

# RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All members of the school community must assume a responsible role in promoting behavior that enhances academic and social success. Courteous, respectful and responsible behavior fosters a positive climate and one that promotes learning.

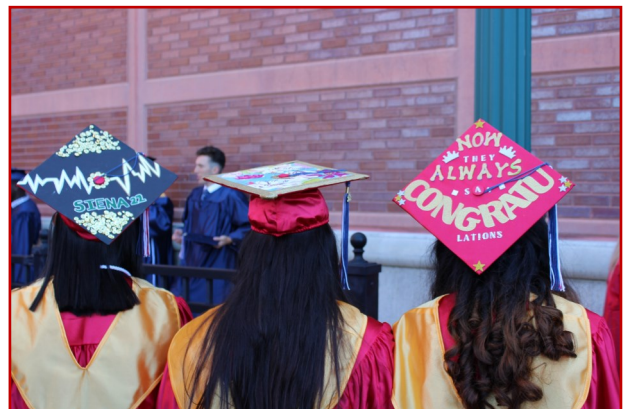
## STUDENTS

- ◆ Students learn best when adults serve as active positive role models.
- ◆ Students learn best when there is unconditional acceptance of differences.
- ◆ Students learn best when respect and civility are modeled by all.
- ◆ Students learn best when behavioral expectations are clearly defined and consistently enforced.

All students are guaranteed the right to express opinions, support causes, organize and assemble to discuss issues and demonstrate peacefully and responsibly in support of and in accordance with policies and procedures established by the Schenectady City School District Board of Education.

### Students have the right to:

- ◆ Be afforded a sound, quality education in a school environment that is safe, orderly and promotes learning.
- ◆ Be respected as an individual, treated fairly and with dignity by other students and school staff.
- ◆ Organize, promote and participate in student activities and clubs as part of the formal education process or as authorized by the school principal.
- ◆ Dress in such a way to express one's personality as long as it does not distract or disrupt the learning environment.
- ◆ Provide representation of appropriate school-wide committees that influence the educational process as designated by school personnel.
- ◆ Participate and express opinions through the publication of school newspapers and newsletters with oversight from faculty advisors.
- ◆ Exercise freedom of inquiry and expression, written and oral, within appropriate limits under the law and provided that the rights of others are not diminished.
- ◆ Be protected from intimidation, harassment or discrimination based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national, origin, ethnic group, religion or religious practice, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability, by employees and students on school property or at any school-sponsored event, function or activity.



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## Students have the responsibility of:

- ◆ Owning and being active participants in their learning.
- ◆ Attending school daily, arriving on time and being prepared to learn.
- ◆ Being truthful about and accountable for words and actions.
- ◆ Respecting themselves and others in class, on school grounds, on buses and any school-related activity.
- ◆ Respecting the rights and feelings of fellow students, parents, school staff, visitors and guests.
- ◆ Knowing and complying with school district rules and policies.
- ◆ Making an effort to correct and improve behavior through restorative interventions.
- ◆ Expressing thoughts and opinions in ways that are polite, respectful and courteous.
- ◆ Respecting others' personal space.
- ◆ Participating in learning communities, including helping to formulate rules and procedures in the school, engaging in school-related activities and fostering a culture of respect for learning and for others.
- ◆ Seeking help and assistance when needed.
- ◆ Taking care of property that belongs to others or the school.
- ◆ Helping to make school a community that is free from violence, intimidation, bullying, harassment and discrimination.

## PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CAREGIVERS

Parents, guardians and caregivers have the right to be active participants in the learning process, to express views and to provide input into decisions that affect their children. They are vital to the success of students in school. Parents, guardians and caregivers should have high expectations for their children. They are always welcome into our schools.

### Parents, guardians and caregivers have the right to:

- ◆ Be actively involved in their children's education.
- ◆ Be treated courteously, fairly and respectfully by all school staff.
- ◆ Receive timely information about policies and procedures that relates to their children.
- ◆ Receive regular reports from school staff regarding academic progress and behavior.
- ◆ Receive notification and information of inappropriate or disruptive behaviors by their children and any disciplinary actions taken.
- ◆ Receive information about due process procedures for disciplinary matters concerning their children.
- ◆ Receive information about ways to improve their children's progress including counseling, tutoring, after-school programs, academic programs and mental health services.
- ◆ Receive information about services for students with disabilities and English language learners.
- ◆ Be contacted when their child is believed to have committed a crime or when police are called.
- ◆ Receive communication through provided translators.