Middle School Community Agreement for 2015-16

As a Middle School community the following guidelines serve to help us continue to be a respectful and fun community. It is up to each one of us to follow the community agreement and be responsible for each other and ourselves. Catlin Gabel encourages self-discipline, sound judgment, and respect for self and others. Our goal is to help students learn from experiences both in and out of the classroom, to grow from errors in judgment, to be accountable for their own actions, and to behave honorably. The following are considered fundamental standards of student behavior that help create a healthy environment that fosters independent, self-reliant, empathetic, and curious learners in community.

Honesty and Integrity
Students are expected to act with honesty and integrity in all their actions at the school both inside and outside the classroom. Students are expected to take responsibility for their actions, academics, and behavior. Catlin Gabel regards dishonesty and disrespect as very serious infractions and responds accordingly. Lack of personal integrity is evident by such actions as lying, stealing, or forgery. Lack of academic honesty is evidenced by such acts as plagiarism, cheating, or allowing others to represent your work as their own.

Respect and Responsibility
Students are expected to demonstrate respect for self, others, including staff, and the environment. The following are not acceptable in this community:

- **Disruptive behavior**: actions that interfere with the educational environment or process, or that are detrimental to the welfare of others.
- **Vandalism**: intentional damage, defacing, or destroying of property.
- **Verbal abuse, harassment and intimidation**: put downs, insults, jokes, slander, and ostracism. Language or behavior that insults, demeans, ridicules, or torments another person. Acts that have the effect of (a) physically harming a student or damaging a student’s property; (b) knowingly placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm to the student or damage to the student’s property; or (c) creating a hostile educational environment, including interfering with the psychological well-being of a student. (d) Intentional threats by words or actions.
- **Discrimination**: treating someone differently or unfairly because of their race, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religion – either within or outside of the school community.

Repeated instances of the above behaviors when directed at other community members are considered bullying and will not be tolerated.

Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco
Student use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco are prohibited on campus and all school events, trips, and functions.

Sexual Activity
Sexual activity is not appropriate at school at any time by students, as well as at school-related, school-sponsored, or school-sanctioned events or activities regardless of location.
Computers and the Internet
Catlin Gabel does not employ system-wide Internet filtering. Students are expected to make responsible choices. All students must abide by the school’s digital citizenship policy, which explains appropriate use of the network, laptops, and school computers. All general school expectations concerning student behavior apply to use of the network and Internet both on and off campus.

Electronic Devices and Phones
Catlin Gabel is an institution of academic learning, and students are expected to tailor their use of electronic devices and cell phones to that end. Excessive or improper use of electronic devices and cell phones can negatively affect students’ academic and social lives and the school community as a whole.

With regard to electronic devices and cell phones we ask that students be present, meaning that students be social and courteous to fellow students, and to be engaged in the learning.

Specific to cell phones:
• All cell phones are to be kept with ringers off and in backpacks during school hours. They may not be kept in pockets or brought to classes, unless with specific permission from a teacher.
• Cell phone use is not allowed during school breaks or lunch.
• If students need to make a call home, the Middle School Office phone is available to them all day.
• We ask that parents not text or call students during the school day – messages may be left for students through the office. That being said, we urge families to make plans in advance of the school day so as not to interrupt teaching and learning.
• Use phones and all electronic devices appropriately and respectfully at all times.

Routine expectations of students

Arriving on time: School begins with first period at 8:00 am. Students are expected to be on campus from 8:00 am until 3:15 pm. We suggest students arrive by 7:50 am.

Late arrivals: Any student who arrives after 8:00 am is required to sign-in in the Middle School Office.

Absences: A parent must notify the school by 9:00 am if a student is absent. Planned absences require a form to be filled out at least five days in advance.

Leaving Campus: Any student who needs to leave school for any other reason (medical appointments or going home ill are common reasons) must have a parent call or email the office ahead of time and must sign out in the Middle School Office.

Dress: The School’s standard is simply that clothing be neat, clean, and appropriate to the task at hand. Students who arrive on campus wearing inappropriate clothing will be asked to return home to change. Clothing should covers skin appropriately and not reveal underclothing such as bras and underwear. Students should not wear clothing with offensive language or inappropriate advertising such as for alcohol, drugs, or tobacco.

Violation of any of the above fundamental standards may result in a student receiving some form of disciplinary action.

All students are expected to play a part in creating a safe, inclusive, and healthy community.
MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY AGREEMENT FOR 2015-2016

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM BELOW TO YOUR CHILD’S ADVISOR ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

You may also scan and submit electronically to your child’s advisors.

I/we, __________________________, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of __________________________,
(Print adult name(s) here)                      (Print student name here)
have read the Middle School Community Agreement for standards of student behavior. We commit to
supporting these guidelines with our child during the upcoming school year.

I, __________________________, student in grade level 6 7 8
(Print student name here)                      (Circle appropriate level)
have read the Middle School Community Agreement for standards of student behavior and commit to abiding
by these rules.

Signatures:

________________________________________________________________________________
Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

________________________________________________________________________________
Student(s)

_________________________________________
Date