

James River Day School students are expected to conduct themselves as scholars, leaders, and citizens. They strive to display the six pillars of character: trustworthiness, caring, fairness, responsibility, respect, and citizenship. Our school community does not tolerate disrespect, dishonesty, or bullying. Our students, as leaders, are not afraid to do what is right. Our teachers and staff are trusted adults who will support students when they need help, whether to challenge unacceptable behavior in someone else or to make an improvement in one's own behavior. Any student should not hesitate to speak up against rudeness or meanness by addressing another student or by confiding in a teacher, coach, advisor, or school administrator. Our students recite the Character Pledge each day, along with the Pledge of Allegiance.

JRDS Character Pledge

I pledge to do my best to show strength of character each day. I can act responsibly, show respect, show I care, be a good citizen, be trustworthy and be fair in all that I do.

When JRDS students join the middle school, grades 5-8, they are held accountable by our Honor Code to demonstrate academic honesty and integrity in all their work, never plagiarizing by copying from another person or source without giving appropriate credit and never cheating on any assignment or assessment. In order to remind students that they are bound by the JRDS Honor Code, we ask that they write out the JRDS Honor Pledge on each assignment or assessment, as directed by the teacher.

JRDS Honor Code

I will tell the truth. I will complete all assignments on my own unless told otherwise by the teacher. I will respect others and their property.

JRDS Honor Pledge

I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment.

The Character Pledge, Honor Code, and Honor Pledge are posted in each classroom, and they are integral parts of our character education program. Students and parents sign this acknowledgement to indicate that they agree to abide by the spirit and intent of our character education program.

"I know that I am responsible for my personal behavior at James River Day School. I understand the school's expectations that I conduct myself honorably and that I demonstrate caring and respect for others."

Date

Student signature

"I have read and discussed the honor code and the school's behavior expectations with my child."

Date

Parent signature

JRDS Behavior Contract

Students in grades 5-8 who violate the guidelines of the JRDS Character Pledge and Honor Code may be asked to write a JRDS Behavior Contract. The contract asks the student to reflect in writing on what happened, why it was a problem, and what the student plans to do to keep the problem from happening again. Being asked to write a JRDS Behavior Contract is a serious matter and is usually reserved for situations that have already been addressed by the teacher in a coaching, educative manner.

Any teacher or coach may ask a student to write a JRDS Behavior Contract. Once the contract has been completed, it is sent to the student's advisor, and the Associate Head and Head of School are notified. The advisor will discuss the matter with the student. The teacher or coach who initiated the process will contact the student's parent. Advisors will keep any completed JRDS Behavior Contracts on file. If a student submits three JRDS Behavior Contracts in a school year, he or she will be expected to serve an in-school suspension. A meeting of the student, parent, and Head or Associate Head of School will also be held to ensure the student understands the parents' and school's expectations of the student's future conduct. Continued disrespectful or dishonorable behavior following suspension may result in an out-of-school suspension, a decision not to invite the student to return to JRDS for the following school year, or dismissal from school.

Specific behaviors that may result in a student having to write a JRDS Behavior Contract:

- repeated arguing with a teacher
- repeated socializing or interrupting during class
- unkind behavior such as name-calling, put-downs, negative criticisms of a person's appearance, performance, or personal characteristics, starting or spreading rumors, exclusivity, bullying
- cheating
- lying
- repeated tardiness to school or to class
- repeated violations of the dress code
- repeated confiscation of cell phone or electronic device
- disrespect of school property

Additional possible disciplinary consequences:

If a student is in violation of the dress code, he or she will be asked to change into an appropriate item of clothing from "share wear" – clean clothes that are kept in the office. If a student uses "share wear," he or she is responsible for washing that clothing and returning it to the office.

If a student is using a cell phone or any electronic device during class, unless the teacher has given express permission for usage, the teacher will confiscate the device and turn it in to the Head of School. The Head will keep the device and will release it only to the student's parent.

If a student is engaged in fighting or physical aggression, he or she may be suspended on the first offense, without having completed the JRDS Behavior Contract.

If a student has cheated on a test or assignment, the teacher will not give the student credit for that test or assignment, in addition to asking the student to write the JRDS Behavior Contract.