



***St. Joseph Catholic School  
Parent/Student Handbook  
and Calendar  
2018 – 2019***

Principal: Mrs. Tammi Haas, M. Ed.  
Assistant Principal: Mr. John Reilly, M.Ed.  
Pastor: Rev. Jimson Varghese, S.D.V.  
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Rony Parakkal, S.D.V.  
Rev. Gordon Polenz

St. Joseph Catholic School, on the campus of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Winter Haven, is a pre-Kindergarten 3 through 8th grade Catholic Elementary and Middle School under the Diocese of Orlando. The curriculum stresses academic achievement within a Christian community where the child feels that he/she is loved and respected by his/her peers as well as the teacher. Vatican II texts are used so that our theology is in compliance with the bishops of the world. United with each other in meaningful liturgy and prayer, the students can further come to an understanding of the Christian life. At St. Joseph Catholic, we are attempting to "teach as Jesus did." Curriculum is based on Diocesan-approved standards and learning objectives which exceed both state and national performance norms. The curriculum is marked by current content and fresh approaches to methodology. We strive to offer a program which makes use of many sources of reading material, a wide variety of audio-visual and technology tools and a multi-text approach to the content areas.

### **ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT**

*St. Joseph Catholic School is dedicated to providing an academically enriched Catholic education which promotes the development of the whole child through the love of God, of others, and of learning.*

#### **Belief Statements**

St. Joseph Catholic School:

- ...proclaims the gospel message of Jesus by building faith communities, celebrating through worship, and serving others without distinction.
- ...recognizes and values each student as a unique child of God in his/her social, emotional, spiritual, and academic needs.
- ...believes that meeting student learning styles and academic needs is primary in the development of programs, curriculum, and instruction.
- ...integrates Catholic faith, traditions, and values with learning and life.
- ...champions student success in a supportive, safe, enriched learning environment.
- ...endorses ongoing evaluation and improvement of the curriculum as crucial to the development of a sound education system.
- ...embraces our cultural diversity, promoting mutual respect within the school community.

#### **Parent's Role in Education**

We, at St. Joseph Catholic School, consider it a privilege to work with parents in the education of children because we believe parents are the primary educators of their children. Therefore, it is your right and your duty to become the primary role models for the development of your child's life---physically, mentally, spiritually, emotionally, and psychologically. Your choice of St. Joseph Catholic School involves a commitment and exhibits a concern for helping your child to recognize God as the greatest good in his/her life.

Good example is the strongest teacher. Your personal relationship with God, with each other, and with the Church community will affect the way your child relates to God and others. Ideals taught in school are not well rooted in the child unless these are nurtured by the example of good Catholic/Christian morality and by an honest personal relationship with God in your family life. Once you have chosen to enter into a partnership with us at St. Joseph Catholic School, we trust you will be loyal to this commitment. During these formative years (Pre-K to 8), your child needs constant support from both parents and faculty in order to develop his/her moral, intellectual, social, cultural, and physical endowment. Neither parents nor teachers can afford to doubt the sincerity of the efforts of their educational partner in the quest of challenging, yet nourishing, the student to reach his/her potential. It is vital that both parents and teachers remember that allowing oneself to be caught between the student and the other partner will never have positive results. To divide authority between school and home, or within the home, will only teach disrespect of all authority. If there is an incident at school, you as parents must make investigation of the complete story your first step. Evidence of mutual respect between parents and teachers will model good mature behavior and relationships. Students are naturally eager to grow and learn. However, sometimes in the process of maturation new interests may cause them to lose focus. As this natural process occurs, the student needs both understanding and discipline. At times, your child may perceive discipline as restrictive. However, it is boundaries and limits which provide a young person with both guidance and security. **It is essential that a child take responsibility for grades he/she has earned and be accountable for homework, long-term assignments, major tests, service projects, and all other assignments.** This responsibility also extends to times of absence.

In Pope Benedict XVI's address to Catholic Educators he said, "Education is integral to the mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News. First and foremost every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth (cf. *Spe Salvi*, 4). This relationship elicits a desire to grow in the knowledge and understanding of Christ and his teaching. In this way those who meet him are drawn by the very power of the Gospel to lead a new life characterized by all that is beautiful, good, and true; a life of Christian witness nurtured and strengthened within the community of our Lord's disciples, the Church." Together, let us begin this year with a commitment to partnership as we support one another in helping your child to become the best person he/she is capable of becoming.

### Accreditation

St. Joseph Catholic School is accredited through the Florida Catholic Conference. According to the guidelines of the accreditation conference each teacher in grades PreK-8 holds either a Bachelor or a Master's degree. Certification by the State of Florida is a requirement of all teachers.

### Admission Information-- Nondiscriminatory Policy

St. Joseph Catholic School admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students of the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, or athletic and other school-administered programs.

As openings become available, the following priorities will be used to accept students to St. Joseph Catholic School:

1-Currently enrolled students, 2-Members of St. Joseph Catholic Church, 3-Members of other parishes, 4-Students transferring from another Catholic School, 5-Non-Catholic students

The final acceptance is determined by the principal in consultation with the teachers, based on entry tests (if needed), records from the previous school, interview with the student and parent, and available space.

All students entering St. Joseph Catholic School for the first time will be accepted on probationary bases for a trimester. This is to ascertain a student's ability to adjust to the school philosophy and curriculum expectations.

Children entering Pre-Kindergarten 3 must be three years old by September 1. **Students must be toilet trained.**

Children entering Pre-Kindergarten 4 must be four years old by September 1.

To enter Kindergarten, a child must be five years old by September 1.

To enter the First Grade, a child must be six years old by September 1 and must have successfully completed Kindergarten.

### **Requirements include:**

\*Verification of active parish affiliation/stewardship

+Use of weekly envelopes and confirmation of registration by pastor

\*Health Records

+HRS FL Certificate of Immunization

+HRS Student Health Examination

\*Birth Certificate (original)

\*Baptismal Certificate (Catholic applicants only)

\*Paperwork from any academic or psychological testing, including 504 Plans and/or Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) if applicable

\*Transfer students must also present a transcript or report card and standardized test scores from the previous school at the time of applying for admission

### Academic Probation

A student whose academic performance indicates serious deficiencies (subject average below a C) may be placed on academic probation. **Students on academic probation cannot participate in extra-curricular activities**, including sports, until the principal has determined eligibility and reinstatement. The principal is the only person able to reinstate a student from academic probation.

