

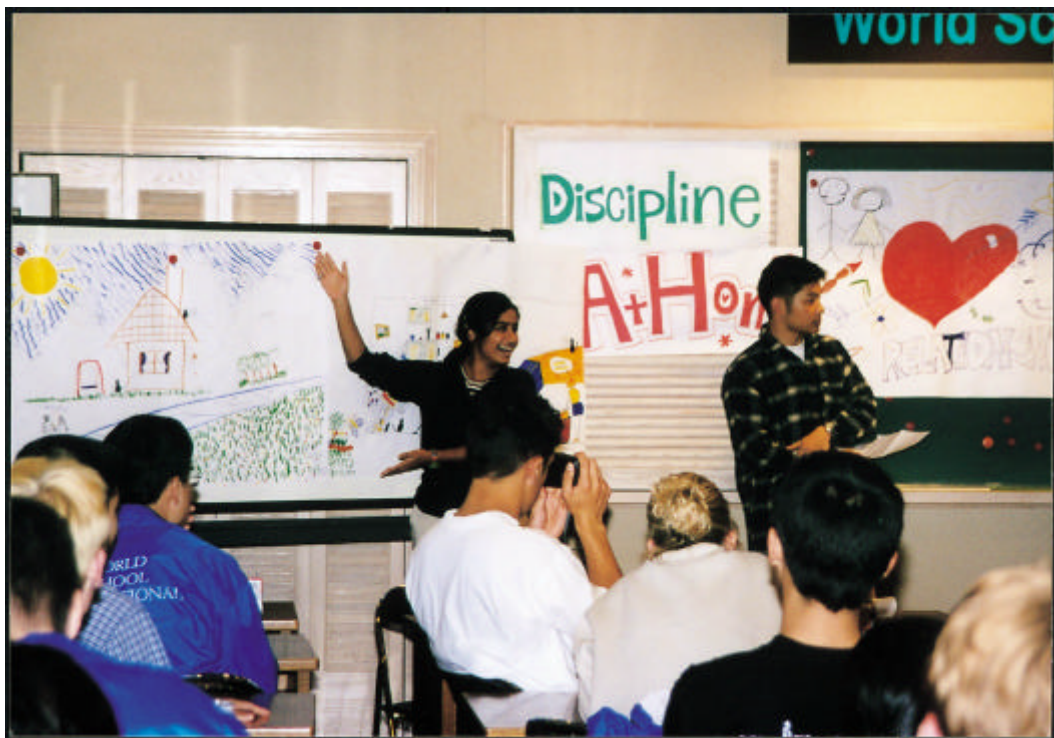
WORLD SCHOOL®

INTERNATIONAL FORUM '98

IDEAL RULES AND DISCIPLINE

The following contains the results of the student seminars held during World School International Forum '98. Sixty – nine students from 17 schools representing 16 countries came together in Japan to discuss the theme for '98, “Rules and Discipline” The students divided into three groups called “Societies.” Each “Society” contained subgroups which discussed rules and discipline in homes, schools and communities. After discussing the case in their own countries the groups came up with ideal rules and discipline for an international society of the future.

- Please note that some modifications have been made for editorial purposes.
- The views expressed in this Report do not necessarily represent the views of the World School



GROUP A

School discipline

Discipline is explained in the Websters`s dictionary as behavior which is in accordance with rules and conduct. Discipline is also used to train students to follow the rules. Another meaning for discipline is punishment for students who did not exhibit appropriate actions. All individuals have an inner disciplinary behavior, but the home, community and school environment influence it.

The following will show our ideal school discipline, as well as suggestions and examples of each. In schools there must be interaction among students, teachers and administrators. With all of these working together we can make a more structured school system.

School handbook

We decided that every student and the parents of students should be presented with a handbook at the start of each year.

The handbook should be designed to make students aware of the expectations and consequences of appropriate and inappropriate actions. We feel that it should be used as a reference for behavior and actions throughout the year.

