

# URBAN ACADEMY UNDERSTANDINGS

The Urban Academy is more than a school; it is a community. In this community all members, students and staff, enjoy many advantages and privileges that come from a learning environment where all are treated with respect.

However, a community only works well when its members are willing to give something of themselves. With the privileges that come with the Urban environment, there are certain obligations and responsibilities all of us share.

You don't need to like everyone at the Urban Academy. You must however, respect even those you dislike.

No personal attacks. You may attack ideas, but must not attack the person with whom you disagree.

No fights – in school, outside school, in the neighborhoods – no school-related fights.

At the Urban Academy it's ok to be an intellectual, to enjoy learning, to be curious about ideas, to read, to ask questions. An atmosphere which encourages thought must be respected.

It's ok to be an oddball; it's everyone's responsibility to make all members of the Urban Academy community feel comfortable and welcome. No one should feel the need to say the "right" things or wear the "right" clothes in order to belong.

We discuss many topics in class about which people have strong feelings. Classroom discussions must end at the classroom door and be dealt with in that class. Things can easily get blown out of proportion when people who weren't in that class become involved.

We try to treat everyone as an individual at the Urban Academy. No one solution is good for every person. Fairness, not uniformity, is our goal.

We purposely have students from many different backgrounds. This is an important strength of the Urban Academy. Often differences of opinion are real and deep. Discussions require that you learn to "listen" skillfully (not just "hear"). You'll need to figure out the reasons, learn to judge the evidence that is offered to support arguments which you think are "wrong." The more you permit yourself to listen, to think, to open up to new ideas, the less you'll find other people being "stupid."

The same is true of "boring." The more you enter into a problem, explore an idea, question a speaker, the less "boring" difficult topics will become.

*Remember, you represent the Urban Academy  
...in the Julia Richman Education Complex  
...when visitors come to the Urban Academy  
...on field trips  
...when speakers come to class  
...at Community Service  
...on jobs*

**YOUR ACTIONS AFFECT EXPERIENCES OTHER STUDENTS ARE ABLE TO ENJOY!!**

**Attendance:** Students must attend school: 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM all day, everyday. You are responsible for being on time:

- ...in the morning
- ...after breaks
- ...after lunch
- ...to community service

Any activity (doctors appointments, etc.) which conflicts with or takes place during school time must be approved in advance by Herb.

Sometimes classes run late – this does not mean the next class begins late.

Cutting is not allowed, for a period or for a day. You are responsible for being in class and for taking the education challenge offered to you at the Urban Academy seriously.

**Attendance at Community Service is required.** Students are expected to be punctual.

**Trips:** We take as many class and school trips as we can, using the rich resources of the New York City community. These outside-of-school activities during the school day are an integral part of our educational program and are not optional.

**Magazines, Books:** Magazines and newspapers are provided for you in Room 206. They are for everyone and are not to be removed from the room.

Books are available on open shelves. If you would like to take any home, just sign them out with Nancy.

The refrigerator in Room 208 is available for staff and students to store food for the day. Be sure your name is on whatever you put in the fridge. And don't take things out that don't belong to you.

**Visitors:** Visitors to the school must be approved by Herb at least 1 day in advance of their proposed visit.

**No Graffiti:** is to be done on school premises.

**Smoking:** Smoking is to take place outside the building during break and lunch periods only. No smoking is allowed on the steps in front of the building.

Students are not to use the coffee/tea setup in Room 208.

No drugs or alcohol are permitted before or during the school day.

**Computers, Phones and Darkroom:** There are computers and typewriters available for student use. The computers, typewriters, and copy machines in Room 208 are not available for students to operate.

Telephones in Room 208 are for official use only. Students need permission before using the phones there. A phone for students is available in Room 206.

To use the dark room independently you must qualify for the “approved users” list. See Roy about qualifications. All students must use the sign in/ sign out book and sign in at a station as well. We are happy to lend you a camera. Each student who takes a camera, however, must take responsibility for returning it in working order so that others can also be able to shoot.

**Keep it Clean:** We spend a lot of time living in the Urban Academy Community. Help keep it clean. There are wastebaskets in all rooms. Please use them. We also have places to put deposit and non-deposit bottles.

**Lockers:** See Elsa for your locker assignment. You must use the lock she loans you. All lockers are in Room 206 and 208. You are welcome to choose a partner. If necessary, partners will be assigned.

**Animals:** Do not disturb any animals housed at the Academy. They are often being observed for science projects and your playing, feeding or disturbing them is not permitted.

**Homework Lab:** It is your responsibility to bring work to a homework lab. If you come without work, you will be given a written assignment by the teacher.

**Bathrooms:** Use of bathrooms facilities is and should be a student right. However, this right must not be abused. Use of bathrooms should be limited to non-class times except on infrequent occasions when it becomes necessary to use class time. When this occurs, a speedy return to class is expected.

**WALKMEN ARE PERMITTED AT BREAK TIMES ONLY. THEY ARE TO BE PUT AWAY (NOT AROUND NECKS) AT ALL OTHER TIMES. BOOM BOXES ARE TO BE USED ONLY WHEN REQUIRED IN COURSES FOR SPECIFIC CLASS PURPOSES.**

Please cooperate with Security Officers by showing your ID cards whenever you enter the building. Please use the 67<sup>th</sup> street entrance only, both when entering and when leaving the school.

# URBAN ACADEMY AGREEMENTS