### After Care: See Eagle's Perch

### Attendance Policy

A student's absence from school interferes with his/her academic progress. Being tardy also impedes the learning process for the student and his/her class. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that the student(s) is at school on time daily and remains for the full day of school. In the event that a student must be absent from school, the parent should notify the teacher/school via phone call, email, text message, or written note upon the student's return. The principal and guidance counselor review excessive tardies for students each trimester. In the event of excessive absences or tardies, a parent conference with the principal and guidance counselor will be required. **Absences over 30 days in one school year may result in automatic retention for a student.** The school calendar provides for extended weekends throughout the school year. Parents are encouraged to schedule trips, appointments, or family outings during these times. Students are responsible for making up missed work. Students who are absent due to illness have one day for each day of absence to make up the missed assignments, quizzes, or tests. It is expected that when students return from being out, he/she will be prepared to submit any assignments that were assigned on the child's last day of class before the absence. Arrangements for regular classroom tests missed because of an absence are to be made with the individual teachers. These tests must be taken within one week of the original test date. In the event that a test was announced before a student's absence, it is expected that he/she will take the test with the rest of the class. When a student is absent for **three or more days due to illness**, a parent may call the school office before 9:30 AM to arrange for homework assignments. Homework assignments may be picked up at the school office between 3:00 PM – 3:30 PM. For short absences, students should make arrangement with classmates regarding assignments. Students may also receive missed assignments from their teacher when they return to school.

If a child must attend a medical appointment during the school day, parents are required to sign out their child. If the child returns to school during the same school day, he/she must be signed back into school in the office. Students may not participate in a sports or school event on the same evening of a school absence or leaving school early due to illness.

### **Academic Information--Curriculum**

The curriculum is based on guidelines developed by the Orlando Diocese within a framework of Christian principles. All academic programs of St. Joseph Catholic School are governed and evaluated by the Diocese of Orlando Office of Schools and the Florida Catholic Conference.

### **Grading Scale**

#### **For students in grades 3-8:**

Students will be recognized for academic honors at the end of each trimester. Principal's Honors is for all students who earn a 95% or above in all subject areas. High Honors is reserved for those students earning 90% and above. Students will be recognized with honors for achieving 85% or above.

### **Before Care: See Eagle's Perch**

### **Birthday Observances**

Students in Grades Pre-K through Grade 8 may come to school dressed out-of-uniform on their birthday or half-birthday. If a student's birthday falls on a Mass day, the student should dress out on an alternative day. Students are expected to be dressed appropriately for school. Invitations to parties are given to all members of a class or mailed to individual students if all students in the class are not invited.

Parents may send a small treat such as a donut, cupcake or individual snack on the occasion of a child's birthday to be shared with classmates in the classroom. Birthday treats may not be shared in the cafeteria.

It is important to check in at the office prior to delivering treats to the classroom. Students should not exchange individual gifts at school. This gesture only creates hurt feelings among other students.

### **Board of Education**

This board is an advisory body that assists in the support and counsel of all school planning at St. Joseph Catholic School. The Diocese of Orlando Office of Schools sets policy for all Catholic schools in the Orlando Diocese.

### **Book Bags**

All book bags/back packs must fit in the student's cubby or locker. Large, wheeled book bags generally do not fit and create a safety hazard in the classroom and will be sent home for a book bag that will fit.

### **Car Pool**

Student safety at drop off and pick up are of the utmost concern to all staff. Faculty and staff take great responsibility in ensuring that all students go home with the appropriate adult. Policies and procedures are in place for the safety of all children. **Adults entering the drop off and pick up line agree to abide by those policies and procedures.** All cars must have a car tag clearly displayed in the front windshield on the driver's side of the car or on the passenger side window. Each family is given two car tags at the beginning of the school year. Families in a car pool must give the car pool family a car tag to pick up their child. The school office will only distribute car tags to the legal guardian of a student. Additional car tags may be picked up in the school office. If an adult comes through car line to pick up a student without a car tag, he/she must be prepared to present picture identification. If an adult fails to comply with such request, the student will not be dismissed to the care of that adult. All cars must come through carline for both drop off and pick up. Parents/Guardians may not park and walk up to pick up their child.

Students are to be dropped off by the Parish Center. Bike riders are to walk their bikes on the school premises and securely lock them to the bike racks during school hours. Once a student arrives at school, s/he may not leave the premises during the day without the written permission of a parent or guardian and the approval of the office. This includes students who stay for Eagle's Perch (After Care). Parents must sign out all students dismissing early at the office. **No student is to be dropped off or picked up along the curb on Avenue M, NW or at the office parking area during arrival or dismissal times.**

Parents are asked to pay close attention during the car line process. **Cell phones are not be used at this time.** Please follow the traffic directions given by the teachers on duty. It is the responsibility of the parent to contact car pool members and after school care agencies when a child is absent, leaves school early, or needs other arrangements to be made. Homeroom teachers should be advised in writing if a child is to go home in a different car pool or by a different means on a given day. Students who have a learner's permit or driver's license are not permitted to drive on school property.

### **Cellular Phone Policy**

Students are permitted to bring a cell phone to school. Cell phones must be kept in the student's school bag or in the Main Office, and **must be turned off** until a **student leaves the campus**. Cell phones are not to be used in school without expressed teacher permission. If a student violates this procedure the cell phone will be taken from the student and will need to be retrieved by a parent/legal guardian from the school office. An after school detention will be given to the student on the first violation (and each successive) of this policy. If the rule is violated more than two times in a school year, the phone will be dropped daily in the principal's office and retrieved at the end of the day. **If the cell phone was used in class for texting or taking pictures, it will be dropped off each morning to the principal after the first violation.** Students may **not** use their cell phone **camera** at any time. Smart/Apple watches are not permitted. Same disciplinary action will be followed as cell phones (see above).

### **Cheating/Plagiarizing**

Cheating and plagiarizing of any type will not be tolerated. Students who have any involvement in an activity of cheating/plagiarizing will face a failing grade, detention, suspension, and/or expulsion.

### **Child Abuse Laws**

St. Joseph Catholic School abides by the Child Abuse laws of the State of Florida. Diocesan Policy #PS006 and Florida Statutes Chapters 415 and 232.50 requires any clergy, religious or lay employee or volunteer who knows or has cause to suspect that a child has been subjected to any form of abuse or neglect by any person, to contact the Florida Department of Children and Families on the same calendar day, respond to the local DCF, call back with additional information and to cooperate with any and all authorities in the investigation of any child abuse report. This law mandates that all cases of **suspected** abuse and/or neglect be reported to Child Protective Services.

