

**Oxford Middle School**  
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October 17, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is unfortunate that I feel I need to clarify the expected code of conduct we have at Oxford Middle School as a result of what has appeared in social media. The middle school recently sent a letter home reinforcing a zero tolerance policy regarding inappropriate behavior in an effort to promote the well being and safety of all of our students. We have not instituted a “no touching” policy. As stated in our handbook, we believe that appropriate behavior and effort is synonymous with good citizenship. Students at Oxford Middle school have the right to work in a pleasant, safe, and orderly environment.

The need to send something home came about as a result of seeing behaviors in students such as hitting, poking, running, swearing, and in general over the top behavior as well as invading students’ personal space far too often and too frequently in the hallways, on the buses and in lunch. These behaviors often lead to larger problems including social issues, classroom distractions and fights, and are not appropriate in a safe school setting.

Our goal in the Middle School is to promote a warm, welcoming and safe culture for all students which is why I sent home a letter reiterating our expectations for appropriate behavior. This is not anything new, we are simply making clear the expectations that were already in place as are outlined in our student handbook that was sent home and signed off on by parents and students in September.

We are not saying that students cannot touch other students, but what we are saying is there are appropriate times and places for these types of interactions. The administrative team takes very seriously the well being and safety of all students and working collaboratively with parents we want to ensure that we provide an appropriate learning environment.

Please reach out to me or Mr. Gill directly if you have any further questions.

Thank you,

Amy Belhumeur  
Principal  
Oxford Middle School

*“The Oxford School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or homelessness.”*