



LAURIE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Code of Conduct — 2026

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PART 1 – WELCOME, PURPOSE, AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Laurie Middle School is a place where every student belongs and has the opportunity to succeed. Our Code of Conduct outlines the rights, responsibilities, and expectations that help us build a school community that is safe, caring, respectful, inclusive, and connected to the land.

The purpose of this Code is to:

- Support a positive, welcoming learning environment.
- Promote respect for self, others, property, and the environment.
- Encourage accountability, empathy, and restorative problem-solving.
- Ensure consistency with School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) policies and the BC Ministry of Education standards for safe, caring, and orderly schools.
- Reflect our connection to the ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa and honour the diverse cultures represented in our school.

Territorial Acknowledgement:

Laurie Middle School acknowledges that we live, learn, and work within ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa, the traditional homelands of the Ktunaxa Nation, which includes the communities of ʔaąam, ʔakisq̓nuk, Yaq̓it ʔa-knuq̓h'it, and Yaqaan Nuʔkiy.

PART 2 – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A safe, caring, and successful school depends on everyone—students, staff, families, and the wider community—working together.

- Students: Be prepared, on time, and ready to learn; treat others with respect; care for property; use technology responsibly; report unsafe behaviour; participate in restorative conversations when conflict occurs.
- Staff: Model school values; foster belonging and safety; communicate expectations clearly; intervene fairly; include Indigenous perspectives and land-based learning; collaborate with colleagues and families.
- Parents/Guardians: Support the Code of Conduct and regular attendance; communicate respectfully with staff; encourage responsibility and empathy; engage in school life.
- School & District Leadership: Implement district policy and the School Act; support restorative and inclusive practice; engage Indigenous partners; review and update the Code annually.

PART 3 – BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS AND SCHOOL CONDUCT

Acceptable Conduct:

- Be respectful and kind.
- Follow directions and use respectful language.
- Care for property and the environment.
- Act honestly and responsibly.
- Include and support others.

Unacceptable Conduct (includes but not limited to):

- Bullying, harassment, intimidation, or discrimination (in person or online).
- Physical violence, threats, or acts of aggression.
- Any statements, jokes, or online comments that encourage, suggest, or pressure another person to harm themselves or die (including telling someone to “kill themselves”).

- Counselling suicide or making comments that minimize or mock suicide or self-harm.
- Theft, vandalism, or property damage.
- Possession or use of alcohol, drugs, vaping products, or weapons.
- Use of hate-based or discriminatory language or imagery.
- Disrupting learning in the classroom or throughout the school; refusal to comply with reasonable staff directions.
- Misuse of technology or social media; cheating or plagiarism.
- Leaving school grounds without permission.

Context and Progressive Responses: Staff consider age, impact, frequency, and needs when responding. Restorative and educational approaches are prioritized whenever possible.

Scope: Applies on school grounds, buses, school events, travel to/from school, and online interactions that affect the school community.

PART 4 – ATTENDANCE, PUNCTUALITY, AND COMMUNICATION

Attendance Expectations:

- Attend daily unless ill or excused.
- Parents/guardians should inform the school as early as possible — ideally before 8:45 a.m. (phone, email, or office message).
- Laurie Middle School uses the Safe Arrival call-out system to contact families when absences are unexplained. If families cannot be reached, additional steps may be taken to confirm safety.
- Students leaving during the day must sign out at the office and sign in when returning; late arrivals check in at the office.
- Activity-related absences are excused but should be pre-arranged.
- Ongoing absences or lateness will prompt a support plan.

Punctuality: Arrive before the bell, move efficiently between classes, and notify staff if delayed.

Extended Absences: Notify the office in writing for multi-day absences; teachers will assist but may not replicate all classroom experiences.

Communication: Families should stay informed through the school website, newsletters, and MyEdBC; respectful communication supports success.

