



# **CODE OF CONDUCT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

## **JPII Catholic Schools Policy 5015**

### **6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Code of Conduct**

#### **Code of Conduct Philosophy**

In the spirit of the Catholic Faith, the St. John Paul II Catholic Schools Network (JPII Catholic Schools) Code of Conduct informs students and parents of the basic expectations of a student. This code of conduct must be signed and returned prior to the start of each school year. All students must turn in a signed Code of Conduct prior to the start of the school year or their first practice in the fall.

#### **Preface**

The intention of this Code of Conduct is to assist the students to be “*imitators of God as beloved children and walk in love*” by conforming their thoughts, words and actions to the “*mind... which is yours in Christ Jesus,*” and by 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 will be used in conjunction with existing JPII Student Handbook policies & 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
  - Treat 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 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
  - Cheat
  - 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 Shanley/Sullivan 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.

Students and parents/guardians may respectfully express their concerns about the school operations and its personnel. However, they may not do so in a manner that is discourteous, rumor-driven, threatening, or contrary to Catholic principles. In the event that parent/guardians have a concern about the school operation and its personnel, it is important that the appropriate chain of command be recognized and followed. The appropriate steps should include:

- Start by visiting with the appropriate classroom teacher, coach, or staff member.
- Visit the appropriate administrator (*i.e.* Principal/Activities Director) if the situation is not resolved.
- Visit the President if the situation is not resolved.

**Minor Misconduct** includes, but is not limited to:

1. Uniform infractions
2. Excessive noise or disruption
3. Consuming gum, candy, or food at inappropriate times
4. Being out of designated area

5. Tardiness
6. Disruption of the educational process by being disrespectful, by refusal to obey directions, and by talking back to authority
7. Inappropriate displays of affection
8. Inappropriate use of technology and social media (Policy No. 2003)
9. Possession of over-the-counter medications (Policy No. 5005)
10. Inappropriate language
11. Running, pushing, shoving, or yelling in hallways, classrooms, or common areas

Incidents of minor misconduct will generally be addressed by teachers and other staff members as they encounter them.

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

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

Incidents of major or severe misconduct will be handled by the School Principals. The Administration reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of any disciplinary action, which may include suspension or recommendation for expulsion.

Students and parents are to indicate acceptance and understanding of the conditions outlined above by initialing and signing the school's Receipt and Acknowledgement sheet each year.