

## **Queensbury Middle School Code of Conduct and Dignity for All Students Act Definitions**

In order to insure the safety of all students as well as maintain a respectful environment that encourages learning, QMS has a code of conduct that further clarifies the district code of conduct for our students. Many important parts of the code are included in the student handbook, which you will find inside the student homework planner. While the code does not limit or restrict freedom of speech nor any constitutional or individual right, it does not allow for abuse of individuals, and therefore maintains the academic environment appropriate for our students.

The code of conduct applies at all times while students are under the jurisdiction of the Queensbury Union Free School District. This includes on the way to and from school on the bus, attending school sponsored activities, in the classroom and on the fields. These expectations extend beyond the school setting if they reasonably can be found to be disruptive to the learning environment or if an individual student does not feel safe to fully participate in school based upon incidents that take place off school grounds (including online cyber bullying).

In compliance with the Dignity for All Students Act, students and adults are not to harass, bully, annoy, bother, tease or discriminate against another student; nor will they treat a person differently because of how they look or act. This includes someone's race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex. (Please see the reverse side for definitions of each of these protected classes). At QMS we will not tolerate hurting another student or leaving someone out because of any of the named reasons above. This includes hurting someone by physical contact or by hurting a person's feelings because of any of the above reasons.

Any student who feels unsafe or feels they have been treated unfairly, or any student who witnesses another student feeling this way because of what is or appears to be their race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practices, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex should immediately tell an adult in the school and when possible help the student who is being hurt.

In addition to the above prohibited behaviors, the following are also prohibited student conduct:

### **Prohibited Student Conduct:**

- A. Engaging in conduct that is disorderly
- B. Engaging in conduct that is insubordinate (not following directions)
- C. Engaging in conduct that is disruptive
- D. Engaging in conduct that is violent
- E. Engaging in any conduct that endangers the safety, physical or emotional welfare of others
- F. Engaging in misconduct while on a school bus
- G. Engaging in any form of academic misconduct including cheating
- H. Engaging in off campus (including online) misconduct that interferes with or can reasonably be expected to substantially disrupt the education process in the school or at a school function

**QMS DASA Coordinator: Michael Brannigan**  
**(518) 824-3607**

## **Definitions of the 11 Protected Classes under the Dignity for All Students Act**

**Race** - seven categories: (1) Hispanic/Latino; (2) American Indian or Alaskan Native; (3) Asian; (4) Black or African American; (5) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; (6) White; or (7) Two or more races.

**Color** - the color of a person's skin

**Weight** - the size of a person

**National Origin** - where you or your relatives were born

**Ethnic Group** - being a part of a group of people who are connected by a shared language, culture and/or common religion

**Religion** - religious or spiritual beliefs

**Religious Practices** - the expression of your religious or spiritual beliefs

**Disability** - a person's body or mind that does not look or work the same as others

**Sexual Orientation** - a person liking a girl or a boy

**Gender Identity** – How a person feels about being a male or female

**Sex** - the differences between how boys and girls bodies work