

About St. Joseph School

Mission Statement

Under the guidance of St. Joseph, Patron Saint of the Universal Church, Saint Joseph School endeavors to achieve academic excellence in a faith-filled and safe environment. The school staff and parents collaborate to develop students' spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and physical well-being in a traditional Catholic setting.

Statement on Prayer

Prayer is an important part of our school day. Each day the students and teachers begin with the opening exercises of the Morning Offering and pray various prayers throughout the school day. Every morning all students and staff pray the Morning Offering and the Angel of God prayer, and salute the cross and the flag.

Statement on Catholic Identity

While most of the religion curriculum at St. Joseph School is generic to all Christian denominations, doctrines and practices that are specific to the Roman Catholic Church are the core of our Religion curriculum. Although non-Catholic students are not expected to adhere to Catholic practices, they are expected to regard our practices and beliefs with respect and to participate in religion classes and discussions as well as all religious activities conducted in the school.

Statement on Non-Discrimination

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

Philosophy

Saint Joseph School takes as its primary reason for existence the command of Jesus “Go teach all nations, teach them to observe what I have commanded you” (Mt 28:19-20).

We provide a sound academic curriculum that incorporates Gospel values. The atmosphere at Saint Joseph School is structured, purposeful, and conducive to learning self-discipline. The school fosters social and emotional development according to the teachings of Christ.

St. Joseph School offers a sound religious program based on Gospel values and the Magisterium of the Church, which is incorporated into all aspects of the school; provides opportunities to live the Catholic faith through witness and service to others; provides a challenging academic program in accordance with Diocesan and state requirements; and fosters the spiritual, academic, social, and emotional growth of the students.

History

The pastor of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church in Baltic, CT, Rev. J.C. Van Laar, saw the need to establish a school for the children of this town. He requested the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of Mercy in Tilburg, Holland, to staff this school. The sisters arrived on October 7, 1874, and officially opened St. Joseph School on October 15, 1874, with four hundred students, using the old public-school building. Classes were moved to the Academy of the Holy Family in 1919, and on August 27, 1950, the present building was blessed. In 1970, the sisters staffing the school became a new congregation, the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church.

In 1984, a new addition with three classrooms was dedicated. In the years that followed, new programs were added to the curriculum and the Extended Day Program was also added to accommodate working parents. In 1992, the pre-kindergarten program was initiated. Since then, several extracurricular programs were added as delineated in this handbook. Technology advances were also made with a computer lab as well as computers in every classroom and several LCD projectors. Students also have access to iPads, tablets, and chrome books. In addition, Italian is offered to students in grades one to four and Spanish is offered in grades five to eight. St. Joseph School continues to offer quality Catholic education to its students, maintaining traditional Catholic values while at the same time embracing the opportunities and challenges of the future.

Accreditation

St. Joseph School is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and thereby approved by the State of Connecticut.

Faculty and Staff 2021-2022

Reverend Joseph Tito
Sister Mary Patrick, SCMC
Sister M. Loreto, SCMC

Mrs. Cynthia Gaccione
Miss Joan Pagliuso
Sister M. Joan Marie, SCMC
TBA

Mrs. Tammy Lamb
Mrs. Chris Siebert
Mrs. Mona Anne Niedbala
Sister M. Michele, SCMC
Miss Elisha Gray
Miss Shelley Erickson
Mrs. Lori Proulx
Mrs. Kaitlin Cassidy
Mr. Glenn Costello
Mrs. Susan O'Neil

Mrs. Marie Gaucher
Mrs. Diane Gray
Mrs. Amanda Strickland
Mrs. Gina Potvin, TBA
Mr. Thomas O'Callaghan
Mr. Jarrod Begin

Pastor
Principal, Music
Assistant Principal, Science Grades 7, 8,
Language Arts and Reading, Grade 5,
Computers 5,7,
Pre-kindergarten
Kindergarten, Italian, Religion 2
Grade 1
Grade 2
Grades 3 & 4
Grades 3 & 4 Aide, Librarian
Middle School Religion
Middle School History
Middle School English and Literature, Computer 6
Middle School Math, Science grades 5,6
Spanish 5,6,7,8
Art
Physical Education
Administrative Assistant, Child Advocate,
Computers K – 4
Tutor
Tutor
School Nurse
Extended Day Program
Maintenance
Custodian

Advisory Board

Rev. Joseph Tito, Pastor
Sr. Mary Patrick, SCMC, Principal
Mr. Edgar Daigneault
Mrs. Nancy Holte

Mr. Ethan Tanksley
Mrs. Deborah Baker
Mr. Paul Gagnon
Mrs. Laura Leschinsky

Home-School Association

Mrs. Elizabeth Wigfield

Mrs. Angela May

Safety Team

Sr. Mary Patrick, SCMC, Principal
Mr. Ethan Tanksley

Mr. Tom O'Callaghan
Mrs. Amanda Strickland

Admissions Policies

Ensuring Appropriate Placement

All students are to meet with the principal and are highly encouraged to “shadow” for a day.

In addition, all students shall be screened/tested to determine the level of readiness and/or academic achievement to ensure appropriate grade placement:

- Students entering pre-kindergarten must be three (PK3) or four (PK4) by December 31, and must meet with the prekindergarten teacher. They must be successfully potty-trained. The school reserves the right to determine whether a child meets this criterion.
- Students entering PK4 must be four by December 31.
- Students entering kindergarten must be five by December 31. They must take the Brigance screening test.
- Students entering the grades one – eight must take a placement test.

No child will be accepted at St. Joseph School if in the judgment of the administration of the school it is felt that this school cannot meet the educational-developmental needs of the child.

All new students will be accepted on a probationary period of six weeks.

Required Documentation

The school must receive the following documentation before a child may begin to attend: 1) registration form, 2) transcript from previous school, 3) copy of birth certificate, 4) copy of social security card, 5) immunization record, 6) baptismal certificate if Catholic, and 7) certificates of First Reconciliation and Communion if Catholic and above second grade.

Priority of Admissions

If all eligible applicants cannot be admitted due to space constraints, new students are accepted in this order of priority: children of parishioners of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, children from families already enrolled in the school, children from families newly moved into a parish, Catholic children from other parishes families, and other eligible children.

