



St. Joseph School
Kindergarten - Eighth Grade
Family & Student Handbook
2023-2024

St. Joseph School
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Mission Statement

St. Joseph School educates the young in the spirit of the Gospel, stressing Catholic values, inspiring academic excellence, global awareness and service to those in need.

History

St. Joseph School was founded in 1883 by The Daughters of Charity from Emmitsburg, Maryland. For 121 years, the sisters continued the tradition of their American founder, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, who in 1810 established the first parochial school in the United States in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

In the spring of 2004, the Daughters of Charity withdrew from the administration of St. Joseph School. The school continues the commitment of the Daughters of Charity to Catholic morals and teachings, academic excellence, and service to those in need.

Mindful of its primary mission as an effective instrument of the educational ministry of the Catholic Church, St. Joseph School unites with all the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to make our students' faith become living, conscious, and active through the light of instruction.

Vision Statement

St. Joseph School celebrates diversity and creativity while fostering moral, spiritual, academic, and physical growth through the promotion of Gospel values through service and respect for life.

Philosophy

St. Joseph School endorses the call of the Catholic Bishops of the United States to express its educational ministry through the objectives of personal spirituality, social justice, and a strong academic program in accord with the Curriculum Guide for Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

1. To develop the total Christian personality by instilling in the students a respect for life and reverence for Christian living.
2. To develop within the school a strong religious education program based on Catholic Theology, Scripture, Liturgical experience, and service so that each child will grow and develop in the Christian way of life.
3. To facilitate the intellectual, social, and physical development of each child through a variety of instructional methods such as small and large group instruction, departmental classes, and other tools for basic knowledge and formation.
4. To aid students in evaluation of their own capabilities and vocational possibilities.

It is the consensus of the faculty that every human being has a right to pursue knowledge corresponding with his/her dignity and God-given ability, regardless of background or sex. In the early years, education is often of the utmost importance because through education and guidance, the children of today become the Catholic citizens of tomorrow. St. Joseph School is dedicated to the development of the total personality of its students so that each may evolve as a Catholic Christian with strong, vibrant faith and an integrated citizen of the United States of America.

As a faculty, we accept each student as a unique person. Thus each student is encouraged to develop all capabilities – social, intellectual, moral, physical, emotional, and spiritual.

While emphasizing excellence in all levels of the student's natural growth and development, we, as educators in a parochial school, are concerned in a very special way with the Christian development of the child through an understanding and appreciation of the true goal of life and with training each to live accordingly.

To keep in step with today's jurisdiction and global problems, St. Joseph School is dedicated to educating the student in basic individual and community responsibilities.

Students are guided to make intelligent choices when dealing with controversial issues affecting the family unit, and shown that they possess creative abilities and talents that can be used to better our world.

The faculty also recognizes the need to involve parents and others who can contribute to the total educational program. Therefore, the pastor, principal, School Advisory Board, staff, and parents work together as a community to accomplish this educational endeavor.

Accreditation

St. Joseph School is accredited by the Cognia Global Commission and the state of West Virginia in cooperation with the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Catholic Schools Office.

Admission Policies

Students in grades K-8 considered for admission to St. Joseph School are required to demonstrate:

- Average or above average academic achievement
- Faithful attendance void of excessive absences or tardiness
- Strong moral character with minimal behavior infractions at his or her previous school
- Respect and reverence for school's Catholic and patriotic practices

- The ability to function and perform in class and on appropriate grade level without support from a special-education teacher or aide

Student admission will be determined on the availability of classroom seating, parents complying with the school's financial guidelines and records from the student's previous school verifying the child has successfully maintained the above-mentioned criteria.

Knowingly falsifying or providing misleading information to the SJS administration may result in the student's dismissal from the school.

Parents should refer to the Financial Policy in the FACTS Family Portal under Resource Documents.

Kindergarten Requirements

Per diocesan and state requirements, kindergartners must be 5 years old by July 1 of the current year.

K-Toilet Training

Students entering the kindergarten program must be toilet-trained, per our pre-kindergarten program admittance policy. Toilet-trained is defined as children being able to control both urination and bowel movements, and able to use a toilet with little or no assistance. Children must be able to wipe themselves. Pull-ups are not permitted. Parents are asked to always have an extra change of clothes with their child in case an accident occurs.

K-Name Writing

Students must be able to write their first names.

K-Admission Assessment

Students new to SJS will be given a kindergarten admission assessment to determine their readiness level. This assessment is given at the end of our pre-K4 (year-olds) program. The administration reserves the right to deny a student admission to the kindergarten program.

Academics

The St. Joseph School curriculum is based on CASE (Catholic Academic Standards of Excellence). Our curriculum standards are designed with the assistance of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and are pulled from national and state standards. Additionally, elements from the West Virginia College and Career Readiness Standards and Common Core Standards

are used. St. Joseph School offers its students opportunities for growth in the following major subjects:

Religion

The religion program includes Catholic Doctrine and Tradition, Bible Study, and Social Justice. Because God is all knowing and all loving, we believe God keeps us constantly in mind. At St. Joseph School we strive to return this love of God by reminding ourselves of His presence. The way to respond to God is through prayer. Prayers that have pre-formulated words such as the “Lord’s Prayer” are called formal prayers. Informal prayers are simply prayers spoken in our own words expressing our love for God. Both forms of prayers have their place at St. Joseph School.

Sacramental Preparation

Sacramental Preparation Programs for First Holy Communion, First Reconciliation and Confirmation take place within the local parish. Parents of students celebrating these sacraments must contact their parish regarding additional preparations and parish enrollment information.

Liturgy

School liturgies are celebrated throughout the school year on a weekly basis. All parents, family members, and friends are invited to attend. Students are afforded the opportunity to participate fully and enthusiastically with great reverence and respect.

Language Arts

The Language Arts program incorporates reading and comprehension, writing, and oral language. Students are introduced to various literary genres and skills are systematically developed. Grammar, writing mechanics, phonics, spelling, and vocabulary are taught in context as well as through formal instruction.

Mathematics

Each grade level math class covers traditional arithmetic and West Virginia College and Career Readiness Standards. Students who successfully complete the prerequisites are given the opportunity to take a high school math credit if they meet the requirements.

Social Studies

In Social Studies, students study the cultures of people past and present, as well as geographical and environmental features of the world. They study the history of the United States and West Virginia as well as the contributions and traditions of diverse cultures. Students are taught to respect the dignity and rights of all members of our global society as set forth in the Gospels.

Science and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)

Through a hands-on approach to the biological, physical, and earth sciences, scientific literacy is achieved; curiosity is encouraged; and respect for God’s world is fostered. Content and standards are based on the National Science Standards.

Fine Arts

Students at St. Joseph School are exposed to various art mediums, styles, and activities. Art expression is cultivated on an individual basis as class activities are introduced. Student artwork is on display at the school continually throughout the year. In music, students learn the rudiments of reading music. They also are exposed to various styles of music and composers. Additional music groups and classes are available for middle school students and beginner band is available for 4th and 5th grade students. All middle school students must participate in band, choir, or handbells.

