

Mountain Vista Governor's School

Student Behavior Expectations and Accountability

All Virginia Governor's School students undergo an eligibility screening process that includes references to responsible conduct. Mountain Vista Governor's School (MVGS) students shall be expected to be committed to:

- embodying high standards of quality in pursuit of excellence,
- conducting themselves in a manner that positively affects the learning community's pursuit of its educational objectives, and
- being exemplary role-models of responsible citizenship and decision making.

Technology shall be an important instructional tool of MVGS. A student's participation in MVGS shall be contingent upon the ethical and appropriate use of the LFCC teleconferencing, networking, and web-based (Blackboard) systems.

Students shall be held accountable for the student codes of conduct for their local school division, Lord Fairfax Community College *Code of Student Rights, Responsibility and Conduct*, Lord Fairfax Community College *Technology Use Agreement*, and *MVGS Expectations for Behavior*. MVGS students shall be responsible for their actions traveling to campus, on-campus, and on community field experiences. Any infractions of codes of conduct shall be referred to the student's home-based high school administration for disciplinary action as designated by the local school division. Parent/guardian shall be notified as prescribed by the local school division.

The MVGS Expectations for Behavior

The MVGS students shall:

1. Attend school and report to all classes regularly and on time.
2. Demonstrate respect for other students, faculty, and staff.
3. Demonstrate respect for the property of MVGS, LFCC, and any other educational, community, or business property involved in MVGS instructional activities.
4. Refrain from conduct that is disruptive to any MVGS or LFCC class or activity.
5. Remain on LFCC campus during MVGS school hours.
6. Abide by the acceptable technology and internet use policies of home-based schools and LFCC.
7. Refrain from abusive language, fighting, obscene conduct, public profanity, or stealing.
8. Abide by regulations governing travel to and from MVGS on school busses and/or private vehicles.
9. Adhere to LFCC campus safety and common courtesy expectations.
10. Not engage in any form of dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information or documents.
11. Not be in possession of illegal or dangerous weapons, look-alike weapons, or other instruments intended to inflict bodily harm.
12. Not be in possession of or use alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs. The LFCC campus public smoking area is off-limits to MVGS students.
13. Not intentionally misuse or damage any of the LFCC teleconferencing, internet, or Blackboard technology.

14. Adhere to the loss/damaged textbook and/or materials expectation and fees of their school division, LFCC, and MVGS.
15. Adhere to appropriate dress that supports the campus or community learning activity for the day and is in compliance with their school division dress code.

Attendance

Since the academic pace at the Governor's School is accelerated, it is very important that student absences be kept to a minimum. If a student knows in advance that he/she shall be absent from Governor's School for personal reasons or a home school academic activity, it is the student's responsibility to obtain assignments prior to the absence.

Absences, tardies, and early dismissals shall be reported daily to the home-based school. School division attendance policies shall be in effect. A parent/guardian shall contact the MVGS Director immediately if a student will be absent for an extended medical situation. A doctor's excuse shall be required.

The MVGS Governing Board has approved an academic-year calendar for MVGS. This academic-year calendar shall be consistent with, but may not exactly reflect, the students' local school division's calendars. If a school division is open and MVGS is closed, a student shall be responsible for web-based instruction to be completed at the student's home-based school. If a school division is closed and MVGS is open, a student shall not be required to attend MVGS. A student may choose to attend MVGS. The school division will not provide transportation. A senior's final exam schedule and last day of attendance shall depend on the school division's graduation date.

Transportation

MVGS students shall be expected to follow the transportation expectations of their school divisions. All transportation issues shall be handled by the home-based schools. School divisions provide transportation to MVGS. Local school division policy shall determine whether permission will be granted for students to drive to MVGS at LFCC or to be passengers in other students' cars. School division or charter buses shall be contracted for field experiences and transportation expectations shall be in effect.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is essential in developing students' full intellectual potential and self worth. An inherent aspect of education is instilling a sense of honor, integrity, and high principles that extend to all facets of life. It requires students and teachers to analyze what they know and to set goals to expand both their knowledge and skill foundation. It is a belief of the MVGS community that it is in each person's best interest to always adhere to the values of honesty, integrity, and respect. The MVGS Honor Pledge is designed to foster an environment of moral excellence based on a shared code of values.

MVGS students shall maintain a high standard of honesty in their coursework. Students shall not give or accept unauthorized assistance. Unauthorized assistance includes sharing oral and written information during examinations, tests, quizzes homework assignments; and consulting written materials or copying another's work without the teacher's expressed permission. Tests shall not be taken out of the examination room without the teacher's expressed permission and shall be completed within the allotted time. Notes or other sources shall not be consulted unless

specifically authorized by the faculty member administering the examination. Cheating shall include, but is not limited to, copying, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and unauthorized divulging of information. Plagiarism is defined as the presentation of someone else's ideas or words as one's own. Falsification includes the intent to mislead, as well as forgery of any signatures. Lying or stealing violates the principles of integrity and respect for self, others and property.

MVGS faculty members shall serve as professional role models for life-long learning and shall exemplify the values of honor, respect and integrity. They shall be responsible for setting clear expectations under which their classes operate; i.e. when they encourage or prohibit cooperation among students; what constitutes plagiarism; and how to pursue and then document scholarly information sources.

The Pledge

The Honor Pledge is an expression of the student's support of a learning environment based on honor, integrity, and scholarly pursuit. The student should abide by the following pledge on graded assignments. This pledge is discussed with students at orientation and during advisory.

"I have neither given nor received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment."

The MVGS Honor Pledge is designed to reflect and reinforce the honor code expectation of the students' home-based schools.

Director's Responsibility for Accountability Proceedings (Including Request for Student Dismissal for MVGS)

The MVGS Director (or designee) shall be responsible for reporting a student's inappropriate behavior to the student's home-based school administrator and for collaborating with that administrator on an appropriate disciplinary resolution.

The MVGS Director may request dismissal of the student from the MVGS for the following:

- Code of Conduct violations resulting in actions by the local school board to expel the student from public school.
- Failure of the student to meet the high MVGS academic course expectations as documented in a MVGS Plan for Success.
- Multiple honor code violations after a student has failed to meet the honor code expectations as documented in a MVGS Plan for Success.
- Intentional misuse or damage of any of the LFCC teleconferencing, Internet, or web-based (Blackboard) technology.

The director's request for a student's dismissal shall be submitted to the student's home-based school principal and the student's parents/guardian. A meeting shall be convened to review the request, based on due process, and to recommend appropriate action.

A student who is dismissed from the MVGS for matters of conduct shall be ineligible to reapply for admission for a period of not less than 365 calendar days from the date of dismissal.

Student/Parent Signature Form

A student folder or handbook shall be issued to each student at the beginning of the school year. Each student and parent shall be expected to provide a signed and dated form indicating that they have read and understand the MVGS Student Expectations for Behavior and the Lord Fairfax Community College *Code of Student Rights, Responsibility and Conduct*, and Lord Fairfax Community College *Technology Use Agreement*. A copy of this signature form shall be kept on file at both MVGS and the student's home-based school file.

Approved by the MVGS Governing Board May 22, 2006