Family Involvement

Parent Role in Education & Obligations

To ensure success for each student, parents need to

- provide adequate time, space and materials for students to do homework;
- monitor homework;
- review and sign papers as requested by the teacher;
- insist that their children assume responsibility for their own work;
- see that their children arrive at school on time; and
- support and adhere to all policies of St. Joseph School.

It is the responsibility of every parent to uphold the values and high standards of St. Joseph School. Each parent should support the policies and work as part of a team to impart to “our” children that responsibility will take us beyond the academic world. A parent has the responsibility to be a good example in Christian behavior and to communicate a positive attitude about school, the staff, and learning to their children. Parental involvement with the school, working with teachers, and reading to children are the kinds of things that positively influence student learning. We welcome all parents to the partnership of educating their children. Continued negativity and non-compliance with school policies on the part of the parents or the student(s) will result in the student(s) being asked to leave St. Joseph School. This also applies to anyone who disturbs the peace and harmony of the school in any way.

Home-School Association

Every parent should become an active member of the home-school association. As members of the home-school association, parents:

- attend scheduled meetings of the home-school association,
- assist the school in its continuing goal of improving the quality of Catholic education,
- promote a clearer understanding of the mutual, spiritual and educational responsibilities of parents and teachers,
- assist in St. Joseph School finances by raising a portion of the school’s income through fund raisers,
- assist the school in scheduled activities.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

As indicated in the school calendar, two parent-teacher conference periods are scheduled during the school year, in October and March. Conferences are held for all students in October, but in March only for students whose parents or teachers request it.

Outside of these scheduled periods, conferences with teachers are strongly recommended at any time if there is a need. Any parent wishing to see a teacher should schedule an appointment with the child's teacher. A teacher may also contact a parent to request a conference. Whenever a problem exists, parents should contact the classroom teacher before contacting the Principal. If a problem remains after the discussion, then contact the Principal.

Volunteers

Parents, grandparents, and other relatives are encouraged to volunteer their time, skills, and talents when and where they are able. Parents are also welcomed to be guest speakers in classrooms where a presentation would be of interest and enrichment to our students. The first and greatest benefits of schools are the giving of time and talents to our fundraisers. Anyone who volunteers on a regular basis is required to fulfill all required forms from the Office for Safe Environments. All information regarding this may be obtained in the school office. **However, at this time, due to COVID, volunteers are very limited.**

Visitors

Apart from a formal Open House program, visitors will be allowed to assist classes with projects, etc. only with the expressed consent of the Principal and with prior notification of the teachers involved. Consent should be given only when a visit will serve a valuable purpose and will not unduly disturb the class. **However, due to COVID restrictions, visitors to the school have been extremely limited.**

All visitors to the school are expected to report first to the school office. Visitors must sign in, state the purpose of their visit, and wear a visitor's badge. No one entering the school is to go directly to any classroom. Neither teachers nor classes should be interrupted during class time. The same procedure is true at dismissal time. Please do not go directly to a classroom during dismissal time to get homework or to speak with the teachers. Please wait until dismissal time is over. If you have an appointment with a teacher after dismissal, please stop at the office and report your arrival before proceeding to the classroom.

Financial Policies

Tuition Payment Options

All student tuition must be processed through the FACTS program. The tuition payment options are as follows:

1. Payment in full: Make one direct payment to the school no later than August 15, 2021.
2. Two payments: Make the first payment by August 15, 2019 and the second payment by January 15, 2022. The FACTS fee for this is \$10.
3. Payment through in ten equal installments: Payments are due on the 5th or 20th of each month, August through May. The FACTS fee is \$45.

All tuition rates are published on the school website and may also be obtained in the school office.

Tuition Assistance

The school offers some tuition assistance to those in need through the Catholic Foundation Program. Applicants must complete the tuition assistance form through FACTS online program, and submit W-2 forms and a 1040 form for the most recent two-year period. Parents will be given sufficient notice for the deadline for this grant which is due by March 1, 2022.

Non-Tuition Fees

The registration fee is \$50 per family (nonrefundable) and the book fee is \$100 per student in grades kindergarten through eight.

Refund Policy

The registration fee is not refundable. The book fee is refundable until the child receives the books. Tuition is prorated after October and until April 30. No refunds are given after April 30.

Fundraising

Since tuition does not cover the entire cost of educating our students, all parents are expected to assist the school in fundraising events. The events include the walk-a-thon, read-a-thon, the annual basket raffle and auction, annual rummage sale, and the golf tournament. Although some proceeds may be ear-marked for a particular cause, a good part of fundraising proceeds goes to the operating account. **These events may be limited due to COVID.**

The eighth-grade class is responsible for fundraising to cover the costs of their class trip, class night, and graduation.

Miscellaneous Money

Any money sent to the school for milk, hot lunch, snacks, books, etc. must be in an envelope with the student's name, grade, and purpose of the money clearly indicated.

Academics

Curriculum

St. Joseph School's curriculum follows the standards approved by the Archdiocese of Hartford, which is available in the office. Classroom teachers teach religion, language arts, reading/literature, mathematics, science, and social studies (and handwriting for kindergarten through grade four). Special teachers teach art, music, computers, physical education, and world languages.

Homework

All students in kindergarten through grade eight are expected to complete homework assignments to reinforce concepts taught in the classroom. Parents can help by providing a quiet place for their children to do their homework and by checking their assignments. Homework may include reading assignments, written work, studying for a test or quiz, and some form of research. Any concerns regarding homework are to be directed to the classroom teachers. The following is a general time frame for daily homework:

Kindergarten	15 minutes
Grade 1	15 minutes
Grade 2	20 minutes
Grade 3	30 minutes
Grade 4	40 minutes
Grade 5	50 minutes
Grade 6	60 minutes
Grade 7	90 minutes
Grade 8	90 minutes

Retakes

Students who receive a grade below 70 on quizzes, tests, and projects have the opportunity to improve the grade, but it must be done within a week. The retake grade will be averaged in with the original grade. However, this should not be a common practice as students should be prepared for the initial test.

After-School Help

All teachers are ready to aid their students with schoolwork and are available to give extra help. For the middle school, this primarily takes place in the form of Homework Club, which is held every Tuesday afternoon from 3:00 to 4:00.

Ordinarily, it is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with his/her teachers for this instruction; however, a teacher may arrange for a student to stay after school if he/she believes it is in the child's best interest. Parents must give written permission for a child to be in school during after-school hours.

