

Student Code of Conduct

Catholic education must include an emphasis on the whole child, which includes the development of moral character. For this reason, a code of conduct is necessary in cultivating a sense of Catholic values, encouraging students to think independently in order to make sound judgments, and developing the self-discipline and self-control to live Gospel values. All students at St. Joseph School are expected to behave in accordance with the school mission statement and to act as a Catholic young lady or a Catholic young gentleman at all times. Christ's values of love, truth, and service are lived values in our school. With every right the students are given, there is a responsibility to our school community.

General Expected Behavior includes, but is not limited to:

General Classroom and School Behavior

- Obey classroom rules and school policies
- Treat all adults and students with respect and courtesy
- Follow all safety rules
- Follow directions of teachers, principal, and all other supervising adults

Hall Behavior

- Observe a reasonable quiet demeanor
- Walk at all times with your hands to yourself

Lunchroom Behavior

- Use proper table manners
- Speak in a reasonable voice
- Walk at all times
- Clean up after yourself

Consequences

Consequences exist in order to assist students in developing an awareness of their own behavior. Our aim is to teach students to make appropriate choices and develop personal responsibility. When students make a choice inconsistent with the shared values of our school and faith, there is an opportunity for growth and the development of a conscience. As part of this educational process, the following consequences will be earned by the students:

Demerits

At St. Joseph School, there are two types of demerits: Responsibility Demerits and Disciplinary Demerits.

Responsibility Demerits are earned for failing to act responsibly. This may include, but is not limited to: failing to complete/turn in homework properly and on-time, failing to return paperwork from home (report cards, demerit slips, paperwork from the office, etc.), coming to class late or unprepared, failing to follow the school dress code, failing to cooperate in class when working with other students, or excessive tardiness to school.

Disciplinary Demerits are earned for behavior choices that are inconsistent with Catholic values, including, but not limited to: disrespect of teachers, staff, or students, refusal to comply with staff directives (insubordination), disruptive or unsafe behavior, integrity violations (i.e. forgery, lying, cheating, stealing), inappropriate language (oral, written, or gestures), or violation of any general school rule/policy.

Demerits will be sent home on the day they are earned and will be signed by the issuing teacher and either the principal or assistant principal. A parent/guardian must sign the demerit acknowledging that it was earned and **it must be returned to school the next school day**. Non-returned demerit slips will earn further responsibility demerits and may require intervention by the principal or assistant principal.

Detentions

Once a student earns 3 demerits **total** a detention will need to be served. A detention notice will be attached to the third demerit received and should be signed and returned along with the

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demerit notice. Please note the date and time of the student's detention so pick-up arrangements can be made. Detentions will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. A responsible person must sign students out of detention.

***PLEASE NOTE: At the end of each grading period, any responsibility demerits will be cleared from the book and each student will start fresh with the new quarter. BUT, disciplinary demerits will remain and any future demerits in the new quarter will accumulate on top of any disciplinary demerits already held by the student.

***Once three detentions have been served, further consequences will be put into place. At this time a meeting with the principal will be required to set-up a behavior modification plan and to discuss a Saturday school session, suspension, or in extreme cases, expulsion.

***An exact duplicate of this information can be found in your Family Handbook.