Spanish

Students learn the fundamentals of the Spanish language. Elementary classes are informal to teach the basics. Middle school classes are graded and eighth grade students who successfully complete the class can use this for high school credit.

Physical Education

Students participate and learn various structured games, and work to pass physical fitness activities. Additional athletic teams are offered to middle school students. Academic Fairs & Competitions

Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of academic competitions and fairs throughout the school year. These include:

- History Bowl
- Math Field Day, 4th – 8th grades
- Golden Horseshoe, 8th grade
- Social Studies Fair (per county guidelines)
- Science Fair (per county guidelines)
- DAR Essay
- National History Day, 6th-8th grades

All middle school students must participate in the above as required by their respective teachers.

Textbooks

If a book is lost, damaged, or altered in any way, parents are required to pay for the book at the current replacement cost.

Students who lose planners, prayer-books, and consumable workbooks must purchase new books. The cost will be billed to the parents.

Parents wishing to rent additional textbooks must follow the procedure :

- Complete a textbook rental request form in the school office.
- If the books are available, the parents will be notified.
- Upon paying the non-refundable rental fee, parents may sign the textbooks out from the school office. Failure to return the books will result in the charge of a replacement fee.

Homework

To reinforce daily work and develop good study habits, the school promotes specific homework policies.

Although homework has a different purpose at different grade levels, homework is required at all grade levels. The amount of homework a child may have on any given day will vary depending upon the nature of the assignment, the amount of work the child completes in school that day, and the speed at which the child completes his/her work at home.

Recommended Time Allotments (Daily homework not including special long-term projects)

Grade	Suggested Homework Time
Kindergarten	15-20 minutes
Grades 1-2	20-30 minutes
Grades 3-4	30-60 minutes
Grades 5-6	30-60 minutes
Grades 7-8	60-90 minutes

Note: Participation in sports, music, and other extra-curricular activities is not an acceptable excuse for missing or incomplete homework.

Completing missed work for Absences

If a student is absent, it is the responsibility of the student and/or parent to obtain the work that was missed during the absence. Assignments must be obtained, completed, and returned to the respective teacher(s) within the specified time.

One day absent	Two days to complete work
Two consecutive days absent	Three days to complete work
Three consecutive days absent	Four days to complete work
Four consecutive days absent	One week to complete work
Five or more consecutive days absent	Arrangements must be made with the teacher and approved by the administration.

Requesting Missed Work

When a student is absent, a parent may request make-up work from the teacher. Teachers must be notified by 9 a.m. for work to be picked up by 3:30 p.m.

Report Cards

Report cards are distributed three times a year. The report cards are sent via email through our Facts SIS system and are available for viewing on ParentsWeb.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten report cards are designed to communicate to the parents/guardians how students are progressing.

(Academic Standards)

4	The student understands fully the subject material and meets all of the criteria for the subject. Work is consistently, neat, accurate and completed <u>independently</u> within the time permitted.
3	The student understands most subject material and meets most of the criteria for the subject. Work is often neat, accurate and completed, with little or no assistance, within the time permitted.
2	The student understands portions of subject material and meets some of the criteria for the subject. Portions of work are accurate. All work is not completed in the time permitted.
1	The student does not understand the content of subject material and is unable to complete the criteria for the subject.

Grades 1 - 8

Grades 1-8 use the following scale:

A+	100-99
A	98-95
A-	94-93
B+	92-91
B	90-87
B-	86-85
C+	84-83
C	82-79
C-	78-77
D+	76-75
D	74-71

D-	70-69
F	68 and lower

Grades K-8 use the following attribute scale:

C	Consistently
O	Often
S	Sometimes
I	Infrequently

Retention

Retention of a student is based upon the welfare of the student. St. Joseph School makes every attempt to place students in classes that work to his/her academic advantage.

The ultimate decision in regard to retention is made by the principal after consultation with the teacher(s) and parents. Diocesan policy stipulates that no student may remain in a grade for more than two years.

Educational Field Trips

Educational field trips are offered as an integral extension of the classroom curriculum. All students are expected to participate. Students who do not participate in field trips for reasons other than illness may be given an additional assignment to complete at home. There are no refunds for field trips. All field trip fees are billed through our FACTS system. No money will be collected at the school.

Permission slips will be sent home in advance of each field trip to be signed by the parent before the student will be allowed to participate. **Permission may not be given by phone or written notes.** According to Diocesan policy only approved field trip permission forms may be used.

There is to be no drinking of alcoholic beverages or smoking by anyone on a field trip. Younger siblings are not permitted to attend field trips. Any parent wishing to attend any field trip (even with their own child) must have completed a background check, Virtus training, and received an Abuse Handbook, and completed the receipt form. If parents are to transport children, forms certifying insurance coverage and valid driver's license are filled out in advance of the trip. When children are being transported in private cars, seat belts must be worn by each child and car seats as required by law. Parents may not make stops when transporting students.

Chaperones are expected to remain with the group for the duration of the field trip and assist with student supervision as needed.

Guidance & Special Services

Should a student indicate a need for other special services (speech, language, occupational therapy, special education, etc.) the teacher will contact the Student Assistance Team coordinator who will work with the parent/guardian, teacher, administration, and Berkeley County Schools representative to determine their eligibility for special education or related services. St. Joseph school does not provide direct special education services with the exception of speech. A service plan will be collaboratively developed between the school and parents of students found eligible for special education services. The plan will primarily consist of educational accommodations and modifications.

Honors & Awards

Honors

For students in grades 3-8, the following are awarded publicly.

- 1st Honors - A student receiving all "A's" on their report card
- 2nd Honors - A student receiving all "A's" and "B's" on their report card

Perfect Attendance Award K-8

This is awarded to students with perfect attendance for the entire year. Students with more than six tardies in a year are not eligible for perfect attendance.

8th Grade Awards

President's Award for Educational Excellence

To be eligible for the President's Award for Educational Excellence (the Gold medal), students who have an 85% or higher in Math or Reading on a standardized test and a 3.5 average for 6th, 7th, and the fall semester of the 8th grade. The President's Award for Educational Achievement (the Silver medal) is given to those students who came close to meeting these two requirements.

St Thomas Aquinas

The Aquinas Medal is bestowed upon 8th and 12th grade students from Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and Wheeling Jesuit University. Medal recipients have been chosen in recognition of their outstanding qualities of faithful discipleship, academic excellence, leadership and service to school, parish and community, reflecting the ideals of Catholic education epitomized by St. Thomas Aquinas, the Catholic patron saint of students.

Other Awards

- Knights of Columbus Patriotic Service Award
- Class Awards

Parent/School Communication

St. Joseph School uses many forms of communication with parents/guardians. The primary form of communicating announcements is the SJS Crusaders app, downloadable in the App/Google Play stores. Other forms of communication include text messaging, email and automated voice messages. Parent memos are posted in the SJS Crusaders app every Sunday afternoon, and in the announcement section of the FACTS Family Portal, the primary purpose of which is to communicate class information and students' progress to parents. Additionally, parents can find important information on the school app such as lunch menus, announcements, billing information and upcoming events. All parents are expected to check into the system on a regular basis. Families are responsible for maintaining correct contact information with the school office. Information may be updated by each family on their FACTS account.