### **Communication**

St. Joseph Catholic School prides itself on effective and frequent communication between school and home. This commitment takes place in a variety of way including, but not limited to: weekly email blasts sent by the principal, Eagle's Eye newsletter distributed electronically weekly, and occasional emails from the teacher or room moms. Hard copy correspondence occurs weekly via white envelopes and occasionally/weekly (depending on the grade level) from teachers, coaches and activity sponsors. It is the responsibility of the parent to expect and read these communications in their entirety. It is expected that students will give hard copy correspondence to parents as it is distributed. St. Joseph Catholic School cannot be held responsible for parents not receiving information when it is sent out.

In order to insure that all communication from school reaches home in a timely manner, St. Joseph Catholic School uses a Thursday *Eagle's Express* envelope system. Official envelopes containing all correspondence are sent home on Thursday and should be returned the following day. If the Eagle's Express Envelope is not returned three consecutive weeks, a new envelope will be issued and the family will be billed \$5. Official school-wide communications are sent with the youngest child. The reverse side of the Eagle Express Envelope is designed for families to keep track of their required 20 service hours.

As your child's biggest advocate, St. Joseph Catholic School supports you in your attempts to advocate for your child. Faculty and staff are committed to working with all parents when any concerns arise. Please contact the employee that is most involved in the situation to settle any issues. You may consider reaching out to the employee via email, telephone, or setting up a face to face conference. **Please allow 24 hours for an employee to respond. Further, please respect the employee's family time by refraining from texting or calling an employee between 7pm and 7am, unless it is an emergency.** Administration is happy to become involved after the parent meets with the employee and isn't satisfied with the resolution.

### **Conferences**

Two Parent-Teacher Conferences are held each year. In some cases, the student may be asked to attend the second conference with the parent. Parents requiring additional conferences during the school year may make arrangements with the individual teachers.

### **Confidentiality**

St. Joseph Catholic School employees maintain strict confidentiality reflecting all children. In the event of any concerns or incidences, every attempt will be made to conference with a parent in a private setting to preserve the confidentiality of the student. Further, employees will never discuss a child with any parent other than his/her own legal guardian.

### **Counselor**

A certified guidance counselor serves the needs of students and parents through class and individual consultation.

### **Eagle's Perch: Before and After Care**

St. Joseph Catholic School has a before and after care program called Eagle's Perch. Before care is in the Parish Center beginning at 7:00. The cost is \$1.00 per family for before care. After Care is \$3.75/hour per child. After care for preschool students begins at noon and immediately following school for elementary students. Students must have attended school during the day to attend Eagle's Perch. Eagle's Perch closes at 6:00 PM. Students who are not picked up by **6:05 will be billed \$15 until 6:20 and \$1.50 per minute after 6:20**. The Eagle's Perch fees are due within one week of receiving a statement. St. Joseph Catholic School reserves the right to dismiss any child from the Eagle's Perch program for failure to pay fees or inappropriate behavior.

### **Emergency Closing**

If it should be necessary to close the school because of inclement weather affecting the entire county, Diocesan policy states that the school will follow the directive of the local county school system. Please look for an announcement to be made over local radio or television stations and on the school website ([www.stjosephwhschool.org](http://www.stjosephwhschool.org)). Please be aware that St. Joseph Catholic School students may return to school following a weather emergency prior to public schools.

### **Emergency Plan/Drills**

St. Joseph Catholic School has a plan for emergencies including fire, weather, and security. Training is held annually for all faculty and staff. State law requires that fire drills be held monthly. Weather drills are held periodically. Security drills are held a minimum of four times a year. In the event of a lockdown emergency, St. Joseph Catholic School has a crisis plan in place, and follows the directions given by local law enforcement when present. The plan includes procedures that promote safety and security of students and staff. In addition, the plan ensures that school facilities and equipment are safe and in good condition in compliance with the “Safe Passage Act (Section 229.8348, Florida Statutes)”. All teachers and staff are aware of the procedures to follow to keep your children safe. In the event of such an emergency, circumstances permitting, the building will be evacuated and students will be moved to one of two secure designated locations:

1. St. Joseph Catholic Church
2. Off Campus – Lake Silver or the parking lot of Publix across from the church

#### **Field Trips**

1. Field trips are scheduled by teachers and are designed to correlate with teaching units and to achieve curricular goals. Field trips vary year to year. There is not a standard number of field trips per grade level.
2. All students must ride on a bus to and from the field trip. In unique circumstances, parent volunteers may be used to transport students, at the discretion of the principal. Volunteers driving on field trips must have current finger printing clearance and have submitted, **at least two weeks in advance**, an **Authorization for Motor Vehicle Records Form** that is submitted to the Diocesan agency for the expressed purpose of evaluating whether the adult can drive on field trips. Drivers cannot take side trips on the way to or from the field trip. For example, driving through a fast food restaurant is not allowed, unless it is a part of the field trip.
3. Students who are participating in the field trip must ride the bus/car pool to and from the field trip with their class. Students not on the bus or assigned car pool may not participate in the field trip and will be counted absent for the day. .
4. **Siblings or additional children cannot attend a field trip.**
5. Individual teachers, in consultation with the administration, reserve the right to restrict or deny student participation on any field trip due to, but not limited to, poor academic performance and/or poor conduct.
6. A written **official permission slip**, signed by the parent, is required before a child will be permitted to attend a field trip activity. Verbal permission (including over the telephone) **cannot** be accepted. **Note:** a fax does not take the place of an original signature and will not be accepted.
7. Parents may refuse to permit their child from participating in a field trip by stating so on the field trip form. Field trips are academic, therefore students not attending may have written work/research to complete and turn in the following day.
8. All monies collected for the field trip are **non-refundable**.
9. **Student cell phones** are **not allowed** on field trips unless otherwise directed by the teacher and/or administration.
10. All individuals wishing to attend an off-campus field trip must receive fingerprint clearance from the Diocese.

#### **Financial Obligations**

All families must enroll in the FACTS Tuition Management Service. Payments begin in July. All Application Fees and Registration Fees are **NON-REFUNDABLE**. Tuition and outstanding balances for the school year must be current in order to register for the following school year.