Final Exams

Seventh and eighth graders will have final exams in all major subjects at the end of the year based on the second half of the school year. The final exam is worth two major test grades. These students will receive a study guide and exam schedule.

Students in grades five and six will take a major unit test in lieu of a final exam.

Grading Code

St. Joseph School follows the Diocesan grading code which is as follows:

Grades 3-8

A+	97-100	C+	77-79
A	93-96	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	65-66
B-	80-82	F	0-64

Grades PK-2

E	Exceeding standards
P	Approaching standards
M	Meeting standards
I	Needs improvement
N	Not assessed at this time

Please note that the E-N system used for the lower grades is also used to assess skills in the upper grades.

Report Cards & Progress Reports

Written reports shall be issued to parents three times a year, at the end of each term. The report shall include information on the student's academic achievement, attitude, behavior, and attendance. Failure must not come as a surprise to parents, who have a right to notification and warning so they can take the necessary steps to ensure better schoolwork on the part of their child.

To keep parents updated on their children's progress, progress reports are issued during the interim of each marking period. These are sent home for all students in the middle of the first term. Parents receive progress reports in the middle of the second and third terms only if students are experiencing academic difficulty. Throughout the academic year, if a student's progress is judged to be deficient, the parents will be notified. Deficiency reports will be sent home as needed.

The report schedule for the current school year is as follows:

Term	Progress Report	Report Card
1	October 6	November 17
2	January 12	March 16
3	April 6	June 3

Honor Roll

The Honor Roll is published at the end of each trimester. For the final term, honor roll status is determined by the final average in each major subject. Each honor roll student receives a certificate, and the honor roll is submitted to Our Town.

To make **Principal's Honors**, a student must receive an A in each of the major subjects, and receive no more than one C, and nothing below a C, in the special subjects.

To make **High Honors**, a student may receive a B in one major subject, but must receive an A in each of the other major subjects. He or she must receive no more than one C, and nothing below a C, in the special subjects.

To make **Honors**, a student must receive at least a B in each of the other major subjects. He or she must receive no more than one C, and nothing below a C, in the special subjects.

Major subjects are religion, language arts, reading/literature, math, science, and social students. Special subjects are world language, spelling (for middle school), physical education, art, music, and computers.

Promotion & Graduation Requirements

All students are required to pass all major subjects for the year. Any student who fails a major subject for the year will be required to make it up through an approved tutoring program or summer school program. No student will graduate from St. Joseph School unless he or she has passed all major subjects. The Principal reserves the right to make decisions regarding the academic status of students.

Retention Policy

Parents of students with any serious academic difficulty will be notified by the end of the second trimester. Some factors that might make it necessary for a child to repeat a grade are:

- failure to achieve at grade level;
- failure to complete all tests and major assignments;
- frequent absenteeism or tardiness; and
- lack of social, emotional, or physical development which inhibits performance.

Academic Probation

Any student who is in serious academic difficulty will be placed on academic probation. A meeting with the parents, teacher(s), and the principal will be scheduled for this purpose to determine a plan of action.

Standardized Testing

St. Joseph School administers standardized tests to its students in accordance with Diocesan School Policy. Test results assist teachers in identifying a student's strengths and weaknesses. They also afford the administration and the staff the opportunity to evaluate the curriculum and address any concerns.

Grades	Test	Time Frame
PK	Brigance	May
K	NWEA	Winter, Spring
1- 8	NWEA	Fall, Winter, Spring

Student Conduct

General

It is in keeping with the philosophy of St. Joseph School to encourage and to assist students in achieving age-appropriate self-discipline. A healthy self-discipline will help the individual student grow and will create a safe and productive environment for all concerned. In the event that students exhibit behavior contrary to our philosophy and interfere with the growth of other students, measures will be taken to reverse this behavior, keeping in mind the good of the individual student and the class and the school as a whole.

Therefore, St. Joseph School students are expected to

- speak politely to every person they come in contact with;
- respect themselves and others by keeping hands to themselves;
- be prepared for class at all times, including by studying for tests and quizzes and handing in homework and class assignments on time;
- perform their duties with the highest degree of effort;
- have a serious attitude in the classroom;
- respect the belongings of others and never use them without permission;
- have respect for school property and materials;
- be as quiet as possible in the corridors and stairwells;
- never run inside (other than during gym class);
- refrain from gum-chewing on school property and on the bus; and
- conduct themselves in an orderly fashion.

Off-Campus Conduct

Any conduct, in or out of school, that reflects negatively upon the reputation of the school may be subject to disciplinary action. The school reserves the right to discipline a student for actions committed off-campus, especially if they are intended to have an effect on a student or they adversely affect the safety and well-being of a student while in school.

Care of School Property

Students are responsible for the proper care of school property. This includes the school grounds, school buildings, equipment and any school materials. Students will be expected to make restitution for damage to school property, including the loss and defacement of textbooks and/or library books, chrome books, tablets, and iPads.. Students are also expected to show respect for the belongings of other students.

Students in grades K-8 are assigned desks, and all students in grades 5-8 are given lockers. These are the property of the school and must be maintained in a clean and orderly fashion. If the occasion warrants, the administration reserves the right to search this school property.

Technology and the Internet

St. Joseph School has internet access to be used for educational purposes. Proper blocks via a firewall are in place. Students are responsible for accessing only appropriate websites and reporting any accidental “hits” of inappropriate sites. Forbidden behavior regarding technology and internet use consists of the following:

- sending, displaying, or downloading offensive messages or pictures;
- using obscene language;
- cyber bullying, including retaliation, harassing, insulting, or threatening others;
- damaging of computer systems or computer networks;
- violating copyright laws;
- submitting documents from the internet as a student’s personal work;
- using another person’s login information;
- trespassing in someone else’s folder, work, or files;
- intentionally wasting limited resources;
- using the network for commercial purposes;
- revealing personal information, one’s own or another’s; and
- any other infraction as determined by the principal.

Students who do not comply with the above usage rules will forfeit their usage privileges. All students and parents are to sign and return the Diocesan “Acceptable Use Policy” at the beginning of the year.

Intellectual Integrity

Technological advances have made plagiarism easier and more tempting than ever. St. Joseph School is committed to fostering its students' honesty and integrity, both through strict anti-plagiarism policy and through promoting the good work habits that prevent students from feeling the need to plagiarize.

