



VLN Code of Conduct

Date last reviewed: April 13, 2021

The Golden Eagle is a BC native bird and was chosen by VLN students to embody the VLN Code of Conduct. In the Seven Grandfather Teachings of the Southern First Nations in Manitoba, the meaning of the eagle is love:

“Love is the gift from the Eagle. Love is a force that is undeniable. With love all things are possible. It is everyone’s right to have and experience it. In terms of the Medicine Wheel, love is the hub. It is symbolic of fire and the Creator.” (<https://www.southernnetwork.org/site/seven-teachings>)

EAGLES: Enthusiasm, Achievement, Goals, Learning, Empathy, Safety

Purpose

The purpose of our code of conduct is to establish and maintain safe, caring, and orderly environments for purposeful learning and student success. Our code is built around the ideals of *Enthusiasm, Achievement, Goals, Learning, Empathy, Safety*, which reflect the values of our school community.

Our Code of Conduct applies while students are working online through VLN courses, when students come to VLN to write exams, and when students are engaged in any other school-related activity.

Relationship to BC Human Rights Code

Vancouver Learning Network promotes the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law, and prohibiting discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, gender, or sexual orientation.

Acceptable conduct

Acceptable conduct, the kind of behaviours and attitudes that are encouraged at VLN, are embodied in EAGLES, as shown below.

Enthusiasm

Learning about the world and what other people think is one of the best things we can possibly do. VLN students are enthusiastic about these opportunities in their VLN courses.

Enthusiastic students are willing to learn from others, and always do their best work. When they need help, they are resourceful: they are self-directed and can think of clever ways to solve problems; they also reach out to teachers and others to get and offer help.

Achievement

Every student should strive to achieve the best of which they are capable. Whatever mark you get, if you have done your best, you have succeeded.

To achieve the highest levels of which they are capable, students follow their teachers' instructions carefully, do the best they can in assignments, and study well before exams.

When coming to VLN to write exams, students need to follow instructions carefully and leave quickly and quietly when they have finished. Students must complete their own exam as their own work, with no communication with other students, and without giving or receiving any unauthorized help,

Plagiarism is the opposite of achievement. Copying the work of others and using it as your own is not an achievement.

Goals

VLN students take courses for specific goals. Some students take courses they can't take at their home school; some students need better marks in courses; some students need courses to graduate.

Know why you are studying, because it will make it all much more worthwhile. Know what you need to achieve and aim to do your best.

Learning

There are always different kinds of lessons to learn in each course. Learn about the world and what other people think; learn about yourself and how you study; learn good ways to interact with your teacher online; learn ways to help yourself and other students.

Learn that you must always submit your own work, because using someone else's work without proper attribution is cheating, not learning.

Empathy

Everyone is different and everyone is unique; everyone follows their own path in this life the best way they can. Accept differences and do not judge.

Discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, gender, or sexual orientation is prohibited.

Safety

Emotional safety is just as important as physical safety. In your communications with other students, teachers, office staff, and administrators at VLN, make sure always to treat people with respect.

Bullying and any other kind of put-down is prohibited. Always be polite and try to understand the other person's perspective.

Be aware! Not everyone is who they seem online. Do not give out personal information online.

Basic internet safety should be followed at VLN: use your VLN/VSB email to communicate with your teachers; set strong passwords to your VLN account; don't post anything anywhere that you might regret when you get older.

Breaches of the Code of Conduct

The VLN code of conduct lists many things that are good to follow as a student of VLN - having goals, doing your best, and so on. If you don't study hard for an exam, it's unlikely that an administrator will call you or your parents about a breach of the Code of Conduct. However, teachers, counsellors, and administrators will contact you about the following three major breaches of our Code of Conduct:

*Racism and any other kind of discrimination; racism will not be tolerated in our school.
Bullying and any other kind of emotional or physical attack on another person.
Plagiarism, using someone else's work and passing it off as your own.*

These breaches of our Code of Conduct are examples rather than an all-inclusive list. More examples are included under the District Code of Conduct, below.

Breaches of our Code of Conduct may involve student discipline. Student discipline takes place in the context of informed decision-making. Administrators will consider many factors including the age and maturity of the student, social capacity, learning needs, and prior related events when determining consequences for actions that violate the Code of Conduct.

Expectations of students rise as students become older and more mature. Likewise, consequences for breaching our Code of Conduct rise as students become older.

Special considerations may apply to students with special needs, if they are unable to comply with the Code of Conduct due to having a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional, or behavioural nature.

Consequences are always thoughtful, fair and consistent. The objective is to create learning to prevent a reoccurrence of the offence, the method of discipline is often restorative.

