



St. John's Academy

CODE OF CONDUCT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the spirit of the Catholic faith, St. John's Academy Code of Conduct informs students and parents of the basic expectations of a student. A signed **Code of Conduct Form** is required to be signed and submitted prior to the start of each school year. For students taking part in fall activities, it must be signed and submitted prior to their 1st day of practice.

Preface

The intention of this Code of Conduct is to assist the students of St. John's Academy to be "Imitators of God as beloved children and walk in love" by conforming their thoughts, words and actions to the minds "... which is yours in Christ Jesus," and following His example (CCC 1694). It is meant to ensure a safe, healthy, and moral environment for youth in our school setting. This Code is a reminder that we are all created with dignity in the image and likeness of God (Gen 1:26-28).

Pope St. John Paul II challenged young people to heroic faith. In his message for World Youth Day 2002, he exhorted them "not be content with anything less than the highest ideals!" He also said, "If you have an ardent desire for the Lord, you will steer clear of the mediocrity and conformity so widespread in our society..." This Code aids in the creation of an environment that aspires to the highest of standards and ideals.

The content of this Code is inspired by the Holy Father's message, Jesus' great commandment (Matt 22:36-40) of love, and the God-given dignity of each person. This Code is one of Christian kindness, respect, hospitality, and care, which will provide an ability to defeat mediocrity and conformity. This Code also reflects Christian stewardship and our proper duty and respect towards places and things.

The following Code of Conduct will be used in conjunction with existing St. John's Academy Student Handbook, policies, and protocols.

Responsibility Toward God – "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment." (Matt 22:36-38)

- By using God's name and the name of Jesus Christ only with respect, and never in careless abusive or angry manner
- By respectfully participating in prayer and worship
- By faithfully representing the teachings of the Catholic Church with integrity in word and action
- By showing respect to the Creator by taking care of God's creation

Responsibility Toward Self – "...whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is an excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4:8-9)

- By being mindful that God created each of us in His image and likeness participants will act accordingly
- By being truthful, understanding, open-minded, gracious, reliable, and respectful
- By promoting chastity in dress, speech, and action
- By respecting human life in the following ways
 - o Not using alcohol, tobacco, and/or any form of illegal drugs
 - o Not using profanities

- o Not possessing weapons
- o Not acting in a disruptive manner

Responsibility Toward Others – “The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.” (Matt 22:39-40)

- By respecting the role of adult leaders and administrators and established guidelines
- By reporting immediately to a responsible adult anytime I see the safety of another in jeopardy
- By honoring and respecting the personal dignity and boundaries of others
 - o Treating everyone fairly, regardless of gender, race, religious or political orientation, or economic status
- By promoting and maintaining a safe environment for peers
- By making restitution for any damages I may cause
- By demonstrating responsibility toward others, students will not:
 - o Use physical aggression and/or harm
 - o Use language that insults, bullies, intimidates, or humiliates
 - o Isolate or exclude others
 - o Threaten or use behavior that leads others into disobedience, disrespect for others, or illegal behavior
 - o Engage in inappropriate or unchaste behavior
 - o Steal
 - o Disrespect the property of others: personal and/or institutional
 - o Gossip, slander or use malicious speech or jokes
 - o Use crude/immoral language or jokes that demean God’s gift of sexuality or demean the dignity of another
 - o Cheat
 - o Cooperate in harmful behavior/harassment, either by encouragement or supportive observation

It shall be an expectation that each student behaves in a manner both on and off campus that is consistent with the Catholic principles of the school. The fact that a student is registered at St. John’s Academy indicates that the applicable policies, rules, regulations, and consequences have been examined and accepted by the student and parents/guardians. The school will work cooperatively with parents/guardians and students to assist students in meeting the academic, moral, and behavioral expectations of the school.

Minor Misconduct

Situations of Minor Misconduct will generally be addressed by teachers and/or other staff members as they encounter them. Minor Misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

1. Academic dishonesty
2. Dress Code infractions
3. Excessive noise or disruption
4. Consuming, candy, or food at inappropriate times or places
5. Being out of designated area
6. Tardiness
7. Disruption of the educational process by being disrespectful, refusing to obey directions, or by talking back to authority
8. Public displays of affection or inappropriate contact
9. Inappropriate use of technology or social media (Per SJA Technology Use Agreement Form)
10. Possession of over-the-counter medications or illegal drugs (Policy No. 5131.1 pg. 23 of the Parent-Student Handbook)
11. Inappropriate language
12. Running, pushing, shoving, or yelling in hallways, classrooms, or common areas

Major or Severe Misconduct

Any incidents of Major, Severe, or Criminal Misconduct will be handled by the school Principals according to this code. The Administration reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of any disciplinary action, which may include out-of-school suspension or permanent expulsion. Major or Severe Misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

1. Habitual and/or egregious cheating on tests, plagiarism, or academic dishonesty
2. Repeated refusal to obey directions of or talking back to administrators, teachers, substitute teachers, or other school personnel
3. Repeated disrespect towards school personnel, students, or parent volunteers
4. Threats, fighting, physical injury to students, school personnel, or volunteers
5. Harassment/bullying as defined by the Anti-Bullying/Cyber-Bullying (pg. 7 of Parent-Student Handbook)
7. Language that is abusive, racist, or sexually demeaning
8. Egregious misuse of technology or social media (Per SJA Technology Use Agreement Form)
9. Continued swearing or the use of profane or abusive language
10. Leaving school premises without authorization
11. Possession or distribution of obscene pictures, magazines, books, or other materials that contradict Catholic moral teachings
12. False fire alarms or bomb threat
13. Theft, vandalism, damage, destruction, or misuse of school property or property of other students or school personnel
14. Possession and/or use of alcohol, drugs, other controlled substances, or tobacco as defined in the Student Substance Abuse (Policy No. 5131.1 pg. 23 of the Parent-Student Handbook)
15. Possession or use of prescribed drugs or over-the-counter medications not in accordance with directions
16. The use or possession of weapons or other items perceived as harmful
17. Engaging in any assaultive or violent behavior
18. Selling or distribution of drugs
19. Repeated failure to make up a detention in a timely manner
20. Severely inappropriate or irreverent behavior in church or during religious events
21. Public conduct or speech that contradicts Catholic teachings, damages or diminishes the reputation of St. John's Academy or the Catholic Church, or that causes scandal
22. Any violation of the local, state or federal laws
23. Other conduct contrary to the mission of St. John's Academy and deemed inappropriate by the Administration.