St. Joseph School will not tolerate any form of cheating or plagiarism. Taking materials from any source and presenting it as one's own is plagiarism. It is morally wrong and unacceptable. If a teacher determines that a student has plagiarized, the parent will be notified. The Principal will determine the consequences of the act of plagiarism after consultation with the teacher. **Ordinarily, a detention is given to the student and the student receives a 0 for the assignment.**

School Bus Rules

Students riding the school bus must abide by the following rules:

- Follow the directions of the bus driver or other adults in authority.
- Remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
- Respect others.
- Wear a face mask
- Use appropriate language.
- Do not play on the bus; do not run and play at the bus stop.
- Eating, drinking and gum-chewing are not permitted on the bus.
- Keep any balls brought to school for recess in a bag while the student is in transit.
- Observe state and federal motor vehicle laws (Sec. 14-175).

Students in violation of the above rules will be reported in writing to the principal and parent. Reports from the Sprague School Office concerning misconduct on the bus will result in a detention that will ordinarily be served on the following day. Three written reports from the Sprague School office will result in a suspension from the use of the bus for a period. The first period of suspension will result in a three-day loss of bus privileges; the second period will result in a five-day loss of bus privileges; the third period will result in a seven-day loss of bus privileges and will necessitate a conference with the parents or guardians of the student involved.

Questions regarding a bus problem should be directed to the bus company.

Cafeteria Rules

To create an atmosphere that is healthy and conducive to pleasant dining, the students need to attend to the cafeteria rules:

- There are to be subdued tones of conversation at all times.
- It is understood that no food is to be thrown, and no running or shouting is to take place during the cafeteria period.
- Students are expected to remain seated during the ordinary lunch period and not walk around the cafeteria.
- Spills are the responsibility of the students and they are expected to clean any untidiness around their area after each meal. It is also important to throw all waste in the garbage and stack trays neatly.
- Food waste should be kept to a minimum.
- **NB – AT THIS TIME DUE TO COVID, THE AHF HOT LUNCH PROGRAM WILL NOT BE USED.**

Playground Rules

The purpose of recess is to give the students an opportunity for exercise and relaxation between classes. The following directives are given to students who engage in indoor or outdoor recess:

- Students are always expected to respect the teachers on recess duty.
- Students are to be in the play area where the persons on duty are always able to see them.
- Students are encouraged to include everyone in their games and play as much as possible.
- Students may not engage in excessive rough play or any behavior that would endanger the safety of others.

There is to be no physical contact: Hands off!

Electronic Devices and Toys

Electronic devices such as CD players, Game Boys, cell phones, iPod, iPhones, iPads, MP3 players, laser beams, etc. are not allowed in St. Joseph School and will be confiscated and submitted to the office. The first offense will result in a detention, and the parent will have to meet the principal. The second offense will result in the electronic device left in the principal's office for the remainder of the year. **No toys are allowed in St. Joseph School at any time except for "Show and Tell" in preschool, or in morning and after care during COVID. Each student must have his/her own toys.**

Discipline

Detention

Detention will be assigned for the following offenses:

- disruptive classroom behavior;
- disrespect toward any staff member;
- fighting on school grounds;
- rough games that risk injury to students and/or clothes;
- report of misconduct on the bus,
- three unexcused tardy slips within a trimester;
- three uniform violations within a trimester; and
- three incomplete or missing assignments within a month; and
- any offense which the Principal considers deserving of detention.

No student is exempt from a detention. While detention is mostly reserved for the middle school students, it may also apply to students in the lower grades.

Students are given a slip explaining the reason for the detention. It is to be signed by the parent/guardian and returned to the teacher the following day. If the slip is not returned, another detention may be given.

Detentions are ordinarily one hour long and, for middle school students, served on Tuesdays. It is the responsibility of the parents to provide transportation.

Grave Matters

In all matters, particularly those involving suspension and expulsion, the Christian well-being of the individual is to be taken into consideration.

If a student is accused of a crime or a serious misdemeanor, even outside of school time and jurisdiction, the administration of St. Joseph School reserves the right to suspend that student from St. Joseph School if it has reason to believe that the learning environment will be jeopardized or negatively impacted by the student's presence. Teachers will provide schoolwork to be done at home during the time of the suspension. St. Joseph School is not obliged to provide extra help during this time of suspension. After civil authorities resolve the incident, the future status of the student in the school community will be determined by the administration of the school. This may include expulsion.

Suspension

Suspension may be imposed for the following offenses:

- earning multiple detentions,
- repeated disobedience or failure to observe school policies,
- repeated disrespect towards any school personnel, and
- any offense which the Principal considers deserving of suspension.

Suspension means that a student is excluded from classes and all school activities for a given amount of time. All suspensions will be out-of-school suspensions unless otherwise determined by the Principal. During this time, all assignments are to be completed at home under the supervision of parents, and submitted upon return to school.

Expulsion

Expulsion may be imposed the following offenses:

- destructive behavior toward another student or school property;
- harassment or bullying of another student or students in any form, including cyber bullying;
- any form of threatening a teacher or another student;
- use of dangerous substances (e.g. drugs, alcohol, tobacco) or other materials (e.g. fireworks, matches) on school grounds or at a school function of any kind; and
- any offense which the Principal considers deserving of suspension or expulsion.

The proximity of graduation will not exempt a student from punishment.

Expulsion means that a student will be permanently withdrawn from the school and is thereafter not expected to be found in the school, on the premises, or at any school-sponsored function. Expulsion is invoked rarely and only as a last resort. This is determined by the Principal, after consultation with the superintendent and the pastor, and may be appealed to the Diocesan Board of Education. Prior to the expulsion, the student and his/ her parents or guardian will be granted a hearing by the Principal and Assistant Principal. If expulsion is determined, the Principal shall notify the parents or guardian of the reasons in writing and shall file a copy of this notice in the Diocesan School Office. The reason for expulsion shall be added to the permanent record card of the student.

Communication

General Communications

Students receive a special communication folder every Wednesday afternoon, to be returned Thursday morning. All fliers and other general communications to the parents, including a weekly letter from the principal, go home in these folders. In addition, teachers may also send home a weekly memo or letter.

Important information is also available on our website, www.stjosephschoolbaltic.com. This includes all necessary forms, Wednesday letters, upcoming events, the school calendar, monthly hot-lunch menu, and the Parent-Student Handbook.

