

## **Justice CORPS - Council to Oversee Rights & Protection of Students**

A volunteer committee of adults from within a 50 mile radius of the school, which meets three times/year and exists for the sole purpose of receiving reports of human rights violations at the school.

Four to Six members including a volunteer police professional and a volunteer legal professional. Must contain a minimum 50% female members, with one member of a minority ethnic group and one member of minority sexual orientation.

All members are strictly non-affiliated with the school. Applicants will be screened to exclude any alumni, donors, family of faculty/staff or family of trustees or regents.

The creation of a confidential communication system in which students may contact the CORPS without impediment by any school faculty or staff. The flow of communication will follow a strict order:

- 1 student to the CORPS members
- 2 CORPS members to the parents of student
- 3 Once signed consent is given by student, and parents where appropriate;
- 4 from CORPS to school

The members will respond to reports by informing students and families of their rights and offering consultation on options to proceed. A police report will not be immediately required, though all members are naturally mandated reporters. The filing of charges against individuals remains the choice of the student who brings the issue, with consultation of their family and the CORPS.

Contact information for the Justice CORPS will be printed inside the Student Handbook, also listed in the Face Book, and available online.

Students will be protected indefinitely for utilizing the Justice CORPS service, including freedom from any form of punishment, restriction or threat to enrollment status, financial aid or scholarship funding for doing so.

The Justice CORPS will provide a written report to school leaders, at the conclusion of the school year, of all consented documented incidents received. Students and families must consent to inclusion of their situation in the report, and may elect to record details while remaining anonymous.

These reports will be kept on file and reviewed annually by the Executive Committee. A copy of these reports may be made available to all past, current and prospective families at any time.

The intent of the Justice CORPS will also be to see a dramatic reduction in human rights violations at New England Boarding Schools over time.

Members may serve for up to three years. Each will sign a strict non-affiliation agreement, mandated reporter status, and commitment to honor the rights of students above all else. CORPS members may serve on more than one committee, where geographic boundaries overlap.

Justice CORPS ratings for each school may be recorded and published for review by prospective families. Each incident of human rights violation will count as a point against the school's score. Student to student violations would mark 1 point lowered. Student to student violations, where there is more than two years (age or grade) between students, will mark as 2. Faculty to student violations of human rights would take 5 points from Justice CORPS ratings.

Any request by school administrators, faculty, staff, donors, executors or regents for a student to keep any related information secret will be punishable with fines of a minimum of \$25,000. Discovery of any such attempt will instantly garner a 10 point mark on the school's annual report. Negative scores will be counted where necessary. In future years, parents will be able to compare ratings among various schools, as currently happens in categories such as academics or athletics.

This system allows schools to take the safety and well-being of all students seriously, while providing outside accountability and oversight. As a model, it may prove to be scalable and replicable to institutions in many fields of community and civic life.