Conferences

Parents are encouraged to keep in touch with their child's teacher by appointments, which may be requested by phone or email. Teachers are not available for consultation during class hours. Additionally, the school has designated conference times posted on the school calendar.

Parents are asked to contact St. Joseph School employees through the employee's St. Joseph School email or main phone line. Email addresses are published on our SJS Website, under the Staff Directory tab. To best foster our staff's work/life balance, **staff should never be called or texted on their personal cell phones.**

Teachers do not check email during instructional time. If you need to communicate a change in dismissal, or other immediate need for your child, please email or call the office.

Teachers are expected to respond to parent emails within 48 business hours (excluding after hours, and weekends), unless they are absent.

Grievance Procedure for Parents and Students

Student Concerns

- Students always have the responsibility to discuss concerns with parents.
- Students have the right to discuss any concerns with any staff member provided this is done privately and at a mutually agreed upon time.
- Students also have the right to discuss any issues with the principal provided they make an appointment through the school secretary.

Parental Concerns

- If your child is upset about a situation, listen closely. If you share this concern, contact the teacher directly and share that concern first with the teacher.
- If a mutual resolution can be reached, the teacher and parent/guardian work together to bring about an agreeable solution.

- Should an agreement still not be reached, the parent(s)/guardian(s), teacher, and school administration will meet in a conference to solve the problem.
- If further action is needed, the Pastor, and then Diocesan Superintendent, may be consulted.

In each grievance case, every effort is made to resolve the problem, manifesting respect, understanding, and trust to all involved in the grievance case.

Attendance & Tardy Policies

Regular attendance assures quality education and promotes responsibility in our students. Children are expected to be present for each day of school unless they are sick or there is a family emergency.

Absence Policy

Students with excessive absences that are not excused by a physician will jeopardize their enrollment for the current and subsequent school years. Excessive absences are considered to be 10 or more days.

Policy for Student Absence

- Parents are to notify each student's teacher and the school office before 9 a.m. of a child's absence.
- Parents are to write a note to the teacher when a child returns to school following an absence. The note should include the reason for the absence.
- If a student's absences exceed five consecutive days, verification by a physician or a letter explaining a life event causing the absences is required.
- Arrival at school after 11:30 a.m. is the equivalent of a ½ day absence.
- Leaving prior to 12:30 p.m. is considered a ½ day absence.
- Students who are absent or leave school early because of an illness will not be permitted to attend or participate in after school activities on the day of the early release.
- Students must be fever and vomit free for 24 hours prior to returning to school. Those with contagious diseases must have a doctor's slip upon return to school.
- When absent, it is the student's responsibility to obtain missed work from the teacher, and see that it is completed in a timely manner.
- Teachers are not responsible for providing work for vacations planned in advance.
- Please see guidelines under *ACADEMIC POLICIES* for completing missed school work for absences.

Tardy Policy

Students who arrive late or leave school early interrupt the education of other students and greatly jeopardize their own education. Students are considered tardy after 8:10 a.m. (according

to the school office clock). Five tardy arrivals are considered excessive. Parents will complete a tardy slip each time the student is tardy. Students will not be admitted into class until the tardy slip is completed.

Continuous tardies will be addressed by the administration through a conference.

Appointments & Early Dismissals

Outside appointments for students during class hours are discouraged. If an appointment can be made only during school hours, a written note or email from the parent is mandatory. The note should state the reason for early dismissal and who will be coming for the student. A written note should always be signed and dated by the parent. Children leaving early are picked up in the office. At no time during the day is a student permitted to leave the school grounds without **written permission** of the parent or guardian. The parent needs to sign the child out and/or in at the office and complete the appropriate form. If possible, please sign a student out prior to 2:30 p.m. Students cannot be called to the office from their classrooms during the dismissal process. Parents must wait until the dismissal process is complete to have their student(s) called.

Detaining Students After School

Parents/guardians will always be notified in advance if it is necessary to detain a student after school.

Arrival & Dismissal

Daily Arrival

All students have the responsibility to be in their homeroom by 8:10 a.m. Students arriving prior to 7:55 a.m. are to enter through the gym doors on Stephen Street for our Extended Day Program, for an additional fee.

Students may enter the main school building in one of two ways.

1. Students, accompanied by an adult, may enter the building from Stephen Street through the main doors. Parents must park in the parking lot across from the main building. **DO NOT PARK IN HANDICAP SPACE WITHOUT A HANDICAP TAG. STUDENTS ARE NOT TO BE LET OUT OF THEIR CARS ON STEPHEN STREET.**
2. Students may be dropped off in the car drop off line. This line begins by cars turning onto Spring Street from John Street. **YOU MAY NOT ENTER THE DROP OFF LINE FROM STEPHEN STREET.** Once in the back parking lot, vehicles are to circle around as directed. Staff will assist students safely to the building.

Dismissal

Dismissal begins at 2:55 pm. Parents are issued two copies of the dismissal number (there is a \$2.00 fee for a replacement tag) which is to be on display through the front windshield.

Dismissal Procedure

- All cars enter the parking lot behind the Pre-K building from Queen Street and form a dismissal line.
- A designated staff member will be stationed in the parking lot to direct cars to drive to the back of the school to pick up students using each family's dismissal number.
- Once in the back parking lot, vehicles are to circle around as directed. Staff will assist students safely to their cars.
- **Parents must refrain from talking on cellphones during drop-off and pickup.**
- Students cannot be picked up in the office between 2:30 and 3:15 p.m.

Inclement Weather/Emergency Dismissals

St. Joseph School closely follows reports announcing closing and delays of Berkeley County Schools and the surrounding counties. If school is closed due to inclement weather, students will be assigned distance learning activities. Distance learning days are considered learning days and are included in the instructional calendar. However, St. Joseph School makes its delay or school closing decisions independently from any county. Announcements concerning closings/delays are communicated via parent alert text message, the school Facebook page www.facebook.com/sjsmartinsburg and the school website www.sjswv.org.

Student Code of Conduct

Discipline is fundamental to Catholic education. In an attempt to instill positive and holy traits in the students, we will emphasize the daily practice of the Education in Virtue program. Our students will learn, live and be witnesses to virtue, which will overflow into every aspect of their lives, transforming them into the best version of themselves. Simply put, ***Education in Virtue*** is happiness simplified.