Urgent Communications

The NOTIFY system will inform all parents of school delays, early dismissals, and closings, and weather-related issues, as well as important reminders and emergency information. The NOTIFY system is also used for important letters from the Principal other than the weekly Wednesday letter. All parents are to complete the NOTIFY form indicating the phone numbers to use as well as email and text information.

Contacting the School

The school telephone number is (860) 822-6141. The Motherhouse number is (860) 822-8241. However, please refrain from calling the Motherhouse between the hours of 4:45 and 6:45 p.m. and after 8:30 p.m. Only call there if it is absolutely necessary.

Contact with Students

Classrooms are not to be disturbed during class time or dismissal time. Telephone calls to the school to leave messages for the students should be rare. Children are not allowed to answer the phone during school time unless it is an emergency. Students will not be permitted to call home for forgotten items. If forgotten items are found at home and brought into school, they are to be left in the office.

Keeping Contact Information Current

Please notify the office if your home number, the number you listed on the emergency form, or your address changes. It is very important that the school has on file the current phone numbers and addresses of all students.

Dress Code

School Uniform

The wearing of a school uniform is specifically designed to encourage and promote Christian values and shall not reflect current fads and trends. The uniform should always be neat and clean and the correct size for the child.

Uniforms may be purchased from www.DonnelysClothing.com (school code = JOSEPBALCT) or www.frenchtoast.com (source code = QS5TVDX). Items ordered from French Toast must be the exact replica of Donnelly's Uniform Company.

Girls' Uniform

The girls' basic uniform consists of

- a maroon plaid jumper (K-4) or skirt (5-8);
- a white blouse, long- or short-sleeved, with a Peter Pan collar;
- The white oxford blouse may be worn for grades 5-8.
- a maroon or plaid tie;
- tights or knee socks, either maroon or white; and
- a maroon cardigan or vest (optional).

During the winter months, girls may substitute gray pants for the jumper or skirt from November 2nd – March 31st. During the spring and summer, they may substitute a maroon or plaid skirt for the jumper or skirt, and a polo shirt for the blouse. Specific dates for summer and winter uniform are set by the principal each year. For the 2021-2022 school year, the optional summer uniform may be worn from August 30th – October 4th, and again from April 25th – the last day of school.

Boys' Uniform

The boys' basic uniform consists of

- gray twill dress slacks;
- a white button-up shirt, long- or short-sleeved;
- a maroon cloth tie;
- a black or brown belt;
- dark socks; and
- a maroon cardigan, V-neck sweater, or vest (optional).

During the summer months, boys may substitute gray walking shorts for the slacks and a polo shirt for the button up, and wear white socks rather than dark ones. The optional summer uniform may be worn from August 30th – October 1st, and again from April 25th until the last day of school.

Shoes

All students are to wear a good sturdy low-heeled (under one inch) tie or buckle shoe, black or brown. Shoes should be safe to wear on the playground. Rubber soles are recommended for safety, but sneakers are not permitted other than on gym day. Shoelaces should match the color of the shoe.

No school shoes may have high tops, cleats, platforms, or wedges. Sandals, clogs, and flip-flops may not be worn. Snow boots are not to be worn in the classroom.

Hair

Boys' hair may not be below the collar and must be kept neat. "Boy buns" are not permitted.

Girls' hair must be pulled back and out of the eyes. Hair ribbons should be small, unobtrusive, and of one of the colors in the uniform. Headbands may be worn, but must also match the school uniform in color. Any hairstyle which is contrary to good hygiene, is a distraction, or disruptive to the purpose of the school will not be permitted.

Tails, stripes and decoratively shaved head styles are not permitted. Hair may not be artificially colored or bleached, and extensions may not be worn. The principal has the final say in this matter.

Accessories & Miscellaneous

Students may wear a watch, a necklace consisting of one small medal and a chain, and one ring on each hand. Girls with pierced ears may wear one stud in each ear; boys may not wear earrings of any sort. No other body piercing is allowed.

Students may not wear nail polish, fake nails, nail tips, makeup (including lip gloss), hair gel or mousse, hairspray, perfume, or aftershave lotion.

Gym Uniform

On gym days, students are to wear the gym uniform rather than the regular one. It consists of

- navy-blue mesh shorts or sweatpants;
- a solid navy-blue tee shirt;
- socks,
- sneakers; and
- a navy-blue sweatshirt (optional).

Students may wear Amber or Jeannie shirts, “Spirit Wear” tee shirts and sweatshirts on these days. They may also wear ankle socks, although these are not to be worn with the regular school uniform.

Students may not substitute leggings for the sweatpants or shorts, and they may not roll up their sweatpants.

Dress-Down Days

There are occasional “dress-down” days on which students do not have to be in uniform. Students may wear casual clothing such as jeans and tee shirts on such days; however, all clothing must be neat, school-appropriate, and safe.

Pants should not be ripped or frayed. Skirts and shorts should be no shorter than three inches above the knee. Tops must be long enough to tuck into the pants or skirt (no visible midribs), have sleeves, and be free of offensive words or graphics. No low-cut or tight-fitting clothing may be worn. For safety reasons, students may not wear flip-flops or sandals. The principal will make the decision whether students may wear shorts on a particular dress-down day.

The school reserves the right to make the final decision whether a child’s casual wear is appropriate for the school setting.

Policy Enforcement

Failure to adhere to any part of the uniform policy may result in a disciplinary action. Three uniform violations will result in one detention.

Attendance

Arrival

The school day officially starts at 8:30 a.m. Students are expected to enter the lower level of the school, through the gym doors, between 8:15 and 8:30 a.m. All students are to cross at the crosswalk and wait for direction from the crossing guard. **At this time, due to COVID 19, Parents may not accompany their children into the gym. All students go directly to their respective classrooms.** The gym doors are closed at 8:30, when morning activities begin. Students arriving later than that must be signed in at the main office.

Dismissal

The school day officially ends at 2:45 p.m. **Parents are to wait outside the gym at 2:45 to pick up their children in grades 3-8, and go to classroom doors to pick up children in grades pre-kindergarten –two. A staff member will request children report to their families outside of the gym. All parents sign out their children on the sign-out sheets using their own pen.**

No student will be released to any person who is not listed on the Release Information Form completed at the beginning of the year by the parents or legal guardians. (Changes to this form may be made during the year, but only in writing, never over the phone.)

