

BEAR Essentials:

A Code of Conduct for Classroom AND Community

RULE #1 We are family

Being a family is full of responsibilities. We all care for, look out for and stick up for each other. I care for you; you care for me. We all work together to help this class be the best it can be.

RULE #2 Respond properly to adults

Always answer with “yes ma’am” or “no sir”. Nodding your head or using another form of yes or no is not acceptable.

RULE #3 Make eye contact

When someone is speaking, keep your eyes on him or her at all times. If someone makes a comment, turn and face them.

RULE #4 Respect other’s comments, opinions, and ideas

You can disagree, ***but with respect***. Saying things like, “I agree with Joe, but I also feel that...” or “I agree with Mary. She made a good point, but I feel that...”

Do not stare at a student who is being reprimanded.

RULE #5 Do not show disrespect with gestures

It is very disrespectful to smack your lips, roll your eyes, make a “tsk” sound or jerk your head and neck. Disrespect will not be tolerated here.

RULE #6 Always say “Thank you” when given something

There is no excuse for not showing appreciation or for insulting the giver. Negative comments are insulting and hurt. If you do not say thank you within 3 seconds of receiving an item from me, I will take it back.

Be happy with what you are given – do not ask for seconds.

RULE #7 Follow class protocols

1. Do not get out of your seat without permission. The only exception – if you are going to be sick, leave immediately.
2. Do not speak unless:
 - a. You raise your hand and I call on you
 - b. I ask you a question
 - c. It is recess or lunch
 - d. I instruct you to
3. Do not save seats. It makes others feel that they are not welcomed or valued.

RULE #8 Use break times wisely

You may not leave class to get a drink or use the restroom while I am teaching a lesson. Use the bathroom during break times. Class time is for learning. When you leave the room, you lose valuable instruction.

RULE #9 You are responsible for your messes

Be willing to clean up a mess or pick up trash. I don’t want to hear, “It’s not mine” or “I didn’t do it.” Yours, or not, pick it up.

RULE #10 Follow along when we read in class

If I call on you to read, you must know exactly where we are and begin reading immediately.

RULE #11 Answer all written or spoken questions with a complete sentence

If the question asks, "What is the capital of Virginia?" you should respond, "The capital of Virginia is Richmond."

RULE #12 You must complete your homework

Consequences will be given for incomplete homework or no signature on your daily folder.

RULE #13 Subject transitions will be swift, quiet, and orderly

You will move quietly from one transition to the next and have materials organized for instruction.

RULE #14 Be organized

Your folder, cubbies, and personal belongings all need to be neat and organized.

RULE #15 Do not ask for rewards

Throughout the year, I will give rewards for good behavior, academic performance, and other acts worthy of praise. However, if you ask for a reward, it will not be given. It is rude to ask for a reward. You should work hard or do good deeds to better yourself.

RULE #16 Walk in a single file

1. Face forward
2. Arms at your side
3. No cutting
4. No talking in line...ever

RULE #17 Hold the door for the person behind you

Use good manners. Say excuse me if you bump into someone or if someone bumps into you, even if it's not your fault.

RULE #18 Proper congratulations and sportsmanship

If someone wins a game or does something well, we will congratulate that person. This shows respect and a mature attitude. In the same way, if you win or do well at something, **do not brag**. If you lose, **do not show anger**. Instead say something like, "Good game" or "I look forward to playing you again" or don't say anything at all. To show anger or sarcasm like, "I wasn't playing hard anyway" or "You aren't really that good" shows weakness. Learn to become a stronger, better, and a respected person.

RULE #19 Perform random acts of kindness

Go out of your way to do something kind or generous for someone at least once a month. Do it because you want to and don't look for something in return. The "good feeling" will be so worth it.

RULE #20 If someone is bullying you, tell me

I am your teacher and I am here to look after you and protect you. I am not going to let anyone in this school bully you or make you feel uncomfortable. In return, I ask that you do not take matters into your own hands. Let me take care of it.

RULE #21 Obey class rules always

I have to leave the room occasionally and I expect my class to behave as if I were in the room. This also applies when you have a substitute teacher.

RULE #22 Make visitors feel welcome

Greet visitors, shake hands, and repeat their names while making eye contact.

RULE #23 Use your manners

Cover your mouth when you sneeze or cough and say excuse me.

RULE #24 Be appreciative during assemblies and field trips

In an assembly or while on a field trip give compliments and stay quiet. Do not speak or call out to friends. Say thank you to visitors or chaperones.

RULE #25 THE BEST "YOU"

1. **STAND UP FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN**- Don't take no for an answer if you feel strongly about something in your mind or heart.
2. **BE POSITIVE AND ENJOY LIFE** – Pick your battles. Don't sweat the small stuff. Sometimes things are not worth getting upset over.
3. **LIVE SO THAT YOU WILL NEVER HAVE REGRETS** – Dream BIG!!!! Make your dreams happen! Don't let anything stand in your way!
4. **ACCEPT MISTAKES AND LEARN FROM THEM** – I make mistakes all the time. The next time the situation comes up, I do it better. Learn from your mistakes.
5. **BE HONEST** – Be honest no matter what. You will earn my respect. Being honest is often more important to me than punishing you.
6. **BE THE BEST PERSON YOU CAN BE** – Always make sure there are 7 things in your life at all times: laughter, family, adventure, good food, challenge, change, and the quest for knowledge. With those things your will grow, enjoy life, and become the type of person you can be proud of. You will be stronger, healthier, and happy!
7. **CARPE DIEM** – Live each day to the fullest and appreciate each moment!