PART 5 – DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP AND RESPONSIBLE TECHNOLOGY USE

Digital Citizenship — Students are expected to:

- Use technology respectfully, safely, and for learning.
- Protect personal information and the privacy of others.
- Use school accounts for school-related learning and communication only.
- Treat others kindly in digital spaces and report cyberbullying.
- Respect copyright and avoid inappropriate or unsafe content.
- Understand that online posts can be permanent.

Academic Integrity, Artificial Intelligence, and Plagiarism:

- Students must produce their own work and credit all sources — including AI tools.

- AI or digital assistance may be used only with teacher permission and must support learning rather than replace it.
 - Submitting AI-generated or copied work as one's own is plagiarism.
- Consequences may include redoing assignments, reflective activities, parent/guardian notification, and progressive discipline for repeated misuse.

PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICES POLICY

- During instructional time, personal digital devices must not be on a student's person (not in pockets, clothing, or desks). Devices must be powered off and stored in lockers or the classroom's designated cellphone storage area, unless teacher-approved for learning or required for a medical/accessibility need.
- Use is permitted only during non-instructional times — before school, nutrition break, lunch, and after school — unless staff or administration sets a stricter expectation.
- Devices may never be used in washrooms or change rooms, or to record/photograph others without explicit staff permission.
- Teachers may require devices to be stored centrally during instructional blocks and may authorize use only for approved learning activities.
- Students are responsible for their own devices; the school is not responsible for loss, theft, or damage.
- This policy aligns with SD 5 Administrative Procedure 145 and the BC Ministry's direction for safe, respectful, distraction-free classrooms.

CONSEQUENCES FOR MISUSE

- First Offence: Conversation with an administrator. Device is confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the school day.
- Second Offence: Conversation with an administrator. Parent(s)/guardian(s) contacted. Device is confiscated and returned at the end of the school day. Device will be checked in to the office for the next 3 days.
- Third Offence: Conversation with an administrator. Parent(s)/guardian(s) contacted. Student serves a detention. Device will be checked in to the office for a minimum of the next 7 days.
- Continued or Repeated Misuse: Treated as refusal to comply with school rules; escalating consequences may include loss of device privileges (turning the device in to the office each day for a set period of time), a behaviour contract, or suspension, depending on the circumstances. All responses include restorative dialogue.

PART 6 – DRESS CODE AND PRESENTATION OF SELF

Laurie Middle School supports students' individuality through clothing and style choices while maintaining a learning environment that is safe, respectful, and inclusive.

Guiding Principles:

- Clothing choices are personal expression and are welcome when they support a positive learning environment.
- Clothing should allow full participation in classroom, PE, outdoor, and land-based learning.
- Messages, images, or logos must align with school values and must not promote alcohol, drugs, violence, hate, or profanity.

- Cultural and religious dress is always welcomed and respected.
- Teachers may provide guidance on footwear or protective gear where safety requires it.
- During Ktunaxa-led or land-based activities, students should follow any additional cultural or safety protocols shared by staff or Elders.

If there's a Concern: Staff address attire concerns privately and respectfully. Possible next steps include a conversation, a request to adjust/change the item, or contacting parents/guardians for support. The goal is comfort, safety, and belonging—not blame.

PART 7 – BULLYING, HARASSMENT, AND DISCRIMINATION PREVENTION

Every person at Laurie Middle School has the right to feel safe, respected, and accepted. Bullying, harassment, and discrimination are not tolerated.

Bullying is repeated and intentional harm involving a power imbalance. It can be verbal, social/relational, physical, or online (cyberbullying).

Harassment and discrimination occur when someone is targeted due to identity (e.g., race, ancestry, place of origin, religion, family status, ability, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age). The BC Human Rights Code protects individuals in schools.

Reporting: Tell a trusted adult (teacher, counsellor, administrator) or use the school's Safe School reporting options. Reports are taken seriously, handled with care, and kept as confidential as possible. Students are never punished for seeking help.

How We Respond: The school listens and ensures safety, investigates fairly, involves counsellors/supports, uses restorative approaches where possible, and applies appropriate consequences. Serious or repeated incidents may lead to formal discipline under SD 5 AP 350 and 350.1.