If a student's ordinary mode of transportation is changed, parents are expected to send a note to the homeroom teacher who will, in turn, inform the office. If the mode of transportation change needs to be made via phone, please call as early as possible in the day, no later than 2:00 p.m. Calling in to change the mode of transportation should be a rare occurrence.

The regular pickup period ends at 3:00 p.m., at which point the gym doors are closed and children who have not yet been picked up remain in the gym for the after-care program. All children in the after-care program will be picked up either in the gym, or on nice days, in the playground.

Scheduled Early Dismissal

Scheduled early dismissal time for all students on specified days is 12:30 p.m., with the pickup period ending at 12:45 p.m. This occurs every first Friday of the month and other times stated by the principal.

Unscheduled Closures

St. Joseph School follows the Sprague Public School System in school closures for inclement weather or similar situations. Cancellations, delays, and early closings will be announced through the NOTIFY Program and the school website. In addition, these announcements are also broadcast over several radio and television stations: WICH (1310), WFSB (Channel 3), NBC 30 (Connecticut News), and WTIC.

There are 180 days of school for our students and 183 days for the staff. If a snowstorm is predicted, the students will receive SNOW PACKETS, work that is to be done at home or assignments through Google Classroom. The purpose of this is to keep the students current in their schoolwork **It is the responsibility of the parents to see that all assignments of the SNOW PACKET or on Google Classroom are completed before the child returns to school.**

Remote learning is used only if a student has been exposed to COVID, has COVID, or for any specific reason with the permission of the Principal. No students should assume that he/she can use remote learning for any reason.

Absences

If a child must be out on a given day, parents are asked to **call the office** at (860) 822-6141 before 9:00 a.m. that morning and give the reason for the absence.

If the school doesn't receive a call, the school nurse will contact the parent(s) at home or at the place of employment.

If parents cannot be reached when their child is absent, they are to send a written note when the child returns to school after being absent for more than one day, giving the dates of the absence and confirming the reason.

Students may not attend **after-school or evening activities** if they were absent from school on the day of the activity.

Assignments will be available at the school office. Or sent through Google Classroom.. A note may be sent with a sibling so that he or she may get the assignments from the teacher.

When a student has been absent, it is his/ her responsibility to make arrangements with the teacher to catch up on the missed lessons, to submit the make-up work that was done at home when returning to school, and to take any missed quizzes and tests. A student is usually given one day per each absent day to make up work and take tests and quizzes, although this may be adjusted at the discretion of the teacher.

Excessive Absences

Regular attendance at school is essential for satisfactory performance. Therefore, no student may accumulate more than twenty unexcused absences for the entire school year. Students absent for more than twenty days will be seriously considered for retention, and may have to attend summer school to make up for lost time and skills. However,

After ten absences, a letter will be sent home notifying the parents of the child's accumulated absences. The same will occur after fifteen absences.

Exceptions to the twenty-absences policy may be made in cases of extreme medical conditions at the discretion of the principal and in consultation with the Diocesan School Superintendent. **This also includes any COVID 19 absences which may cause students to miss school due to quarantining.**

Appointments and Vacations

All **appointments** should be made outside of school time. Emergencies are exceptions. **If a child must have a medical or dental appointment during the school day, a note from the doctor's office must be submitted upon return to school.**

Family vacations should coincide with scheduled vacations on the school calendar. We strongly urge parents to cooperate in this policy. We cannot educate children who are not in school. In the rare event that time must be taken during the school day, a note of explanation must be sent to the principal.

Students are responsible for any work missed. They will not receive the assignments in advance, and are to confer with their teacher(s) upon their return to school for the makeup work. Parents are to remember, however, that class presentations and discussions can never be made up, and that some students have difficulty catching up. **No special help will be given to students who have taken a vacation outside of the approved vacations listed in the school calendar.**

Tardiness

Teachers take attendance at 8:30 a.m. Students not in homeroom by 8:30 are tardy. Students arriving to school after this point must report to the office, accompanied by a parent or guardian, to sign in. They will be issued a late slip before reporting to class.

Reasons for excused “tardies” include the following: doctor or dentist appointment, poor road conditions, and family emergency.

If a student has three unexcused “tardies”, he or she will serve a detention. Frequent or habitual tardiness is disruptive and detrimental to the learning process. Parents must be aware that excessive unexcused tardiness is unacceptable and may lead to a report to DCF.

Early Pickup

A written request from parents or guardians is required for a child to leave school before the time of dismissal. The request must clearly state the reason for early dismissal. Students will be released only to parents or to someone authorized by them.

The parent or a designated representative must come to the office for the child. Outside of regular daily dismissal, no child may leave the school without following this procedure.

When a child becomes sick at school, the school will first contact a parent or guardian. If a parent or guardian cannot be reached, the school will get in touch with the emergency contact on the Emergency Release Form. (Each child must have an Emergency Release Form in the office.) The same sign-out process then applies as in planned early pickups: A parent or designated representative must come to the office for the child. Children will not be dismissed from a classroom or sent home alone.

Health

Student Illness and Public Health

Please note: Children who are sick should not be sent to school. They must be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school.

Following an absence of five consecutive days for reason of illness, a doctor's certificate allowing the child to return to school is required. Saturday and Sunday are included in the five days if the child has been absent Friday and then the following Monday.

Required Physical Exams and Immunizations

Physical exams are required before entry into pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and seventh grade. They must include

- hematocrit or hemoglobin tests;
- weight, height, and blood pressure measurements;
- updating of immunizations;
- vision, hearing, postural and gross dental screening;
- health history, as doctor feels appropriate; and
- tuberculosis screening.

Students must be up-to-date on their immunizations. Immunization requirements for each grade level can be found on the [website](#) of the Connecticut State Department of Public Health. They are also found at the end of this handbook.

In-School Health Screenings

Each year the following screenings are carried out:

- vision screening (K-8),
- hearing screening (K-8), and
- postural screening (5-8).

Injuries

If a student's activities are limited due to an injury or a health problem, a written note from a doctor is required. Students will not be excused from physical education classes without a note.

Administration of Medications

Section 10-212a of the Connecticut State Statutes requires written authorization, signed by the physician and the parent or guardian, before any medication can be dispensed in school. Authorization forms are available in the school nurse's office, and in most doctors' offices. Continued usage of medication in school must be renewed at the beginning of each school year.