St. Joseph School strives to develop responsible, courteous, self-disciplined students whose pride in themselves, their family, their school, and their community is reflected in their behavior. Based upon the Catholic moral values and loving respect for others taught by Jesus, students will:

- Be on time for classes
- Be honest and committed to integrity
- Demonstrate reverent behavior at all liturgical functions and times of prayer
- Be respectful and courteous toward all students, teachers, staff, and adults
- Refrain from harassment of any kind, even in jest
- Use appropriate language
- Speak respectfully to and about others
- Complete all assignments and participate fully in class
- Respect all parish and school property

- Stand and participate in opening prayer and the pledge of allegiance
- Refrain from deliberate disruption in the school
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship when engaged in all school sponsored co-and extra-curricular activities
- Be present for all required activities unless officially excused by the administration
- Adhere to the dress code as laid out in the handbook
- Not give or receive unauthorized assistance on tests, quizzes, or assignments without permission of the teacher
- Not engage in any physical or verbal contact with another student, which could be interpreted to be an inappropriate display of affection
- Follow the rules and guidelines communicated by the teacher at the beginning of the year

***Demerit System**

Understanding that students make mistakes, St. Joseph School has adopted a demerit system. This helps both parents, guardians, and students be more aware of expected student conduct and the consequences of violations of the code of conduct. Demerits help to provide a fair and consistent discipline policy. Students who reach five demerits (or increments of five) will receive a consequence.

In an effort to have a universal approach to discipline outside the classroom, the following procedures have been established:

Progressive Discipline Plan

- Teacher talks with student (1-4 demerits)
- Parent is notified via email (1-4 demerits)
- Recess & lunchtime detention (5 accumulated demerits)
- Recess & lunchtime detention (10 accumulated demerits)
- Half-day in school suspension (15 accumulated demerits)
- In school suspension (20 accumulated demerits)
- Possible Expulsion (25 demerits)

*The parents will be notified anytime their child receives a demerit.

Below are examples of behaviors that are not acceptable at St. Joseph School. Each year teachers review acceptable/unacceptable school behaviors with students.

- Disruptive conduct in class, or on other school property, or when representing the school
- Failure to comply with the school dress code
- Eating in places and/or times not permitted (except for medical reasons)
- Being wasteful of any materials, even one's own
- Bringing toys, magazines, books, electronics, games, or other non-related school materials to school without permission of the supervising teacher
- Chewing gum
- Entering a classroom without the permission of the teacher, or entering any room or area of the school without permission and/or supervision
- Inappropriate talking
- Inappropriate hallway behavior
- Inappropriate cafeteria behavior
- Lack of reverence in Liturgy or other times of prayer
- Inappropriate bathroom behavior
- Disrespectful in manner, language, or gestures towards others
- Tardiness to school and/or class
- Being unprepared for classes
- Inappropriate physical contact
- Use of cell phones at inappropriate times and without teacher permission
- Inappropriate use of social media relating to school, other students, or school personnel

The administration reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of an action if any doubt arises.

Anti-Bullying Policy

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has instructed each school to implement an “anti-bullying” policy to protect all students. It is each child’s right to be accepted, as well as to learn in a comfortable, Christian atmosphere. The following behaviors are considered to be violations of students’ rights and will be dealt with accordingly and at the final discretion of the principal.

- Possessing/brandishing/using a weapon
- Excluding or “ganging up’ on others

- Repeated physical aggression, such as kicking, shoving, pinching, etc.
- Verbal/written/threats
- Sexual harassment
- Discrimination
- Teasing/mocking/spreading rumors about others
- Cyberbullying
- Inappropriate use of social media
- Hazing
- Sexting
- Any other inappropriate behavior which is offensive to another student or staff member

Behavior Outside of School

While St. Joseph School neither claims control over, nor accepts responsibility for, the behavior of its students outside of school time, activities, and premises, students' out-of-school behavior reflects their personal integrity. Cases of behavior that could influence other students adversely may result in disciplinary action deemed appropriate by school authorities. An all-inclusive listing of various expectations is impossible to outline. However, activity such as harassing or bullying another student, teacher, or staff member, either in person, online, or via cellphone, or other electronic device is unacceptable and deserves special mention. The school reserves the right to take appropriate action for any offense which, in the opinion of the faculty, staff, or administrators, violates the good behavior expected of a St. Joseph School student.

Serious and/or Criminal Offense

A serious and/or criminal offense is defined as an action taken by a student that is blatantly against the behavior policy. Some offenses may involve criminal acts and/or present a direct threat to others while in school/parish property or while on a school-sponsored trip. The consequences for serious behavior will be handled by the administration. The consequences may include: multiple demerits, in or out of school suspension, or if warranted, expulsion. Some of these offenses are (but not limited to):

- Forgery, plagiarism
- Truancy
- Leaving school/parish property without permission
- Threatening or harassing students or school employees, seriously or in jest. Examples include but are not limited to: unwelcome physical conduct, obscene gesturing or language, ethnic or racial slurs, threats, insults or assaults against someone referring to their gender, race, physical characteristics, religion, or ethnicity. This includes cyber bullying.
- Assaulting a student, school employee, or other person on school property
- Any criminal activity
- Inappropriate sexual behavior or language
- Abusive language or defiant attitudes or actions
- Deliberate display of offensive, sexually graphic materials via any media source
- Tampering with school fire or burglar alarms
- Making bomb threats
- Possession of weapons
- Willful destruction of school, parish or public property including textbooks, desks, technology, etc.
- Serious violations of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Technology Acceptable Use Policy

Parents are asked to discuss the student code of conduct with their children and emphasize the importance of adhering to the guidelines.

Substance Abuse/Weapons

For the purpose of definition, St. Joseph School defines drugs as the improper use of legal drugs/substances (to include tobacco and steroids) and/or the use of illegal drugs/substances. Students who unlawfully use, consume, possess, or distribute drugs, or who use, consume, possess or distribute alcohol, and/or possess or threaten to use any weapon (e.g. knife) or firearm (to include firecrackers and/or any explosive device that would bring potential harm to

people and/or property) or any inappropriate materials on school property or at school activities are subject to appropriate disciplinary action (including but not limited to expulsion).

Search & Seizure

Desks and lockers are the property of the school and can be searched at any time. The administration, based on reasonable cause, shall request the student's consent to the search of personal belongings. Failure of the student to give consent may result in automatic suspension and/or expulsion from the school.

Smoke Free

Our school is a Smoke Free building by order of the Berkeley County Health Department that became effective September 15, 2001.

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has the following policy regarding tobacco products:

1. The use or distribution of tobacco products in any school building is prohibited.
2. School personnel, parents, guardians, anyone interacting with students, are prohibited from distributing or using any tobacco products while in the presence of students or while engaged in any activities directly involving students, at any location.
3. Students under the age of 21 may not possess any tobacco product at any time.
4. No school property may be used for the advertising of any tobacco product.
5. Vaping is not permitted.

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Technology Acceptable Use Policy

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston make every effort to provide a safe environment for teaching and learning with technology. The use of technology by students, faculty, and staff is a privilege not a right. The students, faculty, staff, and entire school community are granted the privilege of using the hardware and software, peripherals, technology devices, and electronic communication tools including the Internet. With this privilege comes the responsibility to use the equipment correctly, respect the name and intellectual property of others, and follow the policies outlined below. It should be understood that the use of these technologies will be monitored by the school administration and should not be confused with private home use. The guidelines provided in this document outline the responsibilities that are associated with the use of technology. There is no expectation of privacy for use of Diocesan technology and the Diocese reserves the right to monitor all electronic communications and devices to insure that activity is consistent with these policies.

