

AGAPE Community Agreement

Communicating in Your Environment

In our house we will communicate with each other through email, bulletin board postings, reminder notes, and scheduled meetings. In order to recognize the positive things happening on our floor we will have a display in the hall. This will simply be a public reminder and source of encouragement for house members. If a conflict arises in our groups have decided to go about it in a specific order. First we will bring the issue to the individual (if it is specifically related to one person) in a healthy and constructive confrontation. If problems persist, they will be reported to the Community Advisor who will develop an appropriate plan of action. The next step if needed will be to bring the issue to the House Advisor, as they may have an alternative plan in order to handle the situation. Our final plan of action is to take the issue to the head of Residence Life where it can be dealt with by someone with specialty working in this area. We have agreed that although our Community Agreement is open to changes, it may only be altered at monthly meetings by a majority consensus. In order to accomplish our goals we will use our chosen methods of communication to ensure that everyone is aware of the goal. Then we will brainstorm possibilities for solutions. After that we will select committees to accomplish individual tasks as we are aware that not all schedules can be matched.

Diversity in Your Environment

We will treat each other with respect implementing the Golden Rule of treating others as we would like to be treated. We would like to treat everyone with a welcoming and open non-judging manner. This implies the use of kindness, compassion, empathy, openness, acceptance, supportive actions, and consideration. When dealing with differences we would like to approach them by being respectful even if we don't agree. We will not strive to convert others views, but chose to agree to disagree. Openness to new or unfamiliar things and not passing judgment are also part of our plan to preserve a diverse environment. Students from other countries will be treated with a spirit of welcoming. They will be invited to several of our house activities and we will take into account their differences when interacting. If we have issues with not respecting others we will deal with it in the same manner as other conflicts. We will approach the same leaders and explain through constructive criticism why and how a particular behavior is unacceptable.

Physical Environment

AGAPE has decided that cleaning and will be left to individual discretion for the most part. However we will have a "chores wheel" for the common areas such as the hallways. This will provide a rotation for vacuuming and picking up as needed. We also require that there are no fire or safety hazards in our physical environment. Odors, broken glass, boxes, and anything that may possibly burden or inconvenience other members of the house should be dealt with through cleanliness and practice of hygiene. Our community space will be utilized by postings of activities, a bulleting board, and other forms of decoration. We require that all furniture and fixtures be treated with care and respect. If these rules are not being followed, they will be brought up and discussed at our next group meeting time. Everyone will be reminded what is acceptable and what is not as well as the agreement we

made to avoid these problems.

Academic Environment

Our house will uphold residence life noise policies by respecting and adhering to quiet hours. We will report noise violations if they become a disturbance that may have an adverse effect on our education. AGAPE will also extend our quiet hours during finals and increase the occurrence of study groups. We will act accordingly to help each other reach academic goals.

Emotional Environment

We will develop a respectful community by acting in a responsible manner. We will model our behavior after that which we would hope to instill in both current and prospective students. We will deal with conflicts in a timely and positive way in order to keep our environment as stable and comfortable as possible. Also we will follow school policies to ensure that our house is reputable and respectable. Hateful messages will be met by either ignoring them or reporting them depending on the severity. AGAPE will act as a whole in accordance with the actions which will earn us the identity we desire.

Social Environment

We will determine guidelines for social events by following school policies and being creative. We will hold events in many different ways in order to promote variety and determine which methods are most successful. These will still be held in ways that are respectful and considerate of neighbors and roommates. Our community will plan and community service events and using chosen forms of communication make sure the entire house is aware of the opportunity. We will also strive to occasionally have meals as a community to promote bonding and strengthen social connections. To welcome newcomers to our house we will invite them to events as well as introduce them to people and the school activities. We will make sure that they feel comfortable and take their individuality into account. Our community will effectively help recycle by placing waste in the correct bins and picking up after ourselves and our house.

Celebrations/Recognition

Our house has decided to celebrate not only Christian holidays such as Christmas and Easter, but also other national holidays such as Thanksgiving, Valentine's Day and April Fool's Day. In order to respect multiple cultures and beliefs we will also recognize St. Patrick's Day, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and El Dia De Los Muertos. We will have a Winter Holiday Party together as well as a Thanksgiving Meal. Added celebrations include birthdays and finals time. To recognize success in our community we will use bulletin boards and door decorations. Our house will celebrate birthdays with a minimum of community cards and a birthday treat. We will also hold half birthday recognition for those born outside of the school year. If this happens to fall over winter break the individual may set aside a separate date during the school year for his/her birthday to be recognized. We believe that these celebrations and recognitions will strengthen connections and help our community to grow together.