All medications must be in the original containers and brought to school by a parent or authorized adult. Medicines should never be sent in with a child. Nasal sprays and the like must not be brought to school unless ordered by a physician. In cases of medicine being taken for a single occasion or for a brief period, a parent may come to the school office and administer the medication to the student. If a student is to self-carry (as in the use of inhalers), the student must have a physician's authorization and parent's signature indicating permission to do so.

It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to pick up all students' medications at the close of the school year.

Safety

Emergency Procedures

Fire drills, lock-down drills, and evacuation drills are conducted on a regular basis to ensure the safety of all students in emergency situations.

St. Joseph School has established emergency procedures that are published in the school Emergency Manual. These manuals are in all the offices and classrooms.

Bullying

Bullying is prohibited at St. Joseph School. Behaviors characterized as bullying will not be tolerated during the school day or during any school-sponsored activities, on or off school grounds. Bullying and intimidation are actions which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Bullying is defined as any overt action by a student or a group of students directed against another student with the intent to ridicule, humiliate or intimidate the other student which acts are repeated against the same student over time. Bullying includes physical intimidation or assault, extortion, oral, written or electronic threats, teasing, “putdowns”, name-calling, threatening looks, gestures or actions, cruel rumors, false accusations, and social isolation.

Any behavior deemed by the school administration to be bullying shall result in disciplinary actions, which may include detention, suspension, or expulsion from the school, depending on the nature of the incident. Any student who retaliates against another student for reporting bullying may be subject to disciplinary actions which may include detention, suspension, or expulsion from the school.

Harassment

In keeping with Christian values and recognizing the value of each person, we at St. Joseph School insist on respect for each person. Harassment will not be tolerated, whether it be verbal, physical, or sexual. Threats against individuals or the general safety of all will be dealt with very seriously. The consequences of these behaviors will be determined by the seriousness of the violation and will result in an in-school suspension or expulsion. The dignity and safety of each individual person will be safeguarded by the administration, teachers, and staff.

Accident Insurance

St. Joseph School is enrolled in an accident insurance policy with Philadelphia Insurance Company. Each student is covered for any school-related accident. The coverage extends door-to-door, from the time the student leaves for school in the morning until he/she returns home in the afternoon. It also involves any school-sponsored extracurricular activities 12 months a year. This policy will cover expenses (i.e. deductibles, etc.) over the child's existing insurance.

If an accident occurs, contact the school office for an accident report form. For more information about this insurance, call 1 800 952-4320.

Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse

In keeping with Section 17-38 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, any school principal, teacher, psychologist, nurse, guidance counselor, social worker, parish priest shall report, or cause a report to be made, to the local DCF office concerning any case of suspected child abuse. All staff members of St. Joseph School are mandated reporters and abide by this law.

Safe Environments Policies

Safe Environments refers to environments that are created and maintained to provide students, staff, and volunteers with the safest possible place to study and work.

St. Joseph School is in complete compliance with all the requirements with the Office for Safe Environments with regard to the Pastoral Code of Conduct. All staff members are required to go through a comprehensive screening process which includes a background check and successful participation in the Armatus online training. Information pamphlets for children and parents are available outside the school office. This information is issued to the students, staff, and parents at the beginning of each school year.

Food Service

Milk, and Orange Juice

All students must bring a bag lunch to school for this year as the hot lunch program at the Academy of the Holy Family has been eliminated for this year due to COVID. St. Joseph School participates in the federal milk program, which provides milk at \$.25 per half pint. The school also offers orange juice for \$.30 per half pint. Please pay for this by check.

Extracurricular Activities

General Information

Participation in extracurricular activities is highly encouraged. However, it must be remembered that this is a privilege, not a right. At all times, the students must remember that they represent the school and are expected to have a positive attitude and be cooperative with the moderators of these groups. If a student will be absent from an after-school club or activity, please send in a note to the office. **For the time being, due to COVID, all extra-curricular activities have been suspended. If and when they are resumed, all parents and students will be notified.**

Field Trips

Each class makes at least one trip of an educational nature each year. Field trips are a privilege. Parent permission for such trips is necessary, and forms are sent home for parent's consent and signature. If the signed permission slip is not returned to the school, the student may not participate in the trip. No permission will be accepted via the telephone.

Parents must cover the cost of the arrangements before a child may participate in a field trip. However, some field trip expenses are covered using the Home-School Association revenue. Efforts are made to keep the cost to a minimum.

The teacher is the supervisor of the trips and is responsible for all the decisions made. While parents are often encouraged to be chaperones, the number may be limited to the space available. Parents may not transport students on field trips unless they have followed the procedures outlined by the Diocese of Norwich under the Safe Environment for Children policies.

Uniforms are to be worn on class trips unless the Principal approves other appropriate dress.

According to Diocesan policy, no overnight field trips are permitted.

A teacher may make a request for a child to miss a field trip if he/she has not been completing schoolwork or has been continually misbehaving. If a student would miss a field trip due to these circumstances, no refunds for the trip will be given.

Student Council

Students in grades six, seven, and eight are eligible for Student Council with the approval of their teachers. The purpose of this group is to provide students with leadership opportunities, to enhance school spirit, and to provide service opportunities both in the school and in the community. The group helps to plan and orchestrate school activities, especially during Catholic Schools Week and Spirit Week.

Clubs NB While the following clubs and activities are described in this section, please note that everything depends on the status of COVID. Parents will be informed if any of these activities/clubs are re-established.

Sport-Stacking Club: Students in grades 1-8 are eligible to participate in sport-stacking club which meets weekly in the fall and also to take part in the Annual Sport Stacking competition which will take place in St. St. Joseph School gym on Saturday, October 23rd, starting at 8:00 a.m.

Drama Club: Students in grades 4-8 are eligible to participate in Drama Club, which meets once a week to prepare for a spring production.

School Choir: Students in grades 1-8 are eligible to participate in school choir. These students are required to sing at school Masses, stipulated Sunday Masses, First Holy Communion Mass, Mothers' Day, and at Graduation, as well as in Christmas and Spring Concerts.

Cross Country Team: This team is open to students in grades 3-8 and meets every Wednesday during the fall season. The cross-country team participates in meets. It is the parents' responsibility to provide transportation to the team's meets.

Sailing Club: Sailing Club takes place on Thursdays in the fall as well as in the spring. The faculty advisor will provide specific times and dates.

