



StJP DISCIPLINE

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Philosophy

The mission of St. Joseph the Protector School is to develop the Catholic identity and intellect of each child. Our faith-based education prepares students morally and intellectually to meet the challenges of the 21st century by fostering spiritual and academic maturity and by challenging students to integrate Catholic values with their God-given gifts and talents. In order to ensure that our students achieve their full potential in this educational environment, order and discipline are essential. All in our school community, principal, faculty, parents, and students, play a role in creating an environment where our students can be successful.

The discipline policy at St. Joseph the Protector School is fair, firm, reasonable, and consistent. It clearly defines individual responsibilities, categorizes unacceptable behaviors, and provides for appropriate responses. In addition, it discriminates between minor and serious offenses as well as between first time and repeat offenses.

Portions of our student handbook are under review by the administration and faculty. A major focus will be discipline policies. The information that follows in each section of this newsletter is the foundation upon which we will make revisions to policies.

The Role of the Teacher

In accord with our school philosophy, our faculty strives to develop understanding and respect for each student. Doing so promotes a climate of mutual respect and dignity that guides students to achieve their full potential. Teachers spend a great deal of time planning and providing classroom instruction that engages students. Consistent classroom routines and schedules are integral to providing an environment in which children feel comfortable and know the parameters in which they function in the classroom. When healthy teacher-student rapport is established, students are able to speak with teachers and discipline becomes preventative in nature.

Should a situation arise with a student, teachers are expected to reach out to parents. Students benefit when they know that cooperation and communication exist between parents and teachers. The teachers take care to distinguish between minor student misconduct, best handled by the teacher, and major misbehavior requiring the assistance of the principal. Teachers handle individual infractions privately and avoid punishing the group for the misbehavior of one or two.

The Role of the Parent

Parents are the first and best teachers of their children in the ways of Faith. The home is where children first learn Catholic values and lessons of respect and dignity. We recognize that parents who choose Saint Joseph the Protector School for their child(ren) make a valuable investment in Catholic education and in our school community. Parents play a key role in building a cooperative relationship between home and school which is essential to each student's successful development and achievement. We appreciate the support of our parents and we see ourselves as partners with parents in the education of our child(ren). Teachers act in the place of parents when children are under their care. That is why we depend upon our parents to teach children that teachers deserve the same consideration and respect that parents expect from their child(ren). Creating standards of behavior that are firm, fair, and consistent at home help to support the discipline policy of the school.

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The Role of the Student

Our code of student conduct is built on respect for others and personal growth. All actions are based on Jesus' two great commandments: love of God and love of neighbor. Students should be aware that their first obligation is to give service and respect to God and others. Cooperation with all school personnel by following directions willingly, by obeying school rules, and by offering service is imperative. As active members of the school community, students should use class time as effectively as possible by taking pride in doing their best work and by contributing to an atmosphere in which real learning takes place. They are responsible for completion of all homework and class assignments/projects on time. Appreciation of the classroom and school environment requires that students take care of all the things given them for their use and keep items/space neat and clean. Students are expected to attend school daily and be punctual to all classes. Adherence to the school's uniform policy is a responsibility of the student, with assistance from their parents. Since mistakes are part of the learning process, students must learn to accept responsibility for their actions.

The Role of the Principal

As the educational leader of Saint Joseph the Protector School, the principal creates the culture and the disciplinary climate for both students and staff. The principal's authority requires that policies and procedures are applied in a fair and equitable manner.

In our school, it is an expectation that teachers are responsible for the discipline in their respective classrooms and that conflict is handled in a timely manner with compassion. Each conflict should be seen as an opportunity for professional growth for the teacher and personal growth for the student(s).

When a disciplinary situation occurs with a student, parents are directed to speak first with the teacher(s) to resolve the problem. The expectation is that teachers and parents will collaborate to find a resolution in a majority of cases. In extraordinary cases, circumstances may arise that obstruct direct resolution and in such cases, teachers and/or parents may request a follow-up appointment with the principal.

The principal acts as an advocate for both teacher and student when handling disciplinary matters and approaches each situation with an open mind, and a sense of fairness, reasonableness and consistency.

A Final Note...

Dear Parents and Community of Saint Joseph the Protector School,

Our review of the student handbook continues our efforts to strengthen the academic program for our students. Because our Philosophy and Mission guide our work, the discipline policy is intended to support each child's development and teach Catholic values that will become part of their lives. Thank you for accepting the responsibilities, joys, and yes, even the challenges, of being a Catholic school parent. It is only with a united partnership, that we will make our vibrant community even stronger and will prepare our students to meet the challenges they will face in the future.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Alicia Farren, Interim Principal