

## Boundary Guidelines

Below are examples of boundary violating behaviors that all members of The Taft School should be aware of and avoid. It is important to note that the lines between school and non-school activities and between school technology and personal technology can be less clear in the boarding school environment than in other settings.

The context of the boarding school environment should be considered in determining the appropriateness of behaviors in the community. Some behaviors may be acceptable in one circumstance and unacceptable in another. Given this complexity, members of the Taft community are encouraged to reach out to the Headmaster, Assistant Headmaster, the Dean of Students, the Dean of Faculty or Director of Human Resources with questions or concerns about certain behaviors.

1. Engaging in any sexual activity or romantic relationship with a student regardless of the student's age.
2. Using alcohol or drugs in front of students.
3. Sharing with, or condoning in any way, the use of alcohol or illegal drugs by students.
4. Playing rough, physical, or provocative games with students such as horseplay, tickling, wrestling, or patting their backsides.
5. Engaging in inappropriate hugging or lingering physical contact.
6. Sharing an overnight room with students when traveling for any school or other event.
7. Inviting students to non-school sponsored events or trips for reasons other than educational or programmatic reasons.
8. Finding opportunities to be alone with a student or spending excessive time meeting with a student alone. Meetings with a student should be in locations that can be readily observable and interruptible (i.e. within hearing or visual range of another adult or other student).
9. Taking inappropriate or personal photos of students. Student only photographs should be related to an educational or programmatic purpose.
10. Communicating with students through email, text messages, social networking, gaming networks, blogs, websites, Internet chat rooms, or other forms of social media unless such use has a clear educational or programmatic purpose, or is a reflection of the School's educational mission. Any such communications should be on school internet and email accounts (not personal accounts) and should be related to school matters.
11. Providing special attention and support to a student about the student's personal problems without informing and regularly updating school administrators (i.e. Headmaster, Assistant Headmaster, Dean of Students, School Physician or Counselors, Class Deans).
12. Making comments about a student's attire, body or physical attributes to them or other students. Enforcement of dress code violation should be in accordance with the guidance provided by the Dean of Student's office.

13. Initiating a discussion with a student about their romantic life or relationship with a boyfriend or girlfriend.
14. Sharing personal things or secrets about themselves or sharing stories about adult relationships, dating or relationship history with students.
15. Making sexually suggestive comments or gestures to, or with, a student.
16. Giving or receiving excessive gifts to/from students and their families in violation of the School's gift policy.