

Our Philosophy

Fostering Student Responsibility at Hempstead

Your child is important to us. Our charge and challenge is to accept each child's differences and meet his/her needs as we educate the adult citizens of tomorrow. The success of our students is dependent on creating a safe, positive, and respectful school environment.

The success of students today and in tomorrow's global society is directly related to their perception of self-worth, their interpersonal and intrapersonal skills, and their ability to problem solve, predict consequences, and make appropriate choices.

Student Responsibility is Everyone's Responsibility

The staff at Hempstead High School recognizes that family involvement can help students achieve success in school. Parents are often the first link to prevention of unacceptable academic and behavioral concerns. Each student's education and success is a shared responsibility of the school, the parent, and the student. Such a collaborative partnership can help motivate, support, and encourage every student at Hempstead High School.

Effective Discipline is Self Discipline

An effective school discipline process focuses on a student developing responsibility for his/her behavior, self evaluating, taking ownership, and developing a plan for improvement. It is more than just simple consequences for behavior. Each unacceptable behavior is a teaching and learning opportunity.

Our Process

Student Responsibility Plan

When teacher interventions have been unsuccessful or the academic or behavioral concern is serious, students are referred to the Assistant Principals' Office. There the student develops a formal or informal *Student Responsibility Plan*. The plan helps students formulate an alternative way to behave the next time they are confronted with the same or similar situations. We expect students to make wise choices and develop problem solving skills. Students who refuse to complete an acceptable *Student Responsibility Plan* are not allowed to attend classes until the plan is completed. If the student is noncompliant during this process, parents are involved and further consequences may apply, including suspension. Hempstead follows the DCSD Student Behavior: Expectations and Consequences Policy 5200. Attendance Policy 5107 states, "Daily on-time school attendance is an important part of the learning experience and must be a top priority for the learner." When absent, the learner is expected to initiate a plan for the missed learning opportunity.

Commitment to Improve

Gaining a commitment from students increases the chance of success. Excuses for behavior are not accepted; excuses are ways to avoid responsibility. In serious situations, Hempstead students may be required to participate in conflict mediation with another student or staff before they are allowed to attend classes. Students may be required to share the acceptable *Student Responsibility Plan* with the Hempstead Staff who referred them to the Assistant Principals' Office.

Our Pride

The National PTA's objective of discipline states: "*To many people, effective discipline means punishment. But actually, to discipline means to teach. Rather than punishment, discipline should be a positive way of helping and guiding children to achieve self control.*" Punishment sometimes removes the responsibility from the student to someone else or something else. When automatic rules and consequences are applied, the chances for unfairness are greatly increased. The application of natural or logical consequences is essential. Each Hempstead student is treated as an individual with unique needs when academic or behavioral consequences are applied (see DCSD Student Behavior: Expectations and Consequences Policy 5200). Consequences for each student and each situation are different and require creative solutions to change behavior. We want students to develop effective problem solving skills to enable them to deal effectively today and in tomorrow's global society. Our goal is to teach students how to develop self-control and accept personal responsibility. These qualities will promote pride in students, those around them, and the positive environment they help to create.