In accordance with the Alberta Human Rights Act, we believe all students have a right to resources, services and facilities required for their learning and comfort. We celebrate our accomplishments and cherish that each person brings gifts, talents, and interests to our community to develop and share. We are dedicated to teaching students' appropriate behavior towards themselves and others. We expect students to behave in an appropriate manner, which does not interfere with the learning or behavior of others. We believe that people perform better when they know what is expected of them. We affirm that the rights set out in the Alberta Human Rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms are afforded to all students and staff members within St. Thomas Aquinas School.

Expectations for Appropriate Behaviour

Students and parents are to conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful and contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging. School-wide expectations are communicated to our students by teachers in classroom discussions, by school administration in assemblies, during morning announcements and through the Agenda Book. We have set behavioral guidelines for the school as a whole and have asked each teacher to apply programs and procedures designed to maximize student learning and responsibility. Since each teacher has a different style, specific expectations and procedures will vary from class to class. Expectations of students and school rules are outlined at the beginning of the year and are regularly reviewed with students. Students are expected to conduct themselves according to the requirements set out in the Education Act and are outlined as follows:

School Act Part 1, Section 12—Student Responsibilities

A student shall conduct himself or herself to comply with the following code of conduct:

1. be diligent in pursuing the student's studies.
2. attend school regularly and punctually.
3. co-operate fully with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services.
4. comply with the rules of the school.
5. account to the student's teachers for the student's conduct.
6. respect the rights of others.
7. ensure that the student's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging
8. refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behavior directed toward others in the school, whether it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means.
9. positively contribute to the student's school and community.

School Act Part 1, Section 16.2—Parent Responsibilities

A parent of a student has the responsibility

1. to take an active role in the student's educational success, including assisting the student in complying with section 12,

2. to ensure that the parent's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment,
3. to co-operate and collaborate with school staff to support the delivery of supports and services to the student,
4. to encourage, foster and advance collaborative, positive and respectful relationships with teachers, principals, other school staff and professionals providing supports and services in the school, and
5. to engage in the student's school community.

Expectations of Student Behaviour:

Students are expected to follow the expectations set out in the School Act, our school conduct policy; and the expectations set out by their teachers. These details are described below; and are given to students by their teachers at the beginning of each year, student expectations are not exclusive to these detailed.