

St. John the Baptist School
ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Everyone at St. John the Baptist School is committed to making our school a safe and caring place for all students. We will treat each other with respect, and we will refuse to tolerate bullying in any form at our school.

Each child should be challenged to reach his or her full potential, develop a love of learning, and learn in an environment that fosters respect and understanding of one another. It is essential that a safe, positive, and productive educational environment be established where students can achieve the highest academic standards and where no student shall be subjected to bullying, cyber-bullying or retaliation. Bullying, cyber-bullying or retaliation or other like disruptive or violent behaviors constitute conduct that affects both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe and embracing environment.

Our school defines bullying as follows: Bullying is unfair and one-sided. It happens when someone keeps hurting, frightening, threatening or leaving someone out on purpose.

"Bullying" is the repeated use by one or more students of a written, verbal, or electronic expression, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at another student(s).

Examples of bullying include:

- Hurting someone physically by hitting, kicking, tripping, pushing ,etc
- Stealing or damaging another person's property.
- Exclusion.
- Teasing someone in a hurtful way.
- Using put-downs, such as insulting ethnicity or gender
- Touching or showing private body parts.
- Spreading rumors about someone.
- Create a hostile environment at school for another child
- Infringing on the rights of another
- Materially and substantially disrupting the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

For the purpose of this policy, whenever the term "bullying" is used it is to denote either bullying or cyber-bullying.

"Cyber-bullying" means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by:

- wire
- radio
- electromagnetics
- photo-electronic or photo-optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, instant messages or facsimile communications.

Cyber-bullying shall also include the creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or knowingly impersonates another person as the author of posted content or messages, if the creation or impersonation creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Cyber-bullying shall also include the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying.

“Hostile Environment” means a situation in which bullying causes the school environment to be permeated with intimidation, ridicule or insult that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of the student’s education.

Staff at our school will do the following things to prevent bullying and help children feel safe at school:

- Closely supervise students in all areas of the school and playground.
- Watch for signs of bullying and stop it when it happens.
- Teach *Second Step and Steps to Respect* programs to students in grades PreKindergarten to 8.
- Respond quickly and sensitively to bullying reports using the *Steps to Respect* Response Process and coaching methods.
- Take seriously families’ concerns about bullying.
- Investigate all reported bullying incidents.
- Assign consequences for bullying based on the school discipline code.
- Provide immediate consequences for retaliation against students who report bullying.
- Record all instances of bullying and action taken.
- Report to principal or vice principal serious bullying incidences.

Students at our school will follow these steps to prevent