

## **SOCIAL GUIDELINES**

### **Friendships**

*During academy years* students have many opportunities to develop many kinds of friendships. Friendships should be strengthening to each student involved, whether it's a boy/girl relationship or friendships within the dorms.

The friendship should be conducted in a manner that will guard each student's reputation and ensure proper use of study and work time. Students should respect each other. Mixed groups should avoid secluded locations and remain in open areas. Intimate behavior is unacceptable. Generally, students should practice hands off.

Students are to respect individual living areas. Boys are not to go past the north end of the cafeteria unless continuing on past the dorm towards faculty housing. Girls are not to loiter in front of the boy's dorm but are to use the sidewalk only in continuing on towards the gym or ball fields.

*These guidelines remain in effect through graduation weekend.*

### **Harassment Policy**

*No staff member or student* may participate in or allow any act of harassment. Harassment includes jokes or intimidation or any physical or verbal attack directed at a person's race, religion, national origin, age, gender or physical condition.

Sexual harassment includes sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct that by design or innuendo is sexual in nature. These interfere with an individual's ability to perform work or school assignments by creating an intimidating, hostile, and offensive environment. Incidents of harassment are to be reported to the administration and will be fully investigated while maintaining as much confidentiality as possible.

### **Social**

*Staff members may* put a couple on 'social' if the hands off guidelines are being violated, if the staff believe that the couple need a 'time-out' from each other, or the couple is found in the wrong place at the wrong time. During 'social', the students are not to communicate with each other in person or by phone, text messages, email, letters or notes.

The duration of 'social' will be one week for the first infraction and two weeks for the second infraction. The third infraction will result in a one-week suspension from school and the fourth infraction will be cause for dismissal from school. Infractions are by individual, not by couple. If the infraction is serious enough, the administrative council may impose whatever consequences they deem appropriate.

## **Chaperons**

*Staff members are considered* suitable chaperons. Parents are requested to notify the deans when taking their children off campus. Students wanting to leave with the parents of friends must have parental permission for that specific time and event unless standing permission has been given.

## **Group Activities**

*When mixed groups* or chaperoned couples are planning an off-campus activity, they must be accompanied by a school approved chaperone at all times.

## **Visitors**

*When students have visitors* on campus, absences from classes, religious services, study periods or work appointments are not excused unless prior arrangements have been made through the principal's office. It is the responsibility of the student to inform their visitors of the policies and standards of MEA. Visitors are expected to respect school policies and standards, and demonstrate a cooperative spirit. If you anticipate overnight guests or the need for special visiting privileges in the dorm, please arrange with the dean in advance.

## **Saturday Night Activities**

*The dorms will be closed* during the Saturday night activities; all students on campus are expected to be involved in the planned activity.

## **Banquets & Special Suppers**

*These are special times* to provide opportunity for students to practice behavior of refined ladies and true gentlemen. All students are expected to attend the full evening's activity in appropriate dress for the occasion. Banquet attire must receive prior approval by the appropriate dean. Visitors are not invited to these special occasions.