**A RETURN FEE OF \$25.00 WILL BE ASSESSED TO YOUR ACCOUNT FOR ANY RETURNED CHECK.**

**You may apply for financial assistance by clicking on the white FACTs box on the school homepage ([www.stjosephwhschool.org](http://www.stjosephwhschool.org)) \*The application deadline for Aid Assessment to [factstuitionaid.com](http://factstuitionaid.com) is April 15**

#### **Tuition Payment Options:**

##### **Payment Options:**

- Pay in full by JULY 1, or
- Pay ½ annual tuition by July 1, and the remainder by December 1, or
- Pay monthly – the last month available would be June of the school year.

Registration is not complete, students’ spots are not secure, until all steps in the registration process have been completed, including but not limited to: completing the online application, submitting registration fees, providing scholarship award letter, setting up a FACTs account, and any other requirements outlined by administration. Students who are not completely registered will not be placed in a classroom until all steps are satisfied and may be in danger of forfeiting their spot in the class.

#### **FACTS® Tuition Management Service Overview**

- There is an annual non-refundable \$38 administrative fee for enrollment in the Facts® program per family. This fee will be added to your tuition collected by FACTS® on the first scheduled payment– please do not make this payment to the school.

- FACTS will collect tuition using a direct debit to each family's checking or savings account on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, or last day of the month. If funds are not available at that time a second attempt will be made during the next processing cycle. During this second attempt, the family will be charged a \$30 fee before the full tuition payment has been processed. If FACTS is unsuccessful in collecting the balance due for tuition and fees by the third cycle, the principal and the school board finance committee will be notified. Unless documented proof of financial hardship is provided by the family, the principal will notify that payment is needed in full within 10 days. If full payment is not received within ten days the family will be required to withdraw the child(ren) from the school. **Student records will not be forwarded for any student if a balance of fees is owed to the school.**

#### **Tuition Assistance**

It is the goal of St. Joseph Catholic School to provide opportunities for financial assistance to families. Although tuition assistance funds are limited, financial assistance is available to families who demonstrate a need. Families seeking financial assistance must first apply for the Step Up for Students Scholarship. Once proving that they were denied Step Up, families should complete an application for financial aid by April 15<sup>th</sup>. The scholarship committee will not review any applications, nor award any scholarship money to families that do not complete the online application in its entirety. The application is available on our school website (stjosephwhschool.org) by clicking the white FACTs box. Tuition assistance is distributed in early June.

#### **FLVS**

Students who choose to take a Florida Virtual School course will need to receive approval from the guidance counselor. If a child chooses to take a FLVS course that is offered at St. Joseph Catholic School, the student may not opt out of the course at SJCS. The student must take the class, complete homework, tests, projects, etc and receive a grade on his/her official transcript that will go with him/her to high school. Families considering adding a FLVS course to their child's schedule are cautioned that many of the state scholarships (Step Up, McKay, Gardiner, etc.) limit the number of FLVS classes a student can take in a year. If your child is considering a FLVS course and receives financial aid, please do your due diligence in researching the policy. Failure to comply may result in losing your financial assistance.

#### **Food Allergy Policy**

St. Joseph Catholic School recognizes that life threatening food allergies are an important condition affecting many school children and positively welcomes all pupils with food allergies. In order to minimize the incidence of life threatening allergic reactions, St. Joseph Catholic School will maintain a system-wide procedure for addressing life threatening allergic reactions and maintain an Emergency Action Plan for any student(s) whose parent/guardian, and physicians have informed the school in writing that the student(s) has a potentially life threatening allergy. **Parents are requested to refrain from sending birthday or celebration snacks that contain nuts.**

#### **Head Lice**

St. Joseph Catholic School maintains a no nit policy. Students who are identified with lice will be sent home immediately and must be checked/cleared through the school office before returning to class. In the event of a confirmed case of head lice, all parents of students in that class will be notified via email so that necessary precautionary steps can be taken at home if desired.

#### **Health Concerns**

Please remember that students must be free of a temperature over 100 degrees within the last 24 hours without anti-fever medication. Additionally, students should be kept at home if they have had any cases of vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours. Students who come to school before the 24 hours have lapsed will be sent home. Please advise the school if your child has a special health concern such as an allergy, asthma, epilepsy, recent surgery or any condition requiring administration of medications. A doctor's note is required if a student is to miss physical education class. Any limitations that a student may have that prohibit full participation in physical education classes must be brought to the attention of the health office. In the event a student has a bathroom accident during the school day, a parent will be notified and requested to come assist the child to clean up. Faculty and staff are not permitted to clean or touch any student private body areas.

#### **IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

Catholic Schools within the Diocese of Orlando require enrolling students to submit a Florida Department of Health Certificate of Immunization as provided for in Florida Statute 1003.22 as a condition precedent to acceptance. Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Orlando do not recognize a religious objection to this immunization. In accordance with the Polk County Health Regulations, all students enrolled in a school must have a current HRS Student Health Examination and State of Florida Immunization Record on file with the school before a child can enter on the first day. They must be up to date with immunizations appropriate for their age.

GRADE(S)	REQUIREMENTS
Prekindergarten	Student Health Examination 1MMR 1 Varicella (or documented case of chickenpox) Hepatitis Series (2 or 3 depending on availability) 1HIB DPT series must be started Polio series must be started
Kindergarten	Student Health Examination (within the year) 2 MMR 2 Varicella (or documented case of chickenpox) Hepatitis Series DPT (total of 5) Polio (total of 4)
Grades 1-6	2 MMR DPT (total of 5) Polio (total of 4) Hepatitis Series Varicella (or documented case of chickenpox)
Grade 7-8	2 MMR DPT (total of 5) Polio (total of 4) Hepatitis Series Tdap

All students enrolling in St. Joseph Catholic School for the first time are required to have a physical examination by a physician.

### Medication

If a child must take any medication in school which is prescribed by a doctor, that medication must be delivered to the office by an adult in the container received from the pharmacy and must have on its label the following information:

- Child name
- Administration amounts
- Number of times/day to be administered

A medical authorization form must be picked up in the school office or the doctor could complete a form. The school cannot dispense medication without the authorization form. **Students cannot carry medications** (including lozenges, cough drops, aspirin, inhalers ointments, etc.) or keep any medications in their backpack or desk.

### Homework Policy

Homework is assigned to help students become self-reliant and self-directed. Assignments are designed to reinforce daily lessons, to supplement and enrich class work, and to prepare for certain lessons through various experiences. Since each student has different capabilities and interests, it would be difficult to denote the specific amount of time to be spent on an assignment. If a problem arises, the teacher should be contacted. It is expected that all students will complete and submit homework in a timely manner. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action. Teachers in grades K-5 will handle missing homework assignments within their classroom. These expectations and consequences will be communicated to parents at the beginning of the year annually. Middle school students who do not turn in their homework assignment at the time that it is due will attend Lunch Bunch. There are no exceptions. Students are responsible for going to lunch bunch without having to be reminded; failure to do so will result in a lunch detention. Administration reserves the right to keep any student with missing work afterschool until the assignment is complete.

