

Lesson 10: What it Means to Accept Responsibility (Tips about Bringing Money to School and Turning in Lost Property)



Objective: All students will explain why it is important to “not take another person’s property” and why they should turn in all found items to an adult (teacher, administrator, or parent).

Point 1: Students often leave personal items in a classroom (locker room, gym, hallway, etc.) and forget about them until the end of the day. These items may be very valuable in terms of money (cell phone, CD player, game boy, wallet) or of sentimental value (pictures, journal). We all know the feeling of losing something that is ours and the anger we feel if someone has taken one of our belongings. There are many things that students can do in order to ensure that their belongings remain safe.

- 1) If you would be upset or in trouble from your parents if an item was lost or stolen (i.e. a cell phone, game boy, MP3 player, favorite journal, CD, expensive jewelry), then **DON’T BRING THE ITEM TO SCHOOL!** Let us repeat that. **IF YOU CAN’T AFFORD TO LOSE IT, DON’T BRING IT!** Electronic games, tape/CD/MP3 players, cameras and radios are not allowed at Griffin anyway. You don’t need a cell phone. There are probably more than 15 phones for you to use per grade level (Pod office phone, administrator phone, counselor phone, teachers’ cell phones). In short, you don’t need to bring anything expensive with you to school. You are here to learn!
- 2) If you forget and bring an expensive item to school or money, give it to your teacher. It can then be locked up in the front office, or a teacher or administrator’s desk. You can pick it up at the end of the day or your parent can come get it (depending on what the item is).
- 3) Make it a habit not to carry more than \$20.00 in cash with you. If the money is in your book bag or purse, know where your book bag and/or purse are at all times. If possible, keep the money on your person, in your sock or folded up in your pocket. Do not tell anyone you have cash or show your money to anyone. Note: If the money is for a fundraiser, turn it in immediately when you get to school. Put it in the black box in each grade level. If the money is for your lunch account, give it to the cashier at breakfast. The point is: Turn the money in immediately upon arrival to school!

- 4) If you find an item that does not belong to you, give it to the nearest adult IMMEDIATELY. It belongs to somebody and they are probably looking for it. AN ITEM IS NOT YOURS BECAUSE YOU FIND IT!!
- 5) Never go into another student's (or adult's) purse, book bag, jacket, locker, or desk (even if the student asks you to). The reason: If any item is missing, you will get blamed for taking it. Ex: If your friend wants you to open her purse and get out a lip gloss, give your friend her purse and have her get out the lip gloss. UNDERSTAND?
- 6) The bottom line: DO NOT TAKE ANOTHER STUDENT'S BELONGINGS- EVER!

Point 2: Occasionally, students will “play” in class and take another student's belongings (paper, pencils, worksheet, homework, etc.) causing a disruption to the learning environment or causing a conflict between both students. Many times, teachers may not be aware of the problem. Here are some ways that all students can remain focused in class.

- 1) **ALL** students must bring their own materials to class everyday.
- 2) If someone is frequently taking your “stuff,” tell an adult (your teacher, parent, counselor, administrator). If you are being bullied, it is extremely important to let an adult know **NOW**.
- 3) Do not spend instructional classroom time on “fighting” over trivial items. Again, tell an adult, ask to be moved to another seat, and concentrate on your learning.

The bottom line: Again, DO NOT TAKE ANOTHER STUDENT'S BELONGINGS EVER! REPORT ANY BULLYING BEHAVIOR TO AN ADULT IMMEDIATELY!

Teacher Discussion Scenarios

- 1) You walk into the boys' locker room and see a cell phone on the bench. What should you do?
- 2) After a weekend at your generous Aunt Charlene's, you come to school on Monday with \$50.00 in your book bag. What should you do?
- 3) Bruno keeps taking your pencils in Ms. Tripp's social studies class. You have asked him repeatedly to stop, but he just laughs and keeps going into your book bag when Ms. Tripp is not looking. What should you do?