



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS BASE
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For Parents of All Camp Lejeune Dependents Schools Students,

Welcome to the Camp Lejeune Dependents Schools (CLDS) community for the 2011-2012 academic year. We are all very excited about this school year as we have added support staff, new principals, and will be opening a new school.

This year's theme is Designing Excellence, Creating Success. Parents are a critical component to building that success, and we need your help. I have three specific areas for consideration: civility, bullying, and regular school attendance. Leadership in these issues begins at home, I ask for your support.

First, courtesy and civility are essential components in the military culture. We pride ourselves on maintaining our composure and discipline even under the most stressful situations. Unfortunately, during the last school year we had a number of situations whereby a parent or guardian lost composure and resorted to the use of profanity and even physical aggression toward a teacher or school administrator. This type of conduct cannot and will not be tolerated. As parents, we all want what is best for our children and we are justifiably passionate about the pursuit of excellence. However, allowing our passion to override our self-control is not acceptable.

It is always appropriate to schedule a parent-teacher or parent-administrator conference to discuss your child's requirements and progress. The vast majority of school issues can be resolved in these conferences. If they are not, the issue should be elevated to the Assistant Superintendent, North Carolina Schools. Shouting, berating, or threatening a teacher or administrator is never acceptable.

Second, bullying both in school and while traveling to and from school was a problem last year. This year the CLDS will implement an anti-bullying curriculum produced by Trevor Romain, a children's PBS personality and USO sponsored motivational speaker. This research-based elementary curriculum will complement other anti-bullying programs in the middle and high school. Further, we will continue Military Police bicycle patrols during the start and end of the school day.

The fact is, however, children are most influenced by the input they receive from their parents. This is a team effort.

Your example in words and action at home and in the community are likely to make the biggest impact with your child's behavior at school. All students must respect each other and each other's differences.

Bullying will not be tolerated. In extreme cases, a student may be removed from school and the base through the Juvenile Discipline and Rehabilitation Board. The privilege of living on base gives us a wonderful sense of community and safety. Bullying degrades our community bond. These points must be reinforced at home.

Third, regular school attendance is essential for academic progress. The Department of Defense schools are unveiling a new attendance policy this year that better aligns with the attendance policies of civilian school systems. The new policy restricts absences to seven per semester to obtain course credit. Administrators will be notified when students reach 5 cumulative absences. The new policy provides for student support teams (SSTs) to develop strategies to support students who may have missed too much school. The policy also involves eventually notifying the command when dependents are habitually absent. I ask that parents carefully review the new attendance policy with their child(ren) and ensure that students arrive at school promptly each school day and attend school regularly.

CLDS is poised for an outstanding year with new administrators, a new school, and a renewed focus on student achievement. We have a wonderful community and school system on board Camp Lejeune. I am proud to see so many of our parents positively engaged in the education process. We all want success for all of our students and we have a system in place to achieve that goal. Please talk with your child and let him or her know that you support a safe school and value education. Thank you for the assistance in making this a great academic year not only for your child but for our entire community.



D. J. LECCE
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Commanding Officer