PART 8 – SUBSTANCE USE, SAFETY, AND PROHIBITED ITEMS

Substance Use: The possession, use, distribution, or sale of alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, cannabis, or illegal substances is not permitted on school grounds, buses, or at school events. Students must not attend school or activities under the influence. Paraphernalia is also prohibited. Students will be offered support and referrals; consequences follow SD 5 AP 350.1 when necessary.

Weapons and Dangerous Items: Weapons or imitation weapons (e.g., firearms, knives, replicas), fireworks, pepper spray, or hazardous materials are prohibited. Any object used dangerously will be treated as a weapon. Administration and, if necessary, RCMP will be notified; VTRA protocols may be initiated.

General Safety: Follow all lab/gym/outdoor safety rules; report unsafe conditions/behaviour; keep exits clear; avoid horseplay; use alarms/safety equipment only in emergencies.

PART 9 – FIELD TRIPS, EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, AND SCHOOL EVENTS

Students represent Laurie Middle School in all school-sponsored activities. Expectations for respect, safety, and responsibility apply on and off campus.

Field Trips: Families receive information and permission forms in advance; students follow safety rules, stay with supervisors, and respect site-specific rules. Land-based or cultural learning with Ktunaxa partners may include additional protocols to be followed respectfully.

Extracurricular: Participation is a privilege tied to positive behaviour, attendance, and academic effort. Coaches/sponsors communicate expectations consistent with SD 5 guidelines.

School Events and Assemblies: Be attentive and respectful; participate appropriately; remain in designated areas and follow staff directions; refrain from disruptive or unsafe behaviour; follow regular attire, language, and technology expectations.

PART 10 – RESTORATIVE AND PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE

Laurie Middle School focuses on learning, reflection, and restoring relationships. When behaviour causes harm, staff: (1) ensure safety, (2) listen and understand all perspectives, (3) reflect on impact and repair harm, and (4) rebuild connections and move forward.

Progressive Discipline: Responses increase with frequency/severity. Possible responses include verbal reminders and re-teaching, reflection activities, parent contact, restorative meetings, behaviour plans/check-ins, detentions or loss of privileges, in-school or short-term suspensions (per AP 350.1), and referral to the SD 5 Discipline Committee when necessary.

Responses are fair, timely, consistent, and educational.

PART 11 – STUDENT SUPPORT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Laurie Middle School believes every student deserves support, understanding, and the opportunity to learn from challenges. We prioritize care, communication, and collaboration.

Accessing Support — Who to Contact:

- Teachers or Education Assistants: help with class concerns or peer issues in the learning environment.
- Youth Care Workers (YCWs): social, emotional, and behavioural support; help with peer relationships, emotion regulation, coping strategies, and connections to community or family resources; proactive life-skills development.
- School Counsellors: confidential counselling for mental-health concerns (anxiety, grief, family stress), academic planning, and crisis intervention; connect students with specialized services as needed.
- Administrators: safety, discipline, or school-wide concerns.
- Learning Services Staff: individualized learning plans, accommodations, classroom-based supports.
- Indigenous Education Workers or Ktunaxa Nation representatives: cultural, academic, or personal support grounded in Indigenous perspectives and community connection.

Conflict Resolution: We prioritize dialogue and understanding. Students share perspectives respectfully; staff guide calm communication and help find solutions; YCWs, counsellors, or administrators may mediate and monitor follow-up.

Mental Health and Well-Being: Students can access counselling or referrals for stress, anxiety, grief, friendship issues, family challenges, or safety concerns. If self-harm risk is disclosed, staff act immediately to ensure safety and collaborate with families and agencies to develop a care plan.

Collaborative Problem Solving: When challenges persist, the school, student, and family create a plan with goals, strategies, check-ins, cultural/community supports, and celebration of growth.

PART 12 – ONGOING REVIEW AND GROWTH

The Laurie Middle School Code of Conduct is a living document, and feedback is welcome at any time. All revisions uphold the values of Respect, Responsibility, Safety, Inclusion, and Connection to the Land.