

# STUDENT LIFE

## COMMUNITY PRINCIPLES

It is expected that students will conduct themselves, at all times, in a manner consistent with our community principles: honesty and respect for self and others. The school reserves the right to dismiss or exclude a student who engages in conduct (on-campus or off campus and at any point during their time at Nobles) which calls into question the student's ability to continue as a member of the school community or is seriously detrimental to the interest of the school. Also, any student who organizes or hosts what the school considers to be a large, unsupervised party where alcohol and other illegal drugs are consumed must understand that they risk their position at the school and may be subject to dismissal. Noble and Greenough School (as stated in each student's signed enrollment agreement) reserves the right to dismiss any student whose schoolwork or behavior or level of cooperation is deemed unacceptable.

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is at the very heart of the school's tradition and is central to its mission. As outlined in our Community Principles above, any incident of academic dishonesty is a violation of community trust.

## PLAGIARISM

### *Statement on Plagiarism*

Plagiarism is the act of presenting as one's own words, ideas, computer programs, and academic or creative work of another person. It often takes one or more of the following terms:

1. Including in one's paper a passage taken directly from a book, website or any other source (including the work of a current or past student) without using quotation marks, a footnote, and/or bibliographic entry;
2. Paraphrasing a passage from a book or web-site without using a citation or a bibliographic entry to indicate the source of the material;
3. Taking ideas from a source (including the work of a current or past student, any other person or the Internet) and incorporating those ideas into one's work as if they were the products of one's own thinking. Here, too, the source must be credited by means of a footnote and/or a bibliographic entry;
4. Resubmitting a paper written at an earlier time; while a student may wish to pursue further an idea or thesis, previously graded work can not be resubmitted for a grade.

## CHEATING

### *Statement on Cheating*

Cheating includes using unauthorized notes or other aids in a quiz, test or exam, or copying from another student's work during a quiz, test or exam. Cheating also includes giving unauthorized aid to another student, allowing another student to copy or use one's test, quiz, paper or homework, as well as accepting help on homework or take-

home tests that are beyond the limits specified by the teacher.

### *INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY THEFT*

The pirating of any copyrighted material (electronic software, music, texts, etc.) is considered theft and is a violation of Nobles' principle of honesty.

### *HAZING, BULLYING, AND HARRASSMENT*

Each member of the Nobles community is expected to observe the principle of equal opportunity and to adhere to our community principles of honesty and respect for self and others. Forms of coercion, bullying and/or harassment that insult the dignity of others or impede their freedom to work or learn are not acceptable, will not be tolerated, and may rise to the level of illegality. Demeaning statements or materials, uninvited physical advances, hazing or threats undermine the foundations of our community. The school will not tolerate behavior that is disrespectful toward others. This may include, but is not limited to: identity, age, race, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender or sexual orientation, appearance, or socioeconomic status. The feelings of the recipient may be considered in determining the measure of inappropriate behavior.

#### **Statement on Hazing**

Hazing is defined as any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Hazing will not be tolerated at Nobles.

HAZING LAW (According to Mass. General Laws, Chapter 269, Crimes Against Public Peace, January 5, 1988)

#### SECTION 17 - Crime of Hazing Definition; Penalty

Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing as defined herein shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

The term "hazing", as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action. Added by St.1985, C.536; amended by St.1987, c.665.

#### SECTION 18 - Failure to Report Hazing

Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so

without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars. Added by St.1985, c.536; amended by St.1987, c.665.

#### SECTION 19 - Hazing Statutes to Be Provided; Statement of Compliance and Discipline Policy Required

Each secondary school and each public and private school or college shall issue to every 39 student group, student team or student organization which is part of such institution to use its name or facilities or is know by the institution to exist as an unaffiliated student group, student team or student organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen; provided, however, that an institution's compliance with the section's requirements that an institution issue copies of this section and seventeen and eighteen to unaffiliated student groups, teams, or organizations shall not constitute evidence of the institution's recognition of endorsement of said unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations. Each such group, team or organization shall distribute a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to each of its members, plebes, pledges or applicants for membership. It shall be the duty of each such group, team or organization, acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually to the institution an attested acknowledgment stating that such group, team or organization has received a copy of this section and said sections seventeen and eighteen, that each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants has received a copy of sections seventeen and eighteen, and that such group, team or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen. Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of postsecondary education shall, at least annually, before or at the start of enrollment, deliver to each person who enrolls as a full-time student in such institution a copy of this section and the sections seventeen and eighteen. Each secondary school and each public or private school or college shall file, at least annually, a report with the regents of higher education and in the case of secondary schools, the board of education, certifying that such institution has complied with its responsibility to inform student groups, teams or organizations and to notify each full-time student enrolled by it of the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen and also certifying that said institution has adopted a disciplinary policy with regard to the organizers and participants of hazing, and that such policy has been set forth with appropriate emphasis in the student handbook or similar means of communicating the institution's policies to its students. The board of regents and, in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to the attorney general and such institution which fails to make such report. Added by St.1985, c.536; amended by St.1987, c.665.

