



## 6<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CODE OF CONDUCT JPII Catholic Schools Policy 5015

In the spirit of the Catholic faith, St. John Paul II Catholic Schools' Code of Conduct informs students and parents of the basic expectations of a student. The online Receipt & Acknowledgement form needs to be signed and submitted prior to the start of each school year. For students taking part in fall activities, it must be signed and submitted prior to their 1st day of practice.

### **Preface**

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

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

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

### **The following Code of Conduct will be used in conjunction with existing JPII Catholic Schools Student Handbook, policies, and protocols.**

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

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

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

- By being mindful that God created each of us in His image and likeness participants will act accordingly
- By being truthful, understanding, open-minded, gracious, reliable, and respectful
- By upholding and supporting God's plan for sexual relations
- By promoting chastity in dress, speech, and action
- By respecting human life in the following ways
  - Not using alcohol, tobacco, and/or any form of illegal drugs
  - Not using profanities
  - Not possessing weapons
  - Not acting in a disruptive manner

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

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

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

### **Minor Misconduct**

Situations of Minor Misconduct will generally be addressed by teachers and/or other staff members as they encounter them.

Minor Misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

1. Academic dishonesty
2. Uniform infractions
3. Excessive noise or disruption
4. Consuming, candy, or food at inappropriate times or places
5. Not being where expected
6. Tardiness
7. Disruption of the educational process by being disrespectful, by refusal to obey directions, or by talking back to authority
8. Public displays of affection or inappropriate contact
9. Inappropriate use of technology or social media (Policy No. 2003)
10. Possession of over-the-counter medications (Policy No. 5005)
11. Inappropriate language
12. Running, pushing, shoving, or yelling in hallways, classrooms, or common areas

### **Major or Severe Misconduct**

Any incidents of Major, Severe, or Criminal Misconduct will be handled by the school Principals according to this code. The Administration reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of any disciplinary action, which may include out-of-school suspension or permanent expulsion.

Major or Severe Misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

1. Habitual and/or egregious cheating on tests, plagiarism, or academic dishonesty
2. Repeated refusal to obey directions of or talking back to administrators, teachers, substitute teachers, or other school personnel
3. Repeated disrespect towards school personnel, students, or parent volunteers
4. Threats, fighting, physical injury to students, school personnel, or volunteers
5. Harassment/bullying as defined by the *Anti-Bullying/Cyber-Bullying*, Policy No. 2004
6. Hazing as defined by the *Anti-Hazing*, Policy No. 5010
7. Language that is abusive, racist, or sexually demeaning
8. Egregious misuse of technology or social media
9. Continued swearing or the use of profane or abusive language
10. Leaving school premises without authorization
11. Possession or distribution of obscene pictures, magazines, books, or other materials, including digital, that contradict Catholic moral teachings
12. False fire alarms or bomb threat
13. Theft, vandalism, damage, destruction, or misuse of school property or property of other students or school personnel
14. Possession and/or use of alcohol, drugs, other controlled substances, or tobacco as defined in the *Student Substance Abuse*, Policy No. 5102
15. Possession or use of prescribed drugs or over-the-counter medications not in accordance with directions
16. The use or possession of weapons or other items perceived as harmful as defined in the *Weapons*, Policy No. 5009
17. Engaging in any assaultive or violent behavior
18. Selling or distribution of drugs
19. Repeated failure to make up a detention in a timely manner
20. Severely inappropriate or irreverent behavior in church or during religious events
21. Public conduct or speech that contradicts Catholic teachings, damages, or diminishes the reputation of JPII Catholic Schools or the Catholic Church, or that causes scandal
22. Any violation of the local, state, or federal laws
23. Other conduct contrary to the mission of JPII Catholic Schools and deemed inappropriate by the Administration

**Student and parent signatures on the online Receipt and Acknowledgement signifies acceptance and understanding of the Code of Conduct conditions outlined above.**