

What is a student's responsibility or rights?

An Indian River Central student has the right to participate in all district activities on an equal basis regardless of:

- Race
- Color
- Weight
- Ethnic Group
- Religion
- Any other legally protected status
- Disability
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender
- Sex
- Religious Practice

Students have the responsibility to maintain a mutual respect and dignity for all students and staff members regardless of actual or perceived differences.

IRMS promotes learning and strengthening students' confidence as students practice *respect* and *dignity for all*.

What does civility and citizenship look like at IRMS?

IRMS students and staff show civility through their polite actions and courteous things they say to one another.

Civility requires using good manners, appropriate gestures and showing respect for all people that are at school or attending school functions. Students apply good citizenship when they care and show concern of other student's feelings and safety, communicate their own way of thinking in a productive manner and show self-confidence to deal with everyday challenges.

What should I do if I'm being treated unfairly?

There are many ways to address unfair treatment, but each situation is different. You should **ALWAYS** speak with an adult, many of us have been there before.

- Get help from an adult at home and/or school
- Get help from peers
- Avoid 'hot spots' where you are alone
- Be confident and speak out against unfair treatment
- Support others who are victims of unfair treatment

It Begins With You!



Indian River Middle School

Dignity Act Coordinators

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Reporting forms are available on the website, at guidance office and main office.

Indian River Middle School

A Safe & Healthy School

315-642-0125

www.ircsd.org

DIGNITY for
ALL
STUDENTS
ACT



At IRMS we maintain a safe school environment through enforcing the Indian River Central Code of Conduct and promoting civility, citizenship and character education.

*This safe school environment requires teaching **tolerance, respect for others and dignity for all.***

What is DASA?

The “Dignity for All Students Act” is a New York State law effective July 1, 2012. It is designed to provide a learning environment free of discrimination and harassment. Bullying behaviors may be a larger problem of discrimination and harassment. DASA works to help prevent discrimination and harassment through civility, citizenship and character education.

What is harassment?

Harassment is when the school environment becomes hostile, or unsafe, in nature through the use of verbal threats, intimidation, abuse, and conduct. Harassment can substantially interfere with education or cause stress mentally, emotionally or physically. A student that feels unsafe or fears for physical safety could be experiencing harassment. So, harassing or teasing a student for being “too skinny” is considered to be the same level of seriousness as harassing a student because of their religion, disability or ethnicity.

What is discrimination?

Discrimination is when a person is treated differently based on the group or category to which that person belongs, or perceived to belong, rather than looking at the person for their individual characteristics. When a person discriminates another person, they treat them unfairly which denies that person normal privileges or rights.

What is bullying?

Bullying is a form of harassment that can be done face to face or indirectly to another person or through electronics. A bully uses their power to make the victim feel unimportant by embarrassing or controlling them. The behavior may be repeated over time. Bullying can be a sudden activity or can be planned ahead.

Bullying behaviors include:

- Threats of intimidation to others
- Treating others cruelly
- Terrorizing
- Coercing
- Stalking
- Habitual put downs
- Badgering of others
- Other misbehaviors that include harassment, hazing, intimidation or discrimination.

What is cyber-bullying?

Cyber-bullying occurs through electronic communication on the internet, cell phones, or other electronic media.

Cyber-bullying can involve, but is not limited to:

- Sending mean, vulgar, or threatening messages or images
- Posting sensitive, private information about another person
- Pretending to be someone else in order to make a person look bad

What can I do to stop bullying at IRMS?

At IRMS, we do everything we can to end bullying, but we can't help if we don't know about a situation. There is a big difference between ‘tattling’ and ‘telling.’ Tattling is when a person talks to someone about a problem in order to get someone else in trouble, to get their own way, or to make themselves look good and someone else look bad. Telling is talking to someone who is trusted about a problem because they or someone else may be getting hurt.

I'm a parent and I am concerned about a situation at home or in school.

What can I do to help at home?

Please feel free to give administration a call anytime to report a situation, no matter how minor it may seem. There are many ways we can help – and we are always confidential with any information provided to us. We always encourage a safe and healthy school environment at IRMS. If a safety issue arises, please do not encourage your child to strike another person.

This aggressive behavior may make the situation even worse, and may subject your child to disciplinary action when THEY are the true victim. Help your child to know how to defend themselves by walking with others, de-escalating situations and telling adults.

If You See Something, Say Something!