### Library

The school has a well-equipped automated library and media center. Students are encouraged to use the library for curricular enrichment and pleasure reading. Borrowed books are to be returned on time and in good condition. Fines will be levied on missing or damaged books.



### **Lockers**

Each student is assigned a locker or cubby in which to store clothing and textbooks. In order to maintain a quiet atmosphere for class, students are allowed to go to their lockers only at specified times. The school reserves the right to inspect lockers at any time.

### **Lost and Found**

Any items found in the school building or on the school grounds should be placed in the Lost and Found basket. **Periodically, parents are reminded to check Lost and Found and then remaining items are donated to charity.**

### **Lunch Program**

Saint Joseph Catholic School partners with SLA Managements to offer a hot lunch daily. Meals are prepared in the Parish Center. Lunch accounts are maintained online. Families of students wishing to purchase hot lunch must put money on their child's account. Students must have their own account and may not share with family members. SLA will email families once a week to notify them of their current balance. Students with a negative balance who wish to purchase a lunch may be given a simple lunch of a cheese sandwich. Students may choose to bring their lunch each day. Students are expected to use the same manners required in the classroom during lunch. Courtesy toward other students and cooperation with lunch monitors are in order at all times.

### **Off-Campus Conduct**

The administration of St. Joseph Catholic School reserves the right to discipline its students for off-campus behavior that is not in line with behavior expectations of its students during the course of the school day, including but not limited to appropriate usage of social media.

### **Office Records**

Parents/Guardians are requested to notify the School Office in writing of any change of address, home telephone numbers, cell phone numbers, business phone numbers, e-mail addresses and/or phone numbers of emergency contacts. Additionally, parents are required to make the appropriate changes in RenWeb. This will guarantee that office records are accurate, complete, and up-to-date.

### **Parent Custody**

It is required that the custodial parent provide the principal with an official, updated copy of the custody order. In absence of a court order, a school should provide the non-custodial parent the opportunity, upon request, for a parent teacher conference. Likewise, the school should share pertinent information with the non-custodial parent in a timely manner.

### **Parent Organization (PTO)**

This organization works to support and enhance the educational ministry of the school. Fund-raising, parent education, and building community are goals of this organization.

### **Promotion Policy and Retention Policy**

Advancement to the next grade in St. Joseph Catholic School is based on a student's daily performance, test results, recommendations of teachers, and the student's ability to complete work successfully on a more advanced level. Promotion to the next grade depends on successful completion of **all** subject areas. Students who have earned an average below 60 in **any** subject area cannot be promoted to the next grade.

### **Report Cards/Progress Reports**

**Report Cards** are important tools for communication. Report Cards will be given three (3) times during the academic school year at the conclusion of every trimester. The final report card is distributed through the school office after the year has ended. All school related financial obligations must be met prior to the release of the report cards. **Progress Reports** will be given mid-way between each trimester. Additionally, parents are strongly encouraged to use RenWeb to monitor their child's grades a minimum of three times per week.

### **Sacramental Program**

The sacramental life of the children of the Catholic tradition is an important component of the religion program at St. Joseph Catholic School. Religious instruction is included in the curriculum each day. Preparations for two sacraments, Reconciliation and Eucharist, form the core of our efforts in Grade 2. In accordance with the diocesan guidelines, candidates for First Eucharist will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation prior to First Eucharist. Sacramental Catechesis is intended for all members of the Christian community, takes place within the community, and involves the whole community of faith. Parish Church is the centre of worship in the community. It is the place where all Sacraments are celebrated. The liturgical life of the Church revolves around the sacraments, with the Eucharist at the center. (*National Directory of Catechesis*) Parents are required to be active partners in the preparation of their children for these sacraments. The sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist are only conferred to students baptized in the Roman Catholic tradition.

### **School Hours**

Grades Pre-K-3 & PreK-4--7:50 AM – 12:00 PM; Grades Kindergarten through grade 8—7:50 AM-3:05 PM. Students not in their homeroom at 7:50 AM are considered tardy.

At St. Joseph Catholic School, we work in partnership with parents to enable each child to develop as an independent learner. Parents should allow their child(ren) to enter the school building on their own each morning. Various classes invite parent involvement or visitation on particular occasions. The school doors are opened for students at 7:40 AM. Car line begins at 7:30. Students arriving before that time are required to attend Before Care in the Parish Center. Parents are charged \$1/family each day for Before Care. **Students cannot be left unattended on the school property.** Dismissal time is 3:05 PM. Please check the school calendar and weekly newsletter for early dismissal dates. Parents are to make arrangements for their child(ren) to arrive at school on time and be picked up at dismissal time. Students not picked up by the end of car line (3:25 PM) will be sent immediately to the After School Care Program.

### **School Logo**

The school logos may not be used without the expressed written consent of the school administration.

### **School Office Hours**

The school office is open on all school days from **7:30 AM – 3:30 PM.**

### **School Property**

The parent of a child who destroys or damages any furniture, equipment, buildings or anyone's personal property will be obligated to pay the full amount of repairs and labor or replacement. No writing in hardback textbooks is permitted. The student will pay a fine or replacement for damaged or lost texts before any final reports, transcripts, or diplomas are presented.

### **Search of Students and their Property**

The Diocese of Orlando affirms that, consistent with the Diocesan Mission Statement, each Catholic school has a special responsibility for the conduct of students and for ensuring the right of teachers to teach and students to learn in a safe and caring Christian environment. Given the Diocese's dedication to create and maintain a safe environment, students will not have any expectation of privacy with respect to any and all property brought on school grounds or to school events. The search of a student's person or any item carried by the student is permissible when there is any suspicion that the student may be carrying contraband. Contraband is defined as any weapon, dangerous object, illegal drug, drug paraphernalia or other item prohibited by law or by school policy. All property of the school, including student desks and lockers, as well as contents may be opened, searched, or inspected at any time without notice. School personnel have an unrestricted right to search this property as well as any containers, book bags, purses, or articles of clothing that are left unattended on the school campus. Searches may be conducted by authorized school personnel, police, or other appropriate officials with the approval of the principal, including random searches.