#### **Statement on Bullying**

Bullying is defined as the repetitive unwanted aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. Bullying can be physical, verbal, or social. In this regard, Nobles students may be held accountable for their behaviors on and off campus, as well as online and through social media.

On May 3, Governor Deval Patrick signed into law Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2010 to address bullying occurring in schools during school-related events and during non-

school events which may create a hostile school and learning environment. A portion of the law is excerpted below. To see the full text please go to: <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXII/Chapter71/Section37O>

SECTION 5. "Bullying", the repeated use by one or more students of a written, verbal or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a victim that: (i) causes physical or emotional harm to the victim or damage to the victim's property; (ii) places the victim in reasonable fear of harm to himself or of damage to his property; (iii) creates a hostile environment at school for the victim; (iv) infringes on the rights of the victim at school; or (v) materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

"Cyber-bullying", bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, 40 which shall include, but shall not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo-electronic or photo-optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, instant messages or facsimile communications. Cyber-bullying shall also include (i) the creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or (ii) the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages, if the creation or impersonation creates any of the conditions enumerated in clauses (i) to (v), inclusive, of the definition of bullying. Cyberbullying shall also include the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions enumerated in clauses (i) to (v), inclusive, of the definition of bullying. (Also see page 25 for Nobles Acceptable Use Policy)

### **Statement on Harassment**

Harassment, which can include stalking, hate crimes, and cyber-bullying, occurs when one person acts in a way designed to annoy, provoke, threaten, or otherwise cause another person emotional distress. Harassment in the school community, on or off-campus, will not be tolerated. Some examples of harassment may include, but are not limited to, the following types of activities:

- Behaviors that hurts another person and are often defended with, "I was just kidding."
- Behaviors that denigrate others.

Sexual harassment is unwanted sexual or gender-based behaviors that occur when one person has formal or informal power over the other. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when:

- submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a person's employment or academic advancement;
- submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions or academic decisions affecting the person;
- such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a person's work or academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment.

Based on the Policy Statement on Sexual Harassment, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 1984 with additional wording to reflect coverage of students under Title IX.

## REPORTING INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT/ BULLYING

### How and To Whom To Report the Incident

Reporting an incident may be done verbally or in writing. For this purpose, Nobles has established the Ombuds Office as an informal and neutral place that assists students, staff and faculty by promptly and fairly responding to concerns. The Ombudsman will listen, mediate and may refer complaints to other offices of the school (i.e., the Disciplinary Committee).

Students may also report such incidents to their advisors, class dean, school counselor, teacher, dean of students, head of the middle school, head of the upper school, or the head of school.

In all instances, the confidentiality of all parties will be protected to the extent permitted by the investigative process and the nature of the complaint. Students have a moral obligation to ensure that other members of the school community are safe and at all times are treated with respect.

Students who fail to intervene or report behavior that hurts or denigrates others may find themselves asked to explain their inaction.

## *VANDALISM—PERSONAL AND SCHOOL PROPERTY*

Respect for the property of others is essential in maintaining trust and community openness. Individuals who steal or vandalize personal or school property commit a major affront against the community and will face disciplinary action.

## *STATEMENT ON WEAPONS*

Weapons of any sort (firearms, knives, sharp objects, explosives, etc.) are forbidden anywhere on campus. Possession of a weapon may result in expulsion and possible criminal charges.

## *STATEMENT ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG USE*

The use of alcohol and the abuse of prescription or non-prescription drugs by adolescents violate the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Alcohol and other illicit drugs inhibit psychological growth and development. The use of alcohol and/or other drugs during or prior to any school commitment or function is strictly forbidden and will result in disciplinary action. Any students who provide alcohol, prescription and /or illicit drugs for another member of the student body may find themselves in violation of school community principles.

## *STATEMENT ON TOBACCO*

Nobles became a tobacco-free campus in September 1994. Use of tobacco products is prohibited everywhere on our grounds and in our buildings except for faculty and staff residences.

### *IMAGES AND/OR RECORDINGS*

Images or recordings posted on the web that violate our Community Principles may result in disciplinary action or immediate dismissal.

No images or recordings may be taken during a class, practice or any school function without official school sanction (Nobles Photo Corps, Yearbook, *Nobleman*, etc.) or without permission from the faculty member in charge.