



Long International Middle School

5028 Morganford Street, Saint Louis, Missouri 63116

Principal, Benicia Nanez Hunt, Ed.D

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September 6, 2023

Sikhona Long International Middle School Families:

The school year is well underway and the 1st progressing reporting period ends September 11, 2023. As students have become more acclimated to school and middle school, new behaviors have developed creating discipline and safety concerns within the school. I would like to outline a few of these concerns, our approach to discipline regarding these incidents, and the support we hope to gain from families as we discourage further occurrences.

Discipline and Safety Concerns:

- Following the Labor Day weekend, students have been arriving to school with or while at school collecting bundles of pens to bind together with rubber bands or tape.
- Once collected and bound, the pens become a weapon for poking and stabbing each other.
- Students have grouped themselves to gain points from poking and stabbing, causing both disruption and dangerous horseplay in classrooms, bathrooms, and hallways.
- These items are classified and defined as weapons considering the students' intent is to harm or injure their fellow classmates.
- I have provided pictures of 2 such items confiscated today, September 6, 2023.



Please find discipline consequences below:

- According to the district's [Student Code of Conduct](#), these items are considered weapons (01-1) and prohibited on school campuses. **Possession of one of these "make-shifts knife" can be considered a weapon and can result in a Type 1 suspension.**
- These items will be confiscated upon sight. **Refusal to turn over these items will result in further disciplinary actions.**
- Students engaging in "battles" or chasing each other to "stab" one another will result in a suspension for fighting (25-2) and/or school disruption (25-3).
- Students using district issued iPads for the recording of and uploading of the battles and other inappropriate content will lose their technology privilege and receive discipline according to the District and Building Code of Conduct.

We are asking for parental support in the following ways:

- If possible, please review the Student Code of Conduct with your students. Students received and reviewed with administrators the Code of Conduct book the first day of school (August 22, 2023). The book was to be reviewed with parents and the Affidavit for Parents and Guardians was to be signed and returned to the school.

Mission: Creating Unique Learners & Teachers Using Respect & Rapport Everyday

Vision: Community-Based, Community-Served, Community-Proud

Core Values: Respect, Open-mindedness & Organized, Adaptable, Relationships

School Theme: Sikhona. Sawubona. (I am here to be seen. We SEE you!)

- Please encourage students to utilize the school supplies provided by the school and district, as well as their instructional time in class.

We continue to be dedicated to creating an atmosphere of community, support, and excellence. Long International Middle School is a place of learning, and we will continue to provide opportunities for learning, innovation, and inquiry; trends such as these will not deter our work. We will continue to work to improve the safeguards we have in place for these types of behaviors and any additional behavior that take away from the learning and the goals of Long. Thank you for your support towards these goals. *Sawubona.*

Committed to Community,



Principal Hunt

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