### **Service Hours--Parents**

Upon acceptance, all families agree to complete 20 service hours during the school year. Each family **MUST** do 2 service hours for Fall Fest. The service hour agreement sets our school apart from all other schools and has many benefits. It shows students that their parents are present and involved. It is the reminder to all that the time of each of us is equally important and valuable. Everyone has something to give. Anyone performing service hours at school must be fingerprinted and have viewed and submitted the quiz results for the Diocesan Safe Environment Training Video according to Diocesan policy.

In determining whether a particular service "counts" as hours a general guideline is to let common sense be your guide. If it has been requested by a faculty or staff member or a room parent or committee chair—it counts! If it is a service that has been requested and would otherwise require the school to hire someone to perform—it counts. If it is goods or a donation that has been requested—it counts. Some examples are: parent attendance at PTO meeting—2 service hours; chaperoning a field trip or working in the cafeteria—hour for hour spent; donation toward Gala or Fall Fest Basket—one service hour per \$10 spent. Examples that do not count toward service hours: Donating toward teacher gift; donating to Food Pantry; donating toward Relay for Life. All other activities are to be documented as the amount of time spent doing the service.

### **Service Hours—Students**

Students in middle school (grades 6, 7, 8), in keeping with the school philosophy that we give service to others, must complete 10 service hours per year. Failure to complete service hours will affect the Religion grade. Additionally, students involved in the National Junior Honor Society and Student Service Council are expected to complete additional service hours.

### **Sports Program**

St. Joseph Catholic School offers the following sports: boys' and girls' soccer, basketball, golf, tennis, running club, boys' flag football, girls' volleyball and cheerleading. Students in grades 5 to 8 are eligible to participate in sports. A participation fee of \$25 per sport per student will be assessed at the beginning of each sport season. All athletes are subject to academic and conduct eligibility requirements. **Students**

**that do not maintain a 70 average in any subject area cannot play sports.** A student who is involved in a sport including, cheerleading, and is placed on academic ineligibility can no longer play or practice with the team until they are released from academic probation by the principal.

### **Student Conduct**

In accordance with the stated philosophy of the school, which emphasizes deep respect for the human dignity and uniqueness of every individual, each student will be considerate of the rights of others in all interactions. All students are expected to cooperate with the spirit and policies of the school which are designed to foster mature development and personal responsibility. This requires courtesy in all personal relationships, promptness in fulfilling obligations, concern for the environment, and many other factors which the students' sense of appropriateness will indicate to them. The principal reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of an action if any doubt arises. Conduct referrals are given for major violations of the conduct code. Detentions, if given, are to be served on the date assigned. Students assigned detention may not be involved in any extra-curricular activity on the day of the detention if the detention has not been served.

Items such as, but not limited to, questionable books and pictures, white-out, knives, guns, matches, cigarettes, radios, toys, trading cards, laser lights, cameras, iPads, or anything that will detract from a learning situation are not allowed at school at any time. If a student chooses to violate this rule, they alone are responsible if the item is lost or stolen.

The School Administration, in accordance with state laws, will determine the appropriate disciplinary measures to be taken concerning the presence of these items in the school. **Items taken away from students will be returned to the parent(s)/guardian(s) when the final report card is picked up of the school year.**

### **Discipline**

It is our policy to work with all children in a positive way. We encourage students to develop responsible behavior and self-esteem through good decision-making with the ultimate goal of self-discipline. All disciplinary action taken by the administration or teacher is intended to help the child accept his/her responsibility for being a student in our school. Parents will be informed by phone, email, or written note. St. Joseph Catholic School Student Responsibilities

- Students have the responsibility to attend school regularly
- Students have the responsibility to treat others with respect
- Students have the responsibility to treat school property and the property of others with respect
- Students have the responsibility to respect the privacy of others
- Students have the responsibility to listen courteously to the opinions and points of view of others
- Students have the responsibility to come prepared to learn with all the necessary materials

Follow the four R's—reverent, respectful, responsible, right choices

### **Consequences for Misbehavior**

We encourage students to develop responsible behavior and self-esteem through good decision-making skills with the ultimate goal of self-discipline. All actions have implications for self and others.

Consequences are seen as a supportive way to teach accountability, trust, honesty, and respect.

Each teacher will determine the discipline consequences for misbehavior in their classroom. Consequences for misbehavior may include, but not be limited to, (1) loss of recess, (2) time spent in a time-out chair, (3) silent lunch with teacher or silent lunch table in the cafeteria, (4) conversation with parent(s), (5) visit dean or administration. The student LOG Program is designed to help middle school faculty and students address the issues of student conduct that generally occur outside the classroom. Teachers still have the responsibility and freedom of making their own classroom rules and procedures. The LOG program helps to correct infractions that occur outside the classroom.

### **Middle School Student LOG Program Procedures**

Students' names are recorded in the Student LOG Program for infractions of student conduct.

### **Some infractions that could earn a LOG:**

- Uniform violations
- Makeup violations
- Gum chewing is an AUTOMATIC detention AND counts as a LOG
- Unnatural hair color/ Hair length violation
- Multiple tardies to the same class
- PDA (public display of affection)
- Coming unprepared to class
- Shirt untucked
- Inappropriate behavior (hallway, cafeteria, restroom, stairs, Eagle's Perch, sidewalk, church)
- Jewelry violation

- Writing on arms, legs or body parts

**Major infractions** for all students are enforced with referrals to the dean, assistant principal, or principal in cooperation with the teacher(s) or faculty member(s).

### **Behavior Code**

Our behavior code is intended to create an atmosphere that is safe and conducive to academic progress and the personal development of all students. Students are expected to:

1. Show consideration, courtesy, respect and proper care to all school personnel and fellow students as well as their property.
2. Attend class on time.
3. Refrain from picking up and/or throwing or kicking sand, stones, or other potentially harmful objects.
4. Dress in accordance with the school dress code. (see Uniforms and Dress Code)
5. Avoid all activity that involves violence, vandalism, stealing, offensive language, gestures, or disrespect in any way.
6. Gum chewing is not permitted while on school premises, including Eagle's Perch and field trips.
7. Weapons of any kind are not allowed on school property.

