

Good order is name of game in classrooms

Editor's Note: During the Farmington PTA's "Order and Discipline" program last year, area residents were able to express their concerns about program and activities in the Farmington School District.

Many residents who attended the "Order and Discipline" sessions felt a lack of discipline or erratic discipline was noticeable in the schools. Please explain the philosophy of discipline in the district with these questions in mind. Who is responsible for conduct in the schools? Are there any guidelines for officers and punishment? Is "good citizenship" stressed or taught? Are parents kept informed of their child's misbehavior?

"Parents have a right to expect that their children attend schools which provide a wholesome atmosphere, free from disruption and upset, and where students are accorded dignity and fair treatment."

This statement comes from the Farmington Public Schools Student Code of Conduct, which is circulated to all students throughout the district.

This code lists offenses and appropriate school responses.

Farmington schools always are concerned with discipline and all efforts are directed to maintain good order in our schools.

In this context, "good citizenship" is implicit in all instructional courses as well as in the interpersonal relationships that are present in a school setting.

Are parents notified immediately when their children skip school?

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Niemisto promoted to Hills lieutenant

Set Richard W. Niemisto of the Farmington Hills Detective Bureau was promoted last week to lieutenant by Police Chief Ronald Hollo.

Niemisto, 28, is the department's youngest officer to attain lieutenant ranking. He joined the Hills police department in November 1962 as a cadet, graduating from the Metropolitan Police Academy.

Two years later, he became a full-time patrolman working as a staff aide for Hollo, as an officer in the traffic division and also in the records department.

In March 1973 he was promoted to corporal and received an associate degree in law enforcement from Oakland Community College.

During a department-wide upgrading of ranking, he was promoted to sergeant in May 1974.

Niemisto is the recipient of numerous service citations and letters of commendation from the Hills police department in appreciation for his investigative work.

He has attended nine special training schools, including criminal investigation, drug enforcement, police instructor training and is a certified firearms and police department weapons instructor.

The new lieutenant will be given more supervisory functions and now will have more authority during criminal investigations in Farmington Hills.

He has been with the detective bureau since February 1974 and has been a member of the department's combat pistol team since 1968.

A 1963 graduate of Farmington High School, Niemisto is pursuing a bachelor's degree in police administration.

Niemisto lives with his wife and two step sons in Farmington Hills.

School responses to these abuses have been consistent. Schools cooperate with our law enforcement agencies to prevent the schools from becoming arenas where illicit substances are freely used or traded.

Is there a dress code in the district?

The way in which a student dresses is a matter of individual style and taste and is determined by the parent and child.

However, dress that may become a distraction to the educational environment, or be in violation of the sanitation code (e.g. bare feet) is unacceptable.

How does the district handle vandalism and property damage and are retributions made for damage to school property?

Vandalism and willful destruction of school and personal property are intolerable acts. All efforts are made to halt such actions.

When the perpetrators are discovered, they and their parents are assessed for damages and collection is made by the business office.

Are parents kept well-informed of misbehavior by their children at junior and senior high school levels?

A constant obligation is to communicate to parents all aspects of their children's behavior in school. This communication may take the form of school conferences, progress reports, report cards, telephone calls or letters.

In addition, parents may request current status reports for students. Parents don't have to wait for regular report card markings, but are encouraged to contact administrators and teachers for timely reports.

NEXT: Elementary grading systems and the outdoor education program.



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	WED. 1:00	4-Man Afternoon Swingers - Sitters
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