

Desert Academy Code of Conduct

Desert Academy is an “independent zone”, meaning that in all areas of community life, we encourage students to become more independent in their approaches to work, problem-solving, and social interactions. All academic and student life policies are designed to encourage growth in this vein. Independent students are at the center of their learning experience. They take responsibility for their obligations, behaviors, and attitudes.

Desert Academy expects students to commit to the basic core values of honesty, responsibility, diligence, compassion, respect, citizenship, courage, fairness, and integrity. To this end, each Desert student is asked to take the following pledge:

I pledge that...

- My behavior shows respect for myself and others.*
- My words and deeds represent truth and honesty.*
- My decisions are based upon having the courage to do what is right.*
- I will accept responsibility for my choices and behavior.*

Specifically, students are expected to honor this pledge in the following ways:

- Take charge of their own learning, completing assigned work in a timely and responsible manner, and, if necessary, negotiating adjustments in their academic program respectfully.*
- Work to their potential in all areas.*
- Be involved in solving their own academic and social problems.*
- Respect the common goals of our community and strive to make a contribution towards achieving them.*
- Recognize and respect diversity.*
- Attend all scheduled activities on time, and be fully prepared to participate.*

School Environment

In the interest of creating and maintaining a safe, appropriate climate that supports learning, students are expected to observe the following standards for behavior within the school facility:

- Behave in a mature and respectful manner appropriate to a learning environment.*
- No running, yelling, pushing, horseplay, whistling, loud noises, ball playing, or other disruptive behavior within the confines of the school property.*
- No public displays of intimate physical contact.*
- No foul language.*
- No tobacco, alcohol, or drug use.*
- No electronic devices during the school day*
- No violence*

Dress Guidelines

Students are free to express themselves through their attire, provided that it does not:

- Promote or suggest racism, bigotry, sexism, or intolerance.*
- Cause disturbances or distractions in school.*

- *Promote, advertise, display, or advocate alcohol, drugs, smoking, or substance abuse.*
- *Promote or advocate violence.*
- *Suggest sexual labels or stereotypes.*
- *Contain profanity or vulgar language.*

In addition, dress should be appropriate to a school environment.

- *Shorts and skirts should be an appropriate length.*
- *Students may not expose skin at the waistline.*
- *No low-cut shirts, strapless shirts or tube tops.*
- *No exposed underwear.*
- *No sunglasses may be worn in the school facility or at indoor school-sponsored events.*
- *No hats may be worn in the school facility.*

While the dress guidelines promote freedom of expression, interpretation of these guidelines is solely at the discretion of Desert Academy. It is the decision of the school to determine if the dress guidelines have been violated. Students who choose not to follow the dress code will be asked to change.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent signature: _____

Date: _____