### **Detention**

Detention may be issued for a breach of classroom and/or school rules. The day, date, and time of the detention are at the discretion of the Principal or Dean. Detention takes precedence over appointments, practices, lessons, ballgames, etc. **Students who are scheduled to serve detention are ineligible to play sports or participate in extra-curricular events on the day of detention if the detention was not served.**

### **Expulsion**

Expulsion is an extremely serious matter. Students who pose a threat to themselves or to others may be expelled from St. Joseph Catholic School. Students who possess drugs and/or alcohol at school or at any school function face suspension and/or expulsion

### **School Safety & Harassment or Bullying**

St. Joseph Catholic School provides a safe environment for all individuals. Verbal or written threats made against the physical or emotional well-being of any individual are taken very seriously. Students making such threats (**seriously or in jest or online**) face detention, suspension, and/or expulsion.

According to Stopbullying.gov, In order to be considered bullying, the behavior must be aggressive and include:

- An Imbalance of Power: Kids who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people; And
- Repetition: Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.

Harassment/Bullying of any type is not tolerated. The administration investigates all complaints of harassment. Students involved in harassing behavior face detention, suspension, and/or expulsion.

Engagement in online activities such as, but not limited to, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, etc. may result in disciplinary actions if the content of the student's blog includes defamatory comments regarding the school, the faculty, other students or the parish.

Parents or volunteers at school photographing events are asked to refrain from posting pictures on Facebook or any other social networking sites that contain images of students other than the family's own child(ren).

### **Anti-Harassment Policy**

Harassment is contrary to Gospel values and has no place in the Catholic school. All students are entitled to study in a school environment that is Christ-centered and free of harassment. Harassment occurs in many ways, including, but not limited to: verbal and written threats, bullying, cyber-bullying, emotional, psychological, physical, racial, and/or sexual. The school will treat complaints of harassment seriously and will respond to such complaints in a prompt, confidential, and thorough manner. Harassment of any type will not be tolerated and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

#### **Procedure/Guidelines**

The following examples are a non-exhaustive list of possible forms of harassment: 1. Verbal or written: comments such as hurtful name-calling, teasing, taunting, gossip, and threats, whether in person or through any form of electronic communication; 2. Bullying: characterized by aggressive behavior toward another, intentional repeated hurtful acts over a period of time, imbalance of power (real or perceived) between the bully and the victim; 3. Cyber-bullying: using electronic communications to do the act of bullying (i.e. email, texting, social network, on-line chats); 4. Physical includes: punching, poking, strangling, hair pulling, beating, biting, spitting, stealing, pinching, and tickling; 5. Emotional: rejecting, terrorizing, extorting, defaming, humiliating, blackmailing, manipulation, isolating, ostracizing, and peer pressure; 6. Sexual: exhibitionism, voyeurism, sexual propositioning, sexual harassment and abuse involving actual physical contact and sexual assault, sex-ting, unwanted touching, inappropriate social networking; 7. Racial includes, but is not limited to, actions based on personal characteristics such as race, disability, ethnicity, or perceived sexual orientation; 8. Jokes, stories, pictures, cartoons, cyber rumors, drawings or objects which are offensive, tend to alarm, annoy, incite, abuse of demean an individual or group. Harassment also includes any other form of treatment or conduct that could create an offensive, intimidating, or hostile environment or otherwise be unwelcomed by a student or group of students. School shall include in their regular instructional programs lessons that teach the dangers and consequences of

harassment. Special assemblies or speakers may be part of the curriculum to inform and educate students. St. Joseph Catholic School shall be proactive in dealing with incidents of harassment, working closely with families, parents, and guardians.

### **Student Records**

St. Joseph Catholic School adheres to the Buckley Amendment (Family Education Rights and Privacy) regarding access to student records. Students requesting records/transcripts/recommendations must make a five school-day request to the School Office. All forms should be submitted to the St. Joseph Catholic School Office for distribution. Completed forms will be sent via the U.S. Mail. Special handling will require that all postal fees be paid by the parents.

**No records will be sent to transferring schools of students whose financial commitment is in arrears.**

### **Technology**

All parents and students must read and sign the Diocese of Orlando Acceptable Use Policy (DNAUP) annually before having access to school technology.

### **Telephone**

Permission to use the telephone for emergencies must be obtained from the school secretary. Students must submit a note from their teacher. The office phone is a business phone and students are permitted to use it only in case of an emergency. **Forgotten homework, athletic equipment, reminders of early dismissals, etc. do not constitute emergencies.** Arrangements for after-school visits with friends should be made at home. Please encourage your child to be responsible for the materials needed for his/her day at school. Delivery of messages and forgotten materials to the classroom causes a disruption for all children in a class. Messages to students and teachers will be relayed only during transition times throughout the day. **Students will not be called out of class to speak to a parent/guardian on the phone.**

### **Testing**

All schools in the Diocese of Orlando are required to administer standardized testing as an integral part of the total instructional program. This testing, however, is *not* “high-stakes” – the results are not used to determine teacher efficacy, nor are they used solely to determine a child’s promotion or retention. Test results/scores are simply one measure of the total composite of a child’s individual academic progress; thus, the information is used to assist teachers in meeting the specific and targeted learning expectations for a child’s appropriate developmental level. This information is critical in helping our teachers provide the best educational opportunities for our students.

Given the number of benefits derived from the standardized testing, the Diocese of Orlando does not allow a parent or a student the choice of “opt-out” of testing. Students who are absent for any reason, including medical absences, during the school’s designated testing window will be rescheduled for testing upon his/her return to school at the discretion of the school’s administration. Students will not be exempted from taking standardized tests.

Accommodations or modifications will be offered as required to meet the qualified child’s learning needs. This means accommodations or modifications are allowed *only* when specifically indicated through testing via a professional evaluation completed as part of the IDEA Child Find process by the public school District, or through a private psychological-educational evaluation approved by the Office of Catholic Schools.

In addition, Catholic schools in the Diocese of Orlando do not write 504 Student Disability plans. Accommodations or modifications are offered at the sole discretion of the school staff and must be based on an evaluation of the documentation provided and other factors deemed relevant by the school staff.

### **Transfer of Students**

Notice of withdrawal of a student should be made by the parent in writing to the Principal in advance of the withdrawal date. This enables the school to prepare necessary information and settle accounts. **No student records will be forwarded to another school until all accounts have been settled.** (See previous section on Student Records for transcript information.)

### **Uniforms and Dress Code**

The school uniform is worn as a symbol of school pride. Uniform components (pants, shorts, skirts, skorts, jumpers, blouses, shirts, sweatshirts, and sweaters) must be purchased through St. Joseph Catholic School’s uniform store. Please label all clothing so that it can be returned if misplaced. The administration reserves the right to request a change of clothing for inappropriate dress on days that students are permitted to dress out of uniform.

