



# **CODE OF CONDUCT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

## **JPII Catholic Schools Policy 5015**

### **Kindergarten – 5<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.

#### **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** – “*...blessed are the pure of heart for they will see God*” (Matt 5:8)

- 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 growth and maturity as young men and women
- By promoting purity 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 swearing
  - Not possessing weapons
  - Not acting in a disruptive manner

**Responsibility Toward Others** – *“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* (Matt 22:39)

- By not bullying others:
  - Be unfriendly or excluding others
  - Be physical – pushing, kicking, hitting, punching with the intention of hurting another person
  - Use language – naming-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumors, teasing with the intent of hurting another person
  - Use electronic devices to bully through text messaging, emails, rumors, embarrassing pictures, videos, fake profiles posted on social media
- By respecting adults
- By treating everyone fairly regardless of sex, race, religious or political orientation, or economic status
- 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
- 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
  - Steal
  - Disrespect the property of others
  - Gossip, slander, or use mean speech or jokes
  - Cheat
  - Encourage or cooperate in harmful behavior/harassment.

The school will work cooperatively with parent/guardian and students to assist students in meeting the academic, moral, and behavioral expectations of the school on or off campus.

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/guardian 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 Principal if the situation is not resolved.
- Visit the President if the situation is not resolved.

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