

MR. MORRIS'S PET PEEVES

4th Edition

1. **People who don't work**

When you are on the clock at LVA you are working. If you're not working, you should be studying. If you're not doing anything, go home. If you don't do anything—ever—leave and return to your home school. You can just as easily do nothing there, and the expectation isn't nearly as high.
2. **Not being accountable for your time**

If you cannot account for your time, I can certainly account for your poor grade.
3. **Taking things off my desks or out of my office without permission**

I don't dig around in your backpack or come to your house and take what I want; why would you do it to me? (This also includes my toolbox or any cabinets that I require permission to access.)
4. **Being in my office without permission, or if I'm not in it**
5. **Making me ask you more than once**
6. **Not cleaning up the mess you made**

Mess leaving shows an enormous lack of pride, and is unsafe and unsanitary.
7. **Asking questions that you already have the answer for**

Ask yourself: where can I find the information I need? Is it already written down? Already in my notes? Does someone in the room have the answer I need? (I will never begrudge the thoughtful question, but I constantly have to answer the same questions over and over.)
8. **Not knowing how to sweep and mop to my satisfaction**

I have a theory that teenagers do not have the skill and attention to detail necessary to sweep and mop. Prove me wrong, please!
9. **Sweeping up into piles and then NOT PICKING UP THE PILE!**

Why did you bother sweeping in the first place? Within an hour it will be spread out again.
10. **Wrapping cable around electrics or other pipe**

They should be tied up with tieline or hooked around upright points.
11. **Walking away from the rail without reweighting what you've done**

Never walk away from a line that you have snubbed or stuck. You must plan ahead to leave enough time to reweight. Failing to reweight could lead to serious injury or death!
12. **Leaving chairs or other obstacles in the aisles in the theatre or all over the stage**

This is a trip hazard and breaks about a half dozen fire codes.
13. **Removing the stick (handle) from a broom for any reason**
14. **Taking joeys from the rail so you can play samurai ninja**

This is horseplay and will not be tolerated.
15. **Not thoroughly cleaning out paintbrushes, buckets, pans, rollers and roller frames, etc., or not cleaning up your paint mess**

See 7a, and apply the idea to brushes.
16. **Sticking things to walls, TAGGING or writing your name or anyone else's name, or anything else, on walls, pieces of scenery, etc., or especially in the dark, hidden places in the theaters.**

That is considered malicious vandalism, and will be punished and prosecuted as such. It's not YOURS, so don't write on it.
17. **Walking away from a specifically assigned task**

I will call the Dean and have you picked up for truancy.

18. **Disrespecting your crew head**
Your crew head determines your jobs, hours and success. He/she evaluates your performance and helps me to grade you.
19. **Disrespecting your crew**
Likewise, when you are in a leadership position your crew are your students. They look to you for training, encouragement and approval. Don't be dismissive, be a leader.
20. **Disrespecting yourself**
You cannot live up to your full potential if you are using illicit drugs or alcohol. Period. Also, if you are a smoker, you are seven to fifteen times more likely to become a drug abuser. (Johns Hopkins School of Public Health) Smoking is gross, expensive, smelly, deadly, and is terrible for our environment. Live a clean life-style. If I find that you have been working in the shops or theaters while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, you will be in deep, deep trouble, which will likely include *law enforcement*. Don't Do It!
21. **Talking behind a person's back**
Take your troubles to the source. If you don't have the courage to do this, then what you are saying is probably untrue and hurtful and you shouldn't say it at all.
22. **Using school/district materials and supplies for personal use**
Tieline, Gaffer's tape, paint, lumber, fabric, fasteners, tools, etc. are *property of the school*. They are not there for you to tie up your pants or hair, or mend hems, or make your shoes black, or build a shrine in your bedroom.
23. **Thievery**
Do not steal from your program or colleagues. Stealing will not be tolerated!
24. **Roaming hallways or being in the theater spaces without permission**
This especially applies to all the stairwells, storage rooms and ancillary spaces in all three theaters. Being caught in the stairwells can get you suspended!
25. **Not striking after a show/not closing down properly for the evening**
This especially applies to those one or two day shows such as band, choir, etc. Each department is responsible for their own equipment, but if you have been assigned sound, you strike all the mics and sound cable, if you were projectionist, you need to strike and store all that equipment, etc. The goods get taken out to head height, and the stage gets swept before you leave.
26. **Using it and then not following through with it**
If you turned it on, took it out, opened it up, uncovered it or plugged it in, you need to be the one that turns it off, puts it back, closes it up, covers it or unplugs it.
27. **Dumping the mop water right outside the door**
This relates to number 8. Dump it ONLY in a mop sink.
28. **Propping open doors.**
If you need a door unlocked, find someone with a key. Propped open doors are an invitation for riff-raff. Propping open doors by sticking something in the hinge side of the door is illegal, and it bends the frame so it won't close.
29. **"Actor" questions**
"Is that door supposed to open?"
"Are you going to paint that?"
"Is that going to be finished in time?"
And on and on, *ad nauseum...*
30. **Resting on your laurels, or thinking that you will automatically move forward in the program**
There is no such thing as *de facto* seniority. You *earn* your advancements.
31. **Squandering opportunities.**
Every day I consciously try to learn something new. You cannot be a complete, thinking and vital human being without this idea as a life-long philosophy.