



GADZOOSDAA STUDENT RESIDENCE

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Gadzoosdaa Student Residence Fair Notice Letter

A top priority of the Gadzoosdaa Staff, the Gadzoosdaa Advisory Council, and the Department of Education is to provide a safe and caring residence, where staff support and encourage students' academic, extra-curricular, athletic, and other pursuits. In order to ensure a safe residence there are clear student expectations and a code of conduct.

This letter is to clarify our Student Expectation/Code of Conduct, found on Page 15 of the *Gadzoosdaa Student Residence Handbook*. Please review these expectations with your youth.

Academic Success

A student's desire to obtain a high school education is the basis for living at Gadzoosdaa. Because studies show that attendance is the number one factor in academic success, the Gadzoosdaa Staff encourage students to be on time and attend all classes. *Students who have difficulty getting up in the morning for school or who choose to miss classes, show that they are not ready to be away from their home community and to be living in a congregate living situation at Gadzoosdaa.* Students who have missed more than 20% of their classes in the semester prior to an application to Gadzoosdaa may not receive an acceptance to the residence.

Vaporizers or Vapes

Vaping is fast becoming a huge problem and the US surgeon general has declared vaping an epidemic amongst youth. The most recent data suggests the many young people from ages 10 – 18 have become addicted to nicotine through the use of vapes. Vapes have become smaller and easier to conceal but the results are the same: people quickly get addicted to nicotine through the use of a vape. Realizing health concerns regarding vaping, the three high schools and Gadzoosdaa will follow a common policy. We will talk to the students what the policy is:

Vapes/products are not permitted on Gadzoosdaa property.

Vapes and vaping products are not permitted in the dorm or on the property. If a student is found with vaping products on their person or in the dorm, it will be confiscated and held for parent pick-up. If a student is found with vaping products a second time, it will be confiscated and held until the end of the year.

Drug and Alcohol Policy

Gadzoosdaa is a drug/alcohol free residence. A student choosing to participate in illegal drug/alcohol related activities, while residing at Gadzoosdaa, will expect immediate consequences.

- 1) If staff suspect a student of drug/alcohol related activities, staff may search a student's room. A student may be suspected if he/she shows signs and/or symptoms of drug/alcohol use, such as smelling of marijuana, exhibiting erratic or impaired behaviour, and having dilated, red or glossy eyes.
- 2) If drugs/drug paraphernalia/alcohol are found, they will be photographed and then disposed of.
- 3) Parents/guardians will be notified and the student will be subject to consequences.

- Consequences range from a restorative process to a multi-day suspension to an expulsion.
- Consequences are not meant to be purely disciplinary but rather provide opportunities for conversation, education, intervention, and ultimately restore a student's place in the residence.

4) Depending upon the findings, the RCMP may be contacted.

Unauthorized Absence (AWOL) Policy

Gadzoosdaas definition of AWOL is – a student that has not been properly signed-out by a responsible adult and has not arrived back at Gadzoosdaa within two hours past curfew. Depending upon the circumstances of an unauthorized absence (length of time missing, nature of activity while missing, safety concerns, level of potential risk, etc.), consequences may range from a restorative process and multi-day grounding, to a suspension for three to five days, to an expulsion for the remainder of the semester or the remainder of the school year.

Staffs immediate response to an unauthorized leave:

- 1) Staff will attempt to determine a student's whereabouts by speaking to other students, staff and possibly adults listed on a student's sign-out list.
- 2) Staff will attempt to notify a student's parent(s) of the situation.
 - Staff will ask parent(s) to share information to assist in finding the missing student.
 - Parent(s) are also expected to assist in locating their student.
- 3) Staff will notify the Team Leader of Gadzoosdaa Student Residence, and the RCMP.
- 4) If feasible, staff may conduct a one-time limited search.

Sign-Out Policy

Gadzoosdaa Staff believe it is important for students to reconnect with family and friends in their home communities as often as possible throughout the school year. Transportation home for weekends is provided for Teslin and Carcross students by the local First Nations. For the students that live too far from home for weekend trips, getting to together with local family and friends in Whitehorse is encouraged. Having "good sign-outs" are vital to ensuring students' supervision and safety when students are not under the guardianship of Gadzoosdaa. For safety and liability reasons, Gadzoosdaa Staff work hard to ensure that students have good sign-outs for weekends.

What does a "good sign-out" look like?

- 1) The person designated to sign-out a student must be a responsible adult, 19 years of age or older with a physical address and phone number that he/she can be contacted at.
- 2) The parent/guardian must approve the designated sign-out list for their student.
- 3) The person designated to sign-out a student must physically come to the dorm to do the sign-out and the student must be present at the sign-out. On rare occasions, staff may do a portable sign-out.
- 4) All sign-outs should be completed by 9:00pm on the date of the sign-out. No sign-outs are permitted after 11:00pm unless a parent/guardian physically comes to Gadzoosdaa to do the sign-out.

5) It is understood that the student being signed-out will be a guest at the designated person's residence for the duration of the sign-out. The designated person will return the student to Gadzoosdaa at the end of the pre-arranged sign-out time.

6) Students that are signed-out should not be coming to and going from Gadzoosdaa during their sign-out. Any time a student returns to Gadzoosdaa, it is assumed that the student is no longer signed-out.

7) If a sign-out does not meet the above criteria, it is not a "good sign-out". Parents will be contacted if a person on the student's designated sign-out list has not complied with the sign-out procedures and that this person will be removed from the student's designated sign-out list.

Protection of the Dignity or Security of an Individual

The dorm provides students the opportunity to live and grow in a supportive community. Activity that is threatening (verbal, graphic, written, physical), racist, sexual, homophobic, or any form of discrimination, bullying, harassment, sexual harassment or unwanted sexual attention is prohibited and may result in the student being withdrawn. This includes but is not limited to: posting or distributing material (physical or virtual) and/or behaving in a manner that is offensive and may contribute to an intimidating, hostile or uncomfortable environment.

Safety Drills / Practices

The Gadzoosdaa Staff are vigilant in ensuring that students are aware and prepared for emergencies. The staff oversee several practice drills throughout the school year to ready students for an actual emergency situation. It is mandatory that all students willingly participate in these drills. Students who do not participate may be asked to find alternative accommodations.

We have read and understand Gadzoosdaa Student Residence Fair Notice Letter:

Parent/Guardian Name: _____
Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Name: _____
Student Signature: _____ Date: _____