



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 in Chapter 3 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 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 semi-independent 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.

Health and Safety of Self and Others

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 are not permitted on Gadzoosdaa property.

The first time we see a student with a vape, it will be confiscated (whether actually vaping or not), a call will be made home and the vape will remain confiscated until a parent/guardian comes in to claim the vape. The second time, a call home will be made, the student will be given a three-day dismissal and the vape confiscated until the end of the year at which point the parent/guardian may come in to claim the vape. Subsequent infractions will see escalating consequences.

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

Gadzoosdaa's 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.

Staff's 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 Benita Parkkari, Team Leader of Gadzoosdaa Student Residence, and the RCMP.
- 4) If feasible, staff may conduct a one-time limited search.

Sign-Out Policy (Please Review Again)

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.

Disrespectful / Bullying Behaviors

Gadzoosdaa students and staff are entitled to a safe and respectful living and working environment. Disrespectful and bullying behaviours towards fellow students or staff will not be tolerated and will be subject to consequences that may range from a warning, to a restorative process, to 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.

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: _____