Technology Use Guidelines

Educational Purpose/Appropriate Use

The use of all technology, including Internet access at schools for all faculty, staff, and students, is provided solely for educational purposes to enhance teaching and learning. Students are not

permitted to access social networking sites, gaming sites, or other inappropriate sites, except for educational purposes under teacher supervision.

Copyright/Intellectual Property and Identity

All sources obtained for teacher and student work should be properly cited. Users are to respect the rights and intellectual property of others in accordance with federal copyright laws.

Reproducing copyrighted material, without express permission of the owner, is a violation of Federal Law.

Communications

Electronic and/or Digital communications with students should be conducted for educationally appropriate purposes and employed only on school sanctioned means of communication.

School sanctioned communications methods include, but are not limited to: school web pages, school email, school phone numbers, and educationally focused networking sites.

- **Electronic and Mobile Devices:** Use of any technology device in our schools must have an educational focus. Users must adhere to local school policy regarding the use of electronic devices including, but not limited to, mobile devices, calculators, gaming devices, cellular phones, and digital and video cameras. The school's technology policy regarding authorization, use, responsibility, integrity, intellectual property, and monitoring will be applied to these devices.
- **Online Publishing:** Users are not permitted to use a photograph, image, video, or likeness of any student or employee without the express permission of that individual and of the principal. Users must not use school equipment to create any site, including wikis and blogs, without express permission of the principal. Maintaining or posting material to a website that threatens a likelihood of substantial disruption in school, including harming or interfering with the rights of other students or teachers to participate fully in school or extracurricular activities, is a violation of the Acceptable Use Policy and subject to disciplinary action.
- **Reporting:** Users must report immediately any damage or change to the school's hardware/software that is noticed by the user.
- **Administrative Rights:** The school has the right to monitor students, faculty/staff, and volunteers' use of school technology and all content accessed through technology.

Student Responsibilities

Students will be responsible for their use of technology and follow the following guidelines.

- I will follow the rules of network etiquette, which include, but are not limited to, the use of appropriate language and polite responses.
- I recognize that software is protected by copyright laws; therefore, I will not make copies of copyrighted software and I will not give, lend, or sell copies of such software to others.
- I recognize that the work of all users is valuable; therefore, I will protect the privacy of others. I will not share my password with anyone else, and I will not use another person's account.
- I will not access, retrieve, or send unethical, illegal, immoral, sexually explicit, inappropriate, or unacceptable information of any type.

- I will protect my personal information, and I will not divulge my home address, phone number, passwords, and personal information to another user for any purpose.
- I understand that information received online is public information, unless otherwise specified.
- I will follow my school's procedures for the storage of information.
- I will not plagiarize information received in any form.
- I will respect my school's network and all security measures that are in place. I will not attempt to bypass the security built into the system, and I recognize that doing so will result in immediate loss of Internet and/or online services privileges
- I will act in a responsible, moral manner when using technology.

Consequences for Improper Use

St. Joseph School will not be held responsible for any inappropriate use of technology. Violations of this agreement may result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to: revocation of a student's access to school technology, suspension, and/or expulsion.

Restitution

Families are monetarily responsible when destruction of school technology, either willful or accidental, occurs. This includes when items need to be repaired or replaced.

Social Media Policy

First and foremost, students are encouraged to always exercise the utmost caution when participating in any form of social media or online communications, both within the St. Joseph School community and beyond. Social media refers to activities that integrate technology, telecommunications, and social interaction through the use of words, images, video, or audio tools. Examples include, but are not limited to, social websites, blogs, message boards, wikis, podcasts, image/video sharing sites, live webcasting, and real-time communities. Because this is a constantly evolving area, this policy applies to all new social media platforms whether or not they are specifically mentioned in this policy.

Students who participate in online interactions must remember that their posts reflect on the entire St. Joseph School community and, as such, are subject to the same behavioral standards set forth in the Student Code of Conduct. Students who choose to post editorial content online must ensure that their submission does not reflect poorly upon the school.

To protect the privacy of St. Joseph students and faculty, students and parents may not, under any circumstances, post any photo, image, or video of any other student or staff member without express permission of that individual, the individual's parent, and the principal.

Students may not:

- Maintain, post material, or comment on a website/blog/social media outlet that threatens a likelihood of substantial disruption in school, including harming or interfering with the rights of other students to participate fully in school or extracurricular activities.

- Publish disparaging or harassing remarks about SJS community members, athletic or academic contest rivals, etc.
- Use technology in sexting or cyber-bullying to harass, threaten, deceive, intimidate, offend, embarrass, or annoy any individual.
- Post, publish, or display any defamatory, inaccurate, violent, abusive, profane, or sexually oriented material.
- Knowingly or recklessly post false information about persons, students, staff, or any other organization.

The school retains the right to discipline students for their actions, regardless of when or where they occur, when those actions negatively impact the school’s image, reputation, and/or the safety and well-being of the school community. Failure to abide by this Policy may result in disciplinary action as described in this Handbook or as determined by the Administration.

Sports/After-School Programs

Sports Programs

When there is enough interest to form school teams, the following sports are offered.

Basketball	grades 6 - 8 (boys and girls)
Volleyball	grades 6 - 8 (girls)
Cross Country	grades 6 - 8 (coed)
Cheerleading	grades 6 - 8 (coed)
Tennis	grades 6 - 8 (coed)

Additional fees are required for these extra curricular sports teams.

After-school programs

Additional after-school activities may be offered based on interest and availability.

Announcements of these programs are made available on ParentsWeb. Additional fees are required for extra curricular activities.

In order to maintain our student body’s safety, and due to the increased number of behavioral and cellphone offenses during before- and after-school care, cellphones are no longer allowed to be out of a student's backpack during the before- and after-school care program. That means SJS students are not allowed to have their cellphones on them at any time while they are in school.

If a medical or behavioral incident occurs, parents/guardians will be notified verbally and/or in writing.

Parent participation

Cooperation and interest of parents in St. Joseph School are essential to the spirit of the school. Parents have the responsibility to keep themselves informed of school programs, school policies, and the progress of their children. This enables parents to be involved, and helps parents and teachers work together for the best spiritual and academic education for each student.

Parents meet their obligation by:

- Adhering to the policies as set forth in this handbook.
- Following the Diocesan VIRTUS program.
- Reading all information given via ParentsWeb, informational fliers, and notes.
- Refraining from participating in gossip.
- Being an active part in the School-Family Association, Hours for Ours, family events, and other school activities.
- Discussing concerns with teachers and administration.
- Keeping all information such as phone numbers, address and place of employment current with the school office.
- Not publishing disparaging or harassing remarks about St. Joseph School's community members, athletic & academic contest rivals, etc.

The SFA

The School-Family Association (SFA) provides an opportunity for teachers and parents to work together for the welfare of the children and the betterment of the school. All parents and guardians who have children in the school are members and fulfill their obligations by attending meetings and functions. Meetings are listed on the calendar on ParentsWeb and in on-going school communications.

