

St Joseph Catholic School UPDATED HANDBOOK POLICY – MARCH 2024

Social Media/Electronic Communication:

Parents/guardians are solely responsible for their children's appropriate and ethical use of technology outside of school. **Inappropriate use of technology outside of school should be reported by the parent/guardian to their local police jurisdiction.** St. Joseph Catholic School shall not be liable for a user's inappropriate use of electronic communication, resources, or violations. All mistakes or negligence and costs will be incurred by the user. Neither shall St. Joseph Catholic School be responsible for ensuring the accuracy, age appropriateness, nor usability of any information found on the internet by its students outside of school.

Inappropriate use of social media sites such as, but not limited to, Instagram®, Twitter®, Facebook®, Snapchat®, TikTok®, online gaming sites, etc., may result in disciplinary actions and/or reporting to authorities if the content of a student's account and/or communication includes defamatory comments regarding the school, the faculty, other students, or the parish. In addition, any accounts or websites that are created to appear as representing St. Joseph Catholic School must be approved by the pastor or principal, or they may be removed and/or reported to authorities.

Recording and taking photos on campus is prohibited unless approved by school staff, as is posting to social media. It is unethical and a violation of St. Joseph Catholic School employee rights for students to take a photo, audio, or video of teachers and staff as they function on the school campus without the employee's specific permission. Violations will be subject to punitive measures.

Off-Campus Conduct: Before posting on social media, any recording or photo taken off-campus at school events must be approved by St. Joseph Catholic School staff/administrator if it references the school. While parents or guardians are solely responsible for their children's behavior outside the school day, the administration of St. Joseph Catholic School reserves the right to discipline its students for off-campus behavior not in line with our student behavior expectations **if it affects the school, the faculty, other students, or the parish.** This off-campus behavior includes, but is not limited to, cyber-bullying, sexting, or any other improper use of technological devices. Any such behavior may be reported to authorities for their investigation, and all students involved may be subject to immediate removal from the school as determined by the pastor or principal.