Basketball: While St. Joseph School does not have its own basketball team, students may join Sacred Heart School team in Taftville. Information is given about this in the fall.

Future Musicians Incorporated: This program is open to students in grades 4-8. Lessons are one half hour weekly. **All students who are enrolled in this program are required to participate in the FMI Christmas and Spring Concerts and to attend after-school rehearsals for these concerts..** Parents will receive these dates well in advance.

Miscellaneous

Extended Day Program

Before-school care is available from 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. No student may be dropped off at school before 7:30 a.m. and left unsupervised. Furthermore, no student may simply be dropped off at the school early; the parent must enroll the child in the Before Care Program. Contracts for this program are available in the school office and may also be found on our website. In the event there is a late opening due to inclement weather, Before Care will be available no earlier than one hour before school begins, e.g., for a two-hour delay, extended day care program begins at 9:30 a.m. For the morning program, students should report to the gym entrance.

After-school care is available from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the gym. It is also available on most half days from 12:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Parents will be notified of any early dismissal through the NOTIFY PROGRAM. Should there be an early closing due to inclement weather or excessive heat, there will be NO EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM. If a child is to be picked up from the Extended Day Care after school by someone other than a parent, this must be stated in writing. There will be an additional charge of \$10.00 for any child(ren) being picked up after 5:00 p.m., and the child(ren) will be brought to the Holy Family Motherhouse, next to be picked up there.

The cost of Extended Day Care is a flat fee of \$3.00 in the morning, and \$7.00 per hour for the after-school program..

The Extended Day Program will not be available at dismissal time on the last day before Thanksgiving Break, the last day before Christmas Break, or the last day of school. Also, if there is no non-staff member available on First Fridays, then there will be no aftercare available. Parents will be notified ahead of time in this case.

School Bus Policies

Students shall board or leave the school bus at his/her designated stop unless a written request has been made by the parent to do otherwise. This request must be approved by the school principal and given to the bus driver.

All passengers are under the general supervision of the Sprague Superintendent of Schools and the direct supervision of the driver while on the school bus.

All students should be at the bus stop at least five minutes prior to the bus's expected arrival (weather permitting). The bus driver will not wait for students at the pick-up point beyond the expected departure time.

Library Policies

Every student has access to the library on a weekly basis or at any time the classroom teachers choose to use the library for their students. All students are expected to observe quietness norms in the library and to be cooperative with the school librarian. **Due to COVID, the school librarian will be in the form of “Library on the Cart,” and the librarian will visit each classroom on the lower floor with grade appropriate books.**

Students in Pre-K – fourth grade may check out one book each week.

While there is no specific library period for students in grades 5-8, these students may also check out books. Library privileges will be suspended for overdue books, and a fee of \$.10 per day will be charged on all overdue books. There is a replacement fee charged for a lost book.

Student Records

Education records will be kept for each student and will reflect the physical, emotional, social, and academic aspects of a student’s development in the education process.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, the federal law known as the “Buckley Amendment”, grants the parent the right to inspect their child’s school records, and to request correction of any information in the records that is inaccurate, misleading, or a violation of the child’s right to privacy or other rights. The law also guarantees the confidentiality of school records. St. Joseph School also abides by the Buckley Amendment with respect to the rights of non-custodial parents. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, the school will provide the non-custodial parent with access to the academic records and to other school-related information regarding the student. If there is a court order specifying that there is to be no information given, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the school with an official copy of the court order that is up to date.

When a student withdraws, a copy of the entire permanent record and all documents in the student’s academic record are sent to the student’s new school as soon as the parents submit a record release form and all financial obligations are met. When a student graduates, a copy of the entire permanent record card along with the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade report cards, standardized testing results, and attendance are sent to the student’s choice of high school as soon as the parents submit a record release form.

Parking

Families should park in the main parking lot. Parking near the main (upstairs) entrance of the building is not ordinarily allowed and must be specifically cleared by the principal. Such special permission may be granted to those needing a handicapped parking space, loading or unloading supplies, transporting very young children, et cetera.

Concerns Regarding School Personnel

Concerns involving individual school staff members should be discussed directly with the staff member concerned. If this does not bring about a satisfactory resolution, the matter should then be referred to the school principal for study and possible resolutions. If this does not settle the matter, it should then be brought to the pastor for consideration. At the discretion of the principal, serious matters will be brought to the attention of the Diocesan Superintendent.

Books and Materials

School books which are the property of the school must be properly covered. Any books belonging to the school that are lost or damaged must be replaced. Parents will be billed for any textbooks or materials belonging to the school.

Students are to have a schoolbag or backpack in which to carry their books and papers. No backpacks containing wheels are to be used unless the backpack contains a handle with which it can easily be carried. Chrome books are to be kept in the accompanying bag supplied by the school.

General supplies, i.e., paper, pencils, glue, crayons, must be provided by the parent or guardian. No white-out is to be used by students.

Lost Items

St. Joseph School is not responsible for lost articles. Each child's name should be put on the inside of his or her school bag, lunch box, sweaters and jackets, uniforms, pants, shirts, etc. Please check our school's Lost & Found in the gym when your child is missing any of these items.

Birthdays

Birthdays are recognized as special days for the children. Parents are invited to send in cookies, cupcakes, or popsicles for the classmates of the child. Since some students have allergies, it is important to provide a treat such as gluten-free ones for these students. If your child wishes to also provide a treat for the teachers, please prepare a separate plate for the teachers' room rather than having the child walk to each classroom distributing treats. This will lessen the disruptions to the educational process. **Due to COVID, this privilege has been suspended until further notice.**

Invitations to parties outside of school (e.g. birthday parties) may be given out to the children at school only if they are given to every child in the class. Sensitivity to the feelings of others requires that everyone in the class receives invitations or no one in the class receives invitations.

Conclusion

We thank you, parents and students, for taking time to read the *St. Joseph School Parent-Student Handbook*. Please keep this handbook in a place in which you can refer to it readily. It will be your guide for as long as you are part of the St. Joseph School Family. We ask that both parents and students sign the enclosed sheet indicating your acceptance of and cooperation with the rules and regulations stated in the St. Joseph School Handbook. We thank you for your cooperation and support in helping us provide a strong spiritual and academic foundation for your child. This form will be kept on file.

The Administration has the right to revise this handbook at any time. Parents will be informed in writing of any new policies.