The range of disciplinary actions that applies to breaches of the Code of Conduct may include but are not limited to the following:

- Restorative justice or formal apology
- A meeting between student's family and administrator
- Suspension from a course or expulsion from a course.
- Referral to a specialized service or program

Where appropriate, consequences will involve the student in determining a corrective plan of action. Administrators consult and work closely with parents throughout the process in determining ways to support students who have breached the Code of Conduct. Our consequences are always intended to be restorative rather than punitive.

In serious cases, violation of school or district policies may also be a violation of the Criminal Code of Canada and result in a police investigation.

Notifications for breaches of the Code of Conduct may include:

- Parents/guardians of the student in breach of the Code of Conduct
- Parents/guardians of the victim(s) where appropriate
- School staff and District personnel where appropriate
- School Liaison Police Office when appropriate and required by law.

VLN belongs to the Vancouver School District. Included below are relevant parts of the Vancouver District Code of conduct. VLN will apply the District Code of Conduct, as appropriate.

Appendix: Vancouver District Code of Conduct

The Board of Education is committed to a District Code of Conduct that upholds safe, inclusive, equitable, welcoming, nurturing and healthy school environments. To this end, the district code of conduct promotes clear behavioural expectations of respectful and responsible citizenship that lead to a culture of safety, caring and respect amongst everyone in our schools and programs and at all school events and activities.

Student responsibilities include (this is not an inclusive list):

- Demonstrating commitment to learning by coming to school prepared to learn and by contributing to a safe, caring, positive, inclusive, and peaceful environment;

- Neither taking part in nor condoning (provoke, encourage or make a spectacle of) any form of violence, including bullying, harassment, threat-making, intimidation, verbal, sexual, physical or online abuse and harassment, or discrimination in any form including discrimination on the basis of race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, gender, sexual orientation or age;
- Seeking to prevent violence and potentially violent situations, and demonstrating their social responsibility by reporting such situations;
- Not possessing, using or displaying any weapon, replica weapon or toy weapon, on any school property or at any event that is organized by or sponsored by a school;
- Demonstrating, when utilizing the Internet, social media, email, or other electronic forms of communication, appropriate digital citizenship;
- Not attending school or school functions while in the possession of or while under the influence of intoxicating, banned, or controlled substances;
- Showing respect for the property of others, refraining from littering, theft, vandalism, graffiti and other inappropriate behaviours related to property;
- Not smoking any substance, nor using vaporizers or e-cigarettes on school and other district property;
- Using respectful language and refraining from using obscenities and derogatory language;
- Practicing academic honesty and personal integrity by not participating in or encouraging plagiarism, cheating, theft of evaluation instruments, use of unauthorized aids, or misrepresentation of identity; and
- Attending school in appropriate dress that is not obscene and does not promote alcohol or drugs, display offensive language or images, encourage discrimination, present a health or safety problem, or cause a disruption.

Intoxicating, Banned or Controlled Substances

Persons under the suspicion of intoxicating, banned or controlled substances and persons using, marketing or distributing intoxicating, banned or controlled substances are not allowed on school premises or at any school-sponsored events.

- A student who is under the suspicion of or using an intoxicating or controlled substance during school hours, field studies, or at a school-sponsored event is subject to education interventions and discipline. The level of discipline will take into account the particular circumstance of each case. Support measures may be used as an alternative to discipline or may occur in conjunction with disciplines at the discretion of the school principal. Support measures may include meeting with school counsellor and school SACY prevention worker, as well as education requirements such as the Board's alternative to program, STEP.
- A student selling or distributing an intoxicating or controlled substance at school or at school-sponsored events will be subject to education and discipline. The level of discipline will depend upon the particular circumstances of the case and may include suspension, change in educational program or if the student is over the age of 16, expulsion from the educational program.

- A student selling or distributing intoxicating or controlled substances may be reported to the police for the possibility of criminal charges.

Violence and Weapons

Weapons are defined as being anything used, designed to be used, or intended for use in causing injury to any person, or anything used or designated to be used for the purpose of threatening or intimidating any person. Students shall not possess or use any weapon, replica, or toy weapon on any school premises or activity organized or sponsored by the school. Only replica weapons designed for school theatrical production will be permitted for use in productions, drama classes, and rehearsals as authorized by the school Principal or Vice principal. Offences involving weapons shall result in significant consequences.

Suspensions

In accordance with the School Act, Sec. 85(2)(ii) and (d), the Board authorizes the Principal or designate of any school in the district to suspend a student from attendance at school for up to five days.

Suspensions may be for the following reasons:

- a. because a student is willfully and repeatedly disrespectful to a teacher or to any other employee of the Board carrying out responsibilities approved by the Board.
- b. because the behaviour of the student breaches the District Code of Conduct or policy and/or has a harmful effect on others or the learning environment of the school.
- c. because the student has failed to comply with the School Code of Conduct.

Suspensions over five days are made in consultation with the appropriate Director of Instruction as per the District Student Code of Conduct, AP 350. As per AP350 6.7.1 an educational program must be provided.