The SFA sponsors fundraisers throughout the school year to raise money for various specific projects or activities that benefit the school. Volunteers are always welcome.

Hours for Ours

Each family is required to give a minimum of 30 hours of service to the school over the course of the school year. A \$25 fee is paid to St. Joseph School for each hour of service not completed, totaling \$750 in a year in which no hours were served. Parents are responsible for logging their hours on ParentsWeb to receive credit. Volunteer hours must be directly school-related. Some materials donations may qualify to satisfy service hours. School administration has final approval.

School Advisory Board

St. Joseph School has a School Advisory Board that serves in an advisory capacity to the administration and the pastor. The School Advisory Board meets four times per year.

Visitors

Diocesan policy states that all visitors must report to the office to sign in and pick up a Visitor's Badge. Anyone who does not display a badge will be escorted to the office immediately or asked to leave the building. Visitors should not interrupt classes unless they have previously obtained permission from the office. Visitors must sign out when leaving.

Visitors for Mass

Families are encouraged to celebrate liturgy with us each week. Parents attending Mass should park on the street or in the lot behind the main school where there are reserved signs for visitors and volunteers. Please do not park in the school lot behind the Pre-K building or in the numbered spaces behind St Joseph Church (these spaces are reserved for community employees).

Protecting God's Children (VIRTUS program)

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has put into practice safeguards to protect our children and students. The three primary components of protecting our students are that all volunteers participate in VIRTUS training, have a background check completed by US Investigation Services and acknowledge with a signature receipt of the the Diocesan Handbook on Sexual Abuse. A volunteer is defined as "any person having direct contact with children."

In an effort to ensure that all parents may participate in their child(ren)'s schooling, we ask all parents and guardians to participate in the VIRTUS seminar and submit to a background check. We recognize that this may be an inconvenience, but we recognize that we must make every effort to protect our students, your children. Failure to participate in the three components of the VIRTUS program will greatly limit the extent to which a person will be able to participate in the schooling process.

Health & Wellness

Student Records

Students' medical records must remain up to date. The families of new students must submit all immunization records and birth certificates to our school nurse at least two weeks prior to the start of the school year. Students MUST have the required immunizations in order to start school. In addition, rising kindergartners and seventh-graders must submit documents showing they have received required booster shots.

Emergency Information

Current emergency numbers and information are to be on file for each student in case of illness or accident. Information regarding emergency phone numbers and contact persons should be up-to-date. Any changes should be made on ParentsWeb and sent to the school office promptly.

In the event St. Joseph School is evacuated for an emergency, students will be escorted to Saint Joseph Church at 225 S. Queen Street. Parents will be notified via text message and should call the St. Joseph Parish Office (304-267-4893) for information.

Student Illness or Accident/Medication

When a student is injured, the student will be referred to the school nurse. In the absence of the nurse, the staff may cleanse an open wound with water and apply bandages. When a pupil is seriously injured or becomes ill, the school will contact the parents or guardians immediately. It is the responsibility and obligation of the parents or a designated adult to take the child home when this is necessary. In cases involving a serious accident, emergency services (911) will be called, then the parent or guardian will be notified immediately.

Diocesan Policy mandates that all medications need to have a medical form filled out by the parents/guardians and kept on file in the nurse's office. If a child has to take any medication in school, which is prescribed by a doctor, that medication must be sent to school in the container received from the pharmacy and must have on its label the following: child's name, name of the child's doctor, frequency, dose, and date. A medical form must be signed by the physician for prescription drugs. All medications, including over-the-counter medication, **MUST** be kept in the Nurse's office.

Students must be fever- and vomit-free for 24 hours before returning to school. Fever is considered 100.4 or higher.

If lice are found, parents will be contacted and infestations are to be treated by the family. The class of the student with active lice will be checked and a letter will be sent home to parents. The student will be checked by the school nurse for the removal of all lice before returning to class.

Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Policy and Procedures

West Virginia Law requires that all educators and other school employees, including volunteers or other adults, report suspected child abuse or neglect to the proper authorities in order that children may be protected from harm and the family may be helped. Our school policy supports West Virginia laws in this regard and requires that all school staff report suspected abuse and neglect to the Department of Social Services, Protective Division, and/or the local police department within 24 hours.

Dress Code/Uniform Policy: Kindergarten-5th Grade

Students, beginning the first day of school, wear school uniforms. Students are to arrive and leave the school in their complete uniforms. A comprehensive selection of acceptable uniform clothing and accessories is available on the St. Joseph School, Lands' End Website:

www.landsend.com/school (you must select St. Joseph School, Martinsburg to see the selections). **If you have any questions about uniform choices, please ask the front office prior to purchasing.**

General Student Appearance

- All students must be well groomed and maintain a neat personal appearance.
- Hair should be neatly styled. Radical or fad haircuts are not permitted. Hair color should appear natural. Hair is to be out of students' eyes, and boys' hair should be above shirt collars.
- Hair accessories may not be distracting or oversized (no animal ears or large adornments).

Uniforms

- Uniforms should be purchased from Lands' End to ensure the proper uniform is worn.
- Uniforms must be neat, properly fitting, and in good repair (clean, no holes and/or fraying seams). Shirts that are discolored, stained, or yellowed are not acceptable.
- Uniform monogramming must be in navy script of a consistent size. Monogramming is to be completed by businesses recommended by the school.
- Hem length for uniform jumpers, skirts, skorts, and shorts may not be more than two inches above the knee.
- Pants must be an appropriate length – not any shorter than the top of the shoe or longer than the bottom of the shoe.
- Shirts are to be worn tucked into pants and skirts, and pants are to be worn at waist level.
- Parents are asked to mark students' clothing with their names to avoid losses.
- If an undershirt is worn, it must be a crew-neck or v-neck solid white undershirt. The sleeves may not exceed the length of the uniform shirt. Turtlenecks are not permitted.

K-5 Girl Tops:

- White short-sleeve polo, embroidered
- White long-sleeve polo, embroidered
- Solid navy button-down knit cardigan sweater (no hoods, ruffles or zippers)
- Navy fleece zip-up jacket (purchased through the school only)

K-5 Girl Bottoms:

- Navy uniform pants (leggings/jeggings are not permitted-even under jumpers or skirts)
- Navy uniform shorts
- Plaid pleated skort
- Plaid jumper
- Required for Grades 3-5: Solid or braided, black or brown leather belt - no grommets

K-5 Boy Tops:

- White short-sleeve polo, embroidered
- White long-sleeve polo, embroidered

- Solid navy knit v-neck sweater
- Solid navy knit sweater vest
- Navy fleece zip-up jacket (purchased through the school only)

K-5 Boys Bottoms:

- Navy uniform pants (no cargo style)
- Navy uniform shorts (no cargo style)
- Required for Grades 3-5: Solid or braided, black or brown leather belt - no grommets

K-5 Socks and Shoes:

- The St. Joseph School, Lands' End uniform shoe choices are preferred.
- Dress Shoes
 - Close-toed, leather, rubber-bottomed solid black, navy, or dark brown non-sneakers are permitted.
 - No glitter or metallic shimmer permitted.
- Sneakers
 - Solid navy, black, or white sneakers with all trim, emblems, labels, or words matching the shoe color.
 - The entire shoe should be a solid approved color (navy, black, or white).
 - The shoe's sole should match the shoe color, with the exception that white soles are permitted on any approved shoe color.
 - White, black, or navy shoelaces are permitted and must match the shoe color.
- Shoe Clarifications
 - No moccasin-style shoes, slippers, high-heels, wedges, light-up shoes, boots, high tops, sandals, or Heelys.
- Socks
 - Solid white or navy crew socks that cover the ankle are permitted.
 - Black socks are not permitted.
 - Words, emblems, or designs are not permitted.
 - Girls may wear solid white or navy knee socks or tights.
 - Socks or tights with lace are not permitted.

