

STUDENT DISCIPLINE The expectation at LJA is that every student graduates with habits that lead to academic and social success in high school and beyond. The Developmental Designs approach to discipline revolves around the idea that all students have four adolescent needs: Relationship, Competence, Autonomy, and Fun. “Behaviors” arise when students’ needs are not being met. In this case, students will find ways to meet the needs themselves, not always making appropriate choices. With this understanding, staff at LJA practice daily habits that promote the four needs of our students. We understand that our students need school to be the place where they can seek responsible independence, positive relationships, competence, and enjoyment.

LJA’s System of Discipline

LJA implements the Developmental Designs approach to student discipline. The Developmental Designs approach is founded upon seven evidence-based principles that form the core of successful teaching and learning in the middle grades.

- 1. Knowing the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual needs of the students we teach is as important as knowing the content we teach.
- 2. We learn best by actively constructing our own understanding and meaning.
- 3. The greatest cognitive growth occurs when learning is leveraged by social interaction.
- 4. Goals are best achieved through the incremental mastery of tasks.
- 5. Social learning in a supportive community is as important to success as academic learning.
- 6. There is a set of personal/social skills that students need to learn and practice in order to be successful socially and academically: Cooperation Assertion Responsibility Empathy Self-control
- 7. Trust among adults is a fundamental necessity for academic and social success in a learning community.