All students must be in uniform every day. There will be out-of-uniform days which will be announced during the course of the school year (a dress code for such days is included in this section). If there is a time when the prescribed uniform cannot for some legitimate reason be worn, a note from the parent/guardian must be written to the principal. Students who are out of uniform without this excuse will be sent to the office and the parent will be called to bring the proper clothing. There is a special uniform for Physical Education classes, also to be purchased through St. Joseph Catholic School.

- Girls in Kindergarten – Grade 3: Blue and white plaid jumper or walking shorts. Skirt length may not be shorter than 3 inches above the bend of the knee (back of the leg). Short length may not be shorter than 4” above the bend of the knee (back of the leg). Plaid jumper must be worn with a white uniform shirt on mass days.
- Girls in Grade 4 – 8: Blue and white plaid skirt or walking shorts. Skirt length may not be shorter than 3 inches above the bend of the knee (back of the leg). Short length may not be shorter than 4” above the bend of the knee (back of the leg). Plaid skirt must be worn with a white uniform shirt on mass days.

- All students will wear the PE uniform on PE days. Students in grades 5 through 8 will change clothes for PE in the locker room. The PE uniform is: navy PE shorts, PE uniform, tennis shoes and socks.
- Solid navy blue uniform shorts or pants purchased at the uniform store for all students. Middle school students (grade 6-8) may wear blue or khaki shorts or pants purchased at the uniform store.
- Solid blue, white or red knit uniform shirt with collar can be worn everyday. White shirts are to be worn by all students on mass days (Wednesdays). All shirts must be tucked in.
- All students must wear solid white or black socks. **Logos are not permitted on socks**
- Predominantly white, black, grey, brown or navy shoes are to be worn with laces matching the predominant color of the shoes. The shoes may have one secondary color.
- Navy or white tights may be worn in the colder months under jumper or skirts. Leggings are not permitted.
- In cool weather, all outer wear worn inside the classroom must be purchased through the boosters or uniform store and should have the school logo.
- The red shirt should not be worn with the plaid bottoms.
  - Long sleeve polo with school logo
  - A solid **white** t-shirt may be worn under the uniform shirt. The sleeves cannot extend beyond the uniform sleeve.
  - A solid, plain navy, brown or black belt must be worn with all uniform shorts and pants for students in third to eighth grade. Belts must be placed through the belt loops and be visible. No large buckles or metal decorations are allowed.
- No radical hairstyles or hair colors are permitted. No highlights or alterations to natural hair color are allowed. No elaborate hair decorations are allowed.
- No head coverings, sweat headbands, armbands, or warm-up jackets, etc. are allowed.
- Boys may not wear earrings.
- Boys' hair must be above the brow, not past the mid point of the ear, and cannot touch the shirt collar. Boys must be clean shaven. Sideburns cannot be below the mid section of the ear.
- Girls may wear **one** earring per ear lobe, which cannot be larger than a dime. For safety reasons, hoop or dangle earrings may not be worn. One necklace and one bracelet may be worn.
- No makeup of any kind may be worn.
- No ankle bracelets may be worn
- If nail polish is worn, all fingernails must be the same color. Dark polish cannot be worn.
- **Scout Uniforms** – Students may wear the scout uniforms on meeting days.

### Winter Uniforms

Students can only wear St. Joseph Catholic School sweatshirts or sweaters in the classroom. Long sleeve polos are available to purchase but not mandatory. Students (boys and girls) can wear uniform pants on cold days, even to Mass. Unless the student has PE on a cold day they cannot wear the uniform sweat suit (except PreK 3 & 4) instead of the school uniform. Middle school students NEVER wear PE sweats in place of uniform clothes even on PE days. If wearing a t-shirt under the uniform shirt, it must be WHITE. The sleeves cannot extend beyond the uniform sleeve. Jackets, coats, hats, scarves and gloves are outer wear and are not worn inside the classroom.

In the event that the forecasted low temperature for a given morning is 35 degrees or below, students may wear appropriate khaki pants with uniform shirts. The khaki pants cannot be cargo pants, must have a belt loop, and the student must wear a solid, plain, navy, brown or black belt.

### Guidelines for Dress-out Days

Dress-out days are allowed during the school year to foster enthusiasm for clubs, athletics, academic programs or celebrations. It is expected, however, that all students dress appropriately for school and church. The following guidelines are to be followed in selecting clothing for Dress-out Days. As with all else, the administration reserves the right to make the final decision on what is and is not considered appropriate casual wear.

### **Unacceptable Clothing**

Immodest shorts (Short length may not be shorter than 4" above the bend of the knee (back of the leg)  
Sloppy or ragged clothing  
Tank tops or tube tops  
Spaghetti straps  
Low-cut or revealing shirts/pants/jeans/shorts/dresses/skirts  
Exposed abdomens (even when arm is raised)  
See-through clothing  
Exposed underwear of any kind  
Lace-up blouses/dresses  
Tight or revealing clothing including yoga pants, pjs, lounge pants  
Clothing posing a safety problem  
Any clothing that advertises alcohol, drugs, tobacco, obscenities, or promotes alternative music/lifestyles (or suggests any of the above)  
Flip-flop or skate shoes  
Students cannot wear or bring any article which would cause a learning disruption or that violates school standards

**Good Rule for dress out days: If you think you shouldn't wear it, don't.**

**ALL UNIFORM REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES ARE SUBJECT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION**

### **Visitors/Volunteers**

School visitors (volunteers, parents, etc.) must come to the main office. For the safety and security of students, each person is required to sign in at the office when he/she on campus for any reason. All visitors and/or volunteers are required to wear a designated badge that may be picked up in the office. Visitors and/or volunteers are to sign out at the time of departure. All volunteers must have had their fingerprints cleared through the Diocese of Orlando and view the Safe Environment Video (and submit the quiz results to the school office) before coming onto the school property. Finger Print clearance is valid for 5 years.

### **Withdrawal Policy**

- Families must notify the school in writing if a student is withdrawn from the school. **If a student has attended any portion of a month, or the school is not notified in writing that the student has withdrawn, the family is responsible for the entire month's tuition.**
- The school will not forward records for students who withdraw with an outstanding balance.
- Just as parents have the right to withdraw a child, the school administration reserves the right to require the withdrawal of a student if deemed necessary.

**Right to Amend** St. Joseph Catholic School reserves the right to amend this Handbook. Notice of amendments will be sent to parents via the Eagle's Express Envelope.