Makeup & Jewelry

- Girls may wear clear nail polish; however, no colored nail polish, artificial nails, or French manicures are permitted. Students may not wear makeup.
- Tinted or colored lip products are not permitted.
- Students may wear small stud or small hoop earrings. No dangling earrings are allowed. No more than two piercings are permitted in each ear.
- Students may wear a watch – watches with computer screens, sound effects, music, or flashing lights are not permitted. No smart watches. Fitbits are permitted.
- Students may wear a necklace with a small religious Christian medal or cross.
- Students may wear one ring.
- No bracelets are permitted.

- The school is not responsible for the loss of any items. It is recommended that students refrain from wearing anything that is valuable or has sentimental value.

School Spirit Days

Each Friday of the school year is designated as a School Spirit Day. On a School Spirit Day the choices for attire are:

- School uniform
- An official school spirit-wear shirt with the uniform pants/shorts/skirts/skort
- An official school spirit-wear shirt with blue denim jeans, blue denim shorts, blue denim skirts (no more than two inches above the knee). No jeans with holes or rips are allowed, nor are frayed hems. Students may not wear jeggings or leggings. No tight pants.
- School sponsored activity shirts purchased through or provided by the school may be worn (examples: sports team shirts, choir shirts, etc.)
- The regular uniform shoe, sock, make-up, and jewelry guidelines apply.

Dress Down Days

On Dress Down Days, the following guidelines apply:

- No clothing, shoes, or accessories are to have any emblems that are or could be considered violent, referencing drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or any illegal substances. This includes logos or brands that include guns, knives, or skull and cross bones.
- Hem length for dresses, skirts, skorts, and shorts may not be more than two inches above the knee.
- Shirts must cover shoulders and midriff-baring shirts are not allowed. Necklines may not allow any cleavage to be showing. No spaghetti-straps or sleeveless tops.
- Jeggings and leggings may not be worn unless worn under a knee-length top or dress. No tight pants. No jeans with holes or rips are allowed, nor are frayed hems.
- Open-toed shoes, sandals, and high-heels may not be worn.
- The regular uniform jewelry and make-up guidelines apply.

Dress Code/Uniform Policy: Grades 6-8

Students, beginning the first day of school, wear school uniforms. Students are to arrive and leave the school in their complete uniforms. A comprehensive selection of acceptable uniform clothing and accessories is available on the St. Joseph School Lands' End Website: www.landsend.com/school (you must select St. Joseph School, Martinsburg to see the selections). **If you have any questions about uniform choices, please ask the front office prior to purchasing.

General Student Appearance

- All students must be well groomed and maintain a neat personal appearance.
- Hair should be neatly styled. Radical or fad haircuts are not permitted. Hair color should appear natural. Hair is to be out of students' eyes, and boys' hair should be above shirt collars.

- Hair accessories may not be distracting or oversized (no animal ears or large adornments).

Uniforms

- Uniforms should be purchased from Lands' End to ensure the proper uniform is worn.
- Uniforms must be neat, properly fitting, and in good repair (clean, no holes and/or fraying seams). Shirts that are discolored, stained, or yellowed are not acceptable.
- White, light blue, pink and yellow polo tops must be monogrammed in navy script; navy polo tops must be monogrammed in a gold script of a consistent size. Monogramming is to be completed by businesses recommended by the school.
- Hem length for uniform skirts and shorts may not be more than two inches above the knee.
- Pants must be an appropriate length – Not any shorter than the top of the shoe or longer than the bottom of the shoe.
- Shirts are to be worn tucked into pants and skirts, and pants are to be worn at waist level.
- Parents are asked to mark students' clothing with their names to avoid losses.
- If an undershirt is worn, it must be a crew-neck or v-neck solid white undershirt. The sleeves may not exceed the length of the uniform shirt. Turtlenecks are not permitted.
- No tight fitting pants.

Middle School Girl Tops:

- Navy, light blue, light pink, light yellow, or white short-sleeve polo, embroidered
- Navy, light blue, light pink, light yellow, or white long-sleeve polo, embroidered
- Light blue, light pink, light yellow, or white short-sleeve button down oxford
- Light blue, light pink, light yellow, or white long-sleeve button down oxford
- Navy button-down knit cardigan sweater (no zippers or hoods)
- Navy quarter-zip pullover (only to be purchased through the school. Must be worn with a polo or oxford underneath.)
- The gray St. Joseph School sweatshirt may not be worn as part of the school uniform. It may be worn on Spirit Days.
- Navy fleece zip-up jacket (purchased through the school only)

Middle School Girl Bottoms:

- Khaki or navy blue uniform pants (tight-fitting pants and leggings/jeggings are not permitted)
- Khaki or plaid uniform A-line, below the knee skirt
- Khaki or navy blue uniform shorts
- Solid or braided, black or brown leather belt - no grommets

Middle School Boy Tops:

- Navy, light blue, light pink, light yellow, or white short-sleeve or long-sleeve polo, embroidered
- Light blue, light yellow, or white short-sleeve button-down oxford

- Light blue, light yellow, or white long-sleeve button-down oxford
- Solid navy v-neck knit sweater
- Solid navy knit sweater vest
- Navy quarter-zip pullover (only to be purchased through the school. Must be worn with a polo or oxford underneath.)
- The gray St. Joseph School sweatshirt may not be worn as part of the school uniform. It may be worn on Spirit Days.
- Navy fleece zip-up jacket (purchased through the school only)

Middle School Boy Bottoms:

- Khaki or navy blue uniform pants (no cargo style)
- Khaki uniform shorts (no cargo style)
- Solid or braided, black or brown leather belt - no grommets

Middle School Socks and Shoes:

- The St. Joseph School, Lands' End uniform shoe choices are preferred.
- Dress Shoes
 - Close-toed, leather, rubber-bottomed solid black, navy, or dark brown non-sneakers are permitted.
 - No glitter or metallic shimmer permitted.
- Sneakers
 - Solid navy, black, or white sneakers with all trim, emblems, labels, or words matching the shoe color.
 - The entire shoe should be a solid approved color (navy, black, or white).
 - The shoe's sole should match the shoe color, with the exception that white soles are permitted on any approved shoe color.
 - White, black, or navy shoelaces are permitted and must match the shoe color.
 - Middle school students may wear solid black or white Converse All Star brand shoes (not boots or high tops) with the white sole and toe.
- Shoe Clarifications
 - No moccasin-style shoes, slippers, high-heels, wedges, light-up shoes, boots, high tops, sandals, or Heelys.
- Socks
 - Solid white, navy, or black crew socks, that cover the ankle, are permitted.
 - Words, emblems, or designs are not permitted.
 - Girls may wear solid white, navy, or black knee socks or tights.

