

Tulsa Public Schools

COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

The TPS Community Guidelines form the basis for interactions not only at the school level but also throughout the entire community. They were developed by combining Jean Gibbs' TRIBES Agreements with Susan Kovalik's Lifelong Guidelines. They help us articulate the way we treat one another and help us get along better. They are the foundation of classroom management and help eliminate threat and make learning more reflective.

The TPS Community Guidelines must be taught and practiced until they become internalized. Only then will they become the culture of the school and the community.

- **Mutual Respect** – considering and honoring individual cultural values, beliefs and needs – includes respect for others, newcomers, children, teachers, parents, caring adults, personal property, individual property, individual skills, talents, contributions
- **Attentive Listening** – attending (listening silently with full attention), non-verbal encouragement, paraphrasing and reflecting feelings
- **Trustworthiness** – practicing being dependable, reliable, honest, keeper of appropriate confidences
- **Truthfulness** – being honest about things and feelings, and being honest with ourselves and others
- **Appreciations/No Put Downs** – statements of regard and recognition rather than negative derogatory remarks
- **Right to Pass** – choosing the extent to participate in a group activity, particularly when it involves sharing feelings – does not apply to learning tasks when individual accountability is required (e.g. homework, taking tests, responding to teacher)
- **Personal Best** – quality work, the best possible performance given the time and resources available