

like. In every case students are expected to apologize either in person or in writing to the other parties involved in an incident.

Given the variety of circumstances that happen each day in a schoolhouse, we are cautious about setting up "mandatory sentencing." There are some areas where the consequences are automatic: bringing a weapon or lighter or explosives to school will result in a suspension. An attack on a fellow classmate or staff member will result in being sent home. Fighting is likely to result in a suspension as well. It often takes time to sort out what happened, who was involved and the appropriate consequence for the infraction. One last point about consequences: there needs to be some understanding that those who are not directly involved in an incident and its aftermath may not know all the facts about what happened. There must be trust that a process has been followed and that consequences have been fairly applied.

Ultimately, our goal is to foster respectful and appropriate behavior as we attempt to diminish incidents that are inappropriate. Research tells us that a clear code of conduct, consistently applied with fair consequences is a formula for a safer school. Research also tells us that schools succeed even better at this when they find ways to publicly celebrate successful behavior. We are working on recognizing and celebrating good responsible behavior when we see it. Things like the awards at the K-2 assembly, the honor roll, and other kinds of awards for individuals and recognition for whole classes are ways that we already encourage children to do the right thing. Developing a safe and respectful school climate is a responsibility that all the adults share in a school community. With your help and support we can improve upon what we already do to make Runkle an even better place for children to grow and learn.

Sincerely,
David Summergrad