Makeup & Jewelry

- Girls in grades 6-8 may wear nail polish or French manicures. No fake or artificial nails are permitted. No decals or symbols may be applied to the nail. Chipped nail polish is not permitted. Light foundation or cover up is permitted.
- Tinted or colored lip products are not permitted.
- Students may wear small stud or small hoop earrings. No dangling earrings are allowed. No more than two piercings are permitted in each ear.

- Students may wear a watch – watches with computer screens, sound effects, music, or flashing lights are not permitted. No smart watches.
- Students may wear a necklace with a small religious Christian medal or cross.
- Students may wear one ring.
- No bracelets are permitted. (A religious bracelet may be approved on an individual basis)
- Fitbits are permitted.
- The school is not responsible for the loss of any items. It is recommended that students refrain from wearing anything that is valuable or has sentimental value.

School Spirit Days

Each Friday of the school year is designated as a School Spirit Day. On a School Spirit Day the choices for attire are:

- School uniform
- An official school spirit-wear shirt with the uniform pants/shorts/skirts/skort
- An official school spirit-wear shirt with blue denim jeans, blue denim shorts, blue denim skirts (no more than two inches above the knee). Students may not wear jeggings or leggings. No tight pants. No jeans with holes or rips are allowed, nor are frayed hems.
- School sponsored activity shirts purchased through or provided by the school may be worn (examples: sports team shirts, choir shirts, etc.)
- The regular uniform shoe, sock, make-up, and jewelry guidelines apply.

Dress Down Days

On Dress Down Days, the following guidelines apply:

- No clothing, shoes, or accessories are to have any emblems that are or could be considered violent, referencing drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or any illegal substances. This includes logos or brands that include guns, knives, or skull and cross bones.
- Hem length for dresses, skirts, skorts, and shorts may not be more than two inches above the knee.
- Shirts must cover shoulders and midriff-baring shirts are not allowed. Necklines may not allow any cleavage to be showing. No spaghetti-straps or sleeveless tops.
- Jeggings and leggings may not be worn unless worn under a knee-length top or dress.
- No tight pants. No jeans with holes or rips are allowed, nor are frayed hems.
- Open-toed shoes and high-heels may not be worn.
- The regular uniform jewelry and make-up guidelines apply.

School Team/Group Shirts

Students in grades 6-8 who are a member of a school sports team or group (i.e. band, choir, handbells, Math team, etc.) may wear their group shirt on game, performance, or competition days depending on the instructor or coach's instruction. Sports team members may also dress up or wear a team jacket on game days depending on the coach's instruction. Dress Down Day uniform restrictions apply.

General Information

Students of St. Joseph School are reminded that the greatest impression anyone receives of our school comes from them. Therefore, student behavior in school and all public places should reflect Gospel values and Christian ideals.

Students and parents are expected to know and adhere to all policies, rules, and standards explained in this handbook. Parents are responsible for seeing that their children respect these policies. St. Joseph School does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, gender, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of educational policies, personnel policies, athletic and other school-administered programs.

Failure to uphold the policies and rules may affect the status of a student's enrollment in the school in the current year or subsequent year.

Classroom Parties & Invitations

Homeroom classes are permitted five class parties a year: Christmas, Valentine's Day, Mardi Gras, Easter (not to be held prior to Easter), and End-of-Year. Parties should reflect a balance between sweets, healthy snacks, and nutritional food. Additionally, parents are to check with the teacher to be sure that there are accommodations made for students with food allergies. Homeroom parents are responsible for planning these events under the direction of the teacher.

St. Joseph School celebrates Halloween with the school-wide annual Trunk & Treat celebration. Halloween is NOT celebrated during school hours.

Birthday Treats

Birthday treats may be brought to school for students. The distribution of birthday treats is at the discretion of the homeroom teacher. Birthday treats will be distributed in the classroom only.

Private Parties

Parents may give party invitations to the teacher for distribution to students **only if all students in the classroom are invited**. Those wishing to invite a small group to parties should do so outside of school.

Classroom Fliers/Handouts

All letters, notes, and fliers to be distributed to a class must be approved by the homeroom teacher and administration.

Classroom Requests

St. Joseph School does not guarantee that requests for specific teachers or classroom assignments will be honored. Great care is taken to place students in appropriate classes through consultation with faculty, staff and other educational professionals. However, parents may submit a classroom placement request **for their student only**, and may do so by submitting a written request to the assistant principal. **Requests are not accepted after July 1.**

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices

Parents may authorize students to have cellphones by e-signing the Cellphone Permission Form at the time of enrollment. **Cellphones must be turned off and remain in a backpack during school hours, including during before- and after-school care. Smart watches are not permitted on campus.** Phones are permitted on field trips for students who have a signed permission form on file. Phones should be turned off and only used with the permission of the supervising teacher.

St. Joseph School is not responsible for the use or loss of cellphones or student's personal electronic devices.

Lost & Found

It is imperative that a student's belongings be marked clearly with his/her name. When these items are lost, and later found, they can be returned promptly to the owner. Each Friday morning, lost and found items are available for pick up in the gym. Items not claimed from the lost and found are given to a charitable entity on the last Friday of each month.

Lunch Program

Hot lunch, salad or milk is available each school day. A monthly menu is available on FACTS Family Portal. Lunch will be charged and must be paid through FACTS.

In accordance with federal law and United States Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TCC). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Applications for reduced-price or free lunch are made available each year. Forms are available on the FACTS Family Portal. A child will receive a hot lunch even if funds are not available, but these charges will be passed along to the parent.

Children may not bring soda or any "energy drinks" to school. Any drink of this nature will be removed from the student's possession. Drinks in glass bottles are not allowed at school lunch or on field trips. Parents may only send in lunch for their own children. Packed lunches will not be heated at the school.

Telephone Calls

The office phone is a business phone and students are permitted to use it only in case of emergency. Forgotten homework, forgotten athletic equipment, etc. do not constitute emergencies. Arrangements for after school visits with friends should be made at home.

Students will not be called from class to speak with a parent. If needed, the office will relay a message to the student.

School Store

The School Store will be run by our Student Government representatives.

Right to Amend the Handbook

St. Joseph School reserves the right to amend this handbook. Notice of amendments will be conveyed via the FACTS Family Portal. This Handbook is an informative booklet for parents and students setting forth rules and policies of the school, and it is not intended as an expressed or implied contract.