The handbook should contain:

- Mission statement
- Standards of appearance and uniforms
- Addresses and contact numbers of school faculty
- Daily schedule
- Yearly schedule
- Standards for the conduct or behavior of students
- Rewards for appropriate behavior
- Consequences for inappropriate conduct
- Items that can and cannot be brought to school
- General expectations of students when they are outside school
- Clubs and activities

Uniforms

Ideally, uniforms should promote school unity but at the same time allow individuality.

Girls:

Black or navy skirts or slacks
White button-up shirt or sweater
Black or navy shoes
Neatly styled haircut
Earrings(subtle)

Boys:

Black or navy dress slacks
White button-up shirt
Tie of choice
Loafers
Neatly styled haircut
No earrings



Behavior

Should we have rules about behavior?

Yes.

Why?

To correct people who are rude because with rules they will know that their behavior is inappropriate.

- A student must greet the principal, vice-principal, teachers, parents and outsiders when they see them.
- A student must stay in line, when queuing for food, or anything else.
- No talking or eating during lessons
- No drinking and smoking in classrooms
- No vulgarities, no vandalism
- No walking around during class (except when throwing away litter)
- Students are expected to help teachers in any way they are requested

Consequences

- Warning
- Detention after school. 1 hr homework
- Detention Saturday 1/2 day homework
- Parent conference w/ teacher. Principal to be present
- Suspension 3 days
- Expulsion for prolonged inappropriate behavior

Rewards for good behavior

- Extra credit
- Recognition by principal

Items that can and cannot be brought to school

Permissible

- Drinks (non-alcoholic)
- Food
- Tobacco products (if age permits)
- Walkman (only during free time)
- Phones and beepers (turned off in classes)
- Magazines (only at free time)
- Chewing gum (not in classes)

Not permissible

Alcohol

Illegal drugs

Offensive clothing or objects of any kind.

Weapons

- guns
- knives
- sharp objects
- all other hurtful or life-threatening objects

School schedule

We believe that every school should have a daily and yearly schedule. A daily schedule is designed to create a structure for school life and also ensure that the school system works efficiently and smoothly.

Example of a schedule:

All students must arrive at school by 7:45 am

Students have a 10-minute break between periods

8:00 - 8:50 1st period

9:00 - 9:50 2nd period

10:00 - 10:50 3rd period

11:00 - 11:50 4th period or Lunch 1

12:00 - 12:50 Lunch 2 or 4th period

1:00 - 1:50 5th period

1:50 - 2:10 Break

2:10 - 3:00 6th period

Home or club activities

Extracurricular activities

Should we have them?

Yes.

Why?

- Relaxation
- Fulfillment of interests
- Development of talents
- Provides a well-rounded education, which is a school's responsibility

Rules

- Compulsory for all students
- Time-regulation: Activities to be held on Wednesdays and Saturdays.
The time span should be around 3-4 hours
- There must be a limit to all relaxation
- E.C.A rules: Students and teachers set the rules.

Student council

Should we have a Student Council?

Yes.

Why?

- To foster closer ties between students and teachers
- To facilitate students' welfare services
- To promote school spirit among students
- There must be leaders within the student body, to represent the interests of the students.

Should the Councilors be allowed to catch and punish students?

No. They exist to be examples and model students for the other students.

Principal and Vice-principal

Teachers

Student Council

Class Captains

Club President

Faculty Heads

Faculty Heads only apply when there are different faculties in a school.

- A number of Councilors are nominated by the student body
- Then, a rally and election take place and only a fixed quota of Councilors are elected
- The students vote for the people they think would represent their interests best.

Conclusion

In today's world there is a thread that connects all of us together- in our schools, in our communities and in our homes. We must unite and remain steadfast on discipline and values. We are all together in this world - why not make it a safe and educational place? I know this statement sounds broad, but we can make a difference. We can make our homes and schools a safe haven for our children to learn and grow. Here are some thoughts when we think about what we can do to form a safe haven.

Each of us can make a difference in youth violence and growth by helping children to:

- Replace love for hate
- Create positive solutions for anger
- Accept self-responsibility
- Establish integrity
- Understand accountability
- Acquire positive communication skills
- Carefully select friends
- Adjust to stress
- And, most of all, respect themselves and others.

Community discipline

- 1) Here today we assume that for the ideal community to exist there must be standardized manners. Although all cultures exist, rigid cultural boundaries do not. People still have their own religions but basic public manners are standardized.
- 2) Parents, teachers, higher authorities and the general community should all work together to make sure these rules and regulations in the ideal community are enforced and maintained.
- 3) Within the ideal community there will always be people who do not wish to do the right thing. To help children feel safe in their society when walking to and from school or just being with their friends, they need to know that if they run into trouble that help is close by. This help can come in the form of a safety house. A family's home becomes a safety house when they volunteer themselves as a home that children can come into and know they will be looked after. Police must first check to make sure the family is responsible before that home can officially become a safety house.
- 4) In the community parents should teach their children not only how to act within their own culture but also a globalized set of manners should be taught so that when people travel abroad or have someone from another culture in their home and community they feel comfortable with that different culture.
- 5) In the ideal community 18 is a good age to be allowed to start driving a car. while 20 is a good age for drinking. We believe this for a number of reasons. At these ages young people will have been driving for around 2 years before they are allowed to drive on public streets and to consume large amounts of alcohol.
- 6) On public transport you should not jump around or make excessive noise. Rubbish should not be left in the vehicle and smoking is always prohibited. Talking on cell phones would not be considered polite while riding on public transport.
- 7) Also, while in public places, such a restaurants, you should behave and be well mannered. If manners are globalized then, for example, slurping would be considered impolite and therefore not done.
- 8) You shouldn't smoke in public buildings or on the street; smoking should be done only in places designated as smoking areas. This is so passive, smoking is minimized and will also encourage less smoking as it is less convenient to do so.
- 9) In the community your elders must be respected. This should extend to being polite around them and offering seats on public transport.
- 10) Appropriate clothing should be worn at all times. When shopping or generally in public places, you should wear clothes that suit the locations. For example, you should not wear a bikini to a restaurant. Following this suggestion allows you to feel comfortable in your surroundings and allows others to be at ease as well.
- 11) Greeting people can be done in a few different ways, depending on the relationship between the people.
Friends: many want to give each other a hug and /or 3 kisses into the air.
Strangers: may only want to shake hands.
People that have met only a couple of times: may shake hands or maybe even kiss each other.

- 12) If these rules are not carried out, fines and warnings should be issued to encourage people to do the right things. If events are more serious, jail may be a necessary punishment. If it is absolutely certain that if a murder has been carried out or something just as horrible, capital punishment may be put in place.

These may seem like simple rules and regulation, and many other rules have not been included, but if put into action they create a community that is peaceful where people of all different cultures can work together.

Home discipline

First of all, our members expressed his or her own opinion about discipline at home item by item, so that other group members can know what each of us is thinking. The point is to recognize what each of our members has been thinking about their topics such as "How we are punished?" and "What time are our curfews?"

Discipline is first thought of in a negative sense because it is associated with punishment and school. As a result of our discussion, we decided that discipline is absolutely necessary in everyday life.

A behavior is instilled in you early in childhood from your parents that allows you to achieve success in life according to your own personal values, morals, and beliefs. Each individual's idea of success will be different according to his or her culture.

However, we found that in each culture, parents teach children that discipline is necessary in two main areas of life. The first one is disciplined work, which is first evident in school and later on in the individual's occupation. This allows the person to assert themselves in society. The second area of concern is the continuation of personal activities and hobbies. This allows the person to achieve a richness in individual character.

Through constant guidance and advice in our early childhood, parents help to develop these two areas of discipline within their children. As we grow older, our parents still give us advice and guidance, but we also gain more freedom. We are allowed to make more of our own decisions and learn from them.

Discipline is necessary in work, in personal activities, but also in family life. Chores are an example of this. Some families believe children should have more chores, others believe they should have less. It depends on the culture and family.

We believe that life discipline begins in the protected environment of the home. Preparation for life in society is achieved through the development of the two areas of discipline cited above. To achieve a full life, these two areas must be kept in balance. This balance will help the individual lead a productive life in the world society.



GROUP B

School discipline

- 1) All schools need rules to run appropriately and smoothly.
- 2) All rules must be updated to keep up with changes in society. Students' ideas for school rules should be taken into consideration.
- 3) All schools need a rule book in order to let all students know the important rules and penalties.
- 4) Common sense rules should not be written down, because it is expected that these are known.
- 5) In our opinion, school rules should be enforced by teachers and all senior students because the latter have leadership, more experience and the ability to take responsibility. Senior students should not gain any benefits or rewards for enforcing the school rules, because we feel it is their obligation.
- 6) The school uniform is necessary to give the students the identity of the school. It should be worn appropriately and with pride.
- 7) Penalties should be appropriate. There should be a wide range of penalties, from small ones like cleaning to serious ones like suspension.
- 8) There should be no reward for following the rules because it is the students' duty to do so.
- 9) Students are not permitted to bring weapons, drugs, alcohol, pets, cell phones and anything else that would disturb the lesson.
- 10) School manners should be based on common sense and should be enforced by senior students and teachers. Common courtesy means treating others in the way you would expect to be treated yourself.

Home Discipline

Greetings

The way people greet their families should reflect the way that they feel. All greetings should reflect ones affection for family members, e.g. "Have a nice day.", or "Good morning."

Parents' main policy in bringing up their children

Parents main focus when bringing up their children is to give them a sense of responsibility for society and to establish high morals by which to live.

- Encourage correct way of behavior
- Try to give children a sense of responsibility and independence.
- Give children a feeling that they are important.

Curfews and permissible activities inside and outside the home

There should be no curfews within the family environment. Instead, children and young adults should be put in a position of responsibility. People should be able to learn from their mistakes. For example, people can go to bed when they please and should not be restricted inside the house.

Relationship with boyfriend / girlfriend / friends

- People should be able to have a boyfriend or a girlfriend, so long as they act in a mature and responsible manner.
- Parents should encourage children to have many friends and lead an active social life, so long as it does not greatly interfere with school studies. All friends should be introduced to the parents when they are taken inside the family home.

Chores at home

- Children should be helpful around the home so that the house is clean, runs effectively, and is a pleasant environment.
- People should assist with chores that benefit the whole family. In essence, everybody should do their fair share of housework.
- Children should not be asked to do chores, rather it should just be expected that they be done. Parents should not have to nag or be continually asking for something to be done. Family members should be aware of what has to be done and do it.

Punishment

- Do not encourage corporal punishment, or any punishment that inflicts harm or pain.
- Talk over problems. Have good communication skills.
- Take away privileges if it is necessary to discourage unacceptable behavior.

Weekend / holiday activities with family members

- Spend time with friends but also do activities with the family that everyone enjoys or will benefit from.
- On long holidays / vacation, go to a destination that everyone will enjoy and make sure to have a happy time.

Community Discipline

Ideal rules in the community

- Politeness and respect to everyone in the society: not based on age but on what they are like (personality)
- Those who are 18 and above are allowed to drink alcohol and smoke.
- At 16, you can leave school and work full time. (Parental consent is needed until you are over the age of 18.)
- There is no rule about supporting parents when they are old but it is something which should be done.
- Women and men have equal rights in society.

Table manners

- Don't open your mouth while you have food in your mouth.
- If you are eating with chopsticks, don't put them vertically into the bowl of rice (it looks like you are offering incense to the dead in Chinese culture)
- No yawning, coughing or sneezing at the table.

Rules and regulations in public areas

- No smoking inside public transport/places except in pubs/clubs and specific smoking areas.
- Switch off pagers and mobile phones while watching a show in the cinema or while attending church.
- No speeding, drunken driving and swearing on the roads.
- Dress appropriately.
- Do not disturb others in public areas by talking loudly or playing a fool.

Problem solving

- This should be carried out by a democratic government which is elected by the people and which will carry out parliamentary procedures to solve problems brought up by the people.
- Self-discipline is most important in society.
- Independent bodies (i.e. voluntary bodies) or government-run groups can help solve problems like drug addiction and alcoholism.

How community members can help

- Priests and other religious staff can help to guide people into becoming good citizens through their respective religions.
- Parents can also help to set children on the right path through home education.
- Schools should also do their part in producing good students and citizens.



Punishments for people who break the law

At the age of 18 and above, those who break the law can and will be sent to jail when necessary. This will be decided by the judges of the courts.

GROUP C

School discipline

A short play on school discipline was performed showing the differences between a strict and a free type of school, and finished by showing the ideal school the group created as a result of discussions

Results

- Respect (relationship between students and teachers)
Students do not have to stand up at the beginning and the end of lessons, as well as when they ask a question or answer a question. You have the option of greeting the teacher. (This builds a comfortable relationship between students and the teacher.)
- Uniforms
You don't have a uniform. You can wear dresses freely, but to show a sense of belonging to the school there is a school jacket
- Penalties
The penalties for disobeying the teacher should be: detention, cleaning school property, writing an essay. There is no physical punishment. If physical punishment occurs, pupils must have the opportunity to get support from parents, special teachers, organizations and police.
- Rewards
Rewards are not necessary. In case of problems, parents must be informed through meetings, letters, telephone calls and reports.
- Individual school rules
We did not have the time to answer questions concerning school captains, what to bring to school and what not to bring.

Home Discipline

Greetings

The way people greet their families should reflect the way they feel. All greetings should reflect ones affection for family members, e.g. "Have a nice day." and "Good morning."

Summary

As the home group had to decide on a set of rules that would apply to people and cultures all over the world, we found ourselves generalizing rules to a great extent and leaving most of the boundary setting to the discretion of the individual. Some of the basic aspects of family discipline that we dealt with were curfews, chores, relationships, and punishment. We came up with basic guidelines that every member of the group thought was necessary and relevant to every family in the world.

Community discipline (same as school discipline)

We were on Team C and had six people in our group. We have discussed and debated about our ideal concepts of community discipline, and so, through this paper, I would like to represent my group in summarizing all the ideas we thought would best convey our concepts of community discipline.

In our opinion, the definition of community discipline is the behavior of the people in accordance with rules and conduct. Another meaning is to train people to follow the rules. This means that people should know how they ought to behave in society based on how they would like other people to treat them.

The implementation of community discipline in our daily lives could be divided into three aspects as follows:

- 1) Custom
Custom is the way of thinking from one generation to another generation, and which people think is good to preserve.
- 2) Law
Law is set of rules written by the political body for their people that are to be respected and followed.
- 3) Religion
Religion means the way people worship.

The relationships among custom, law and religion are as follows: Custom and religion are attached to each other. Some parts of custom are from religion, and vice versa. Custom and religion are not as one, but one is directly influenced by the other. They cannot be separated from each other. Law is separated from custom and religion. There is no direct relationship among law, custom and religion, but there are some indirect attachments among them.

Knowing the relationship among custom, law and religion, we may be asked about the implementation of these three aspects in our daily lives. The implementation of law, custom and religion in daily life can be explained in this way: A person, as a human being, has two relationships. One is a vertical relationship, and the other is a horizontal one. A vertical relationship is the relationship between a person with his/her god, and a horizontal one is the relationship between a person and others. Only religion plays a role in a person's vertical relationship. It controls the relation between the person and his/her god. But, in his or her horizontal relationships, custom, law and some parts of religion play a part.

These are some basic concepts of community discipline. In implementing these concepts, we tried to introduce some rules that we thought a community should have. They are:

- There should be enough education. At the minimum, young people should stay in school for about nine years in order to graduate from junior high school or the 9th grade.
- There should be no guns available. People are not allowed to have guns without any licenses.
- There should be a democratic system that is from citizens, by citizens and for citizens.
- There should be stricter laws on public drinking. Underage people are not allowed to drink alcohol.
- People should be educated more about law so they could understand and realize that laws have to be followed.
- There must be pollution control. People are not allowed to throw away their trash wherever they want. Ways to reduce pollution should be organized correctly.
- People should get rid of drugs.
- There should be respect for one another. As a result of this effort, we can have harmony in our lives and the environment.
- There should be a ban on bad advertisements. Advertisement should be selected carefully and properly.
- Finally, there should be a great concern about our health risks. We should keep our body and environment healthy.

In conclusion, we must unite and work consistently on discipline in the community. We are all together in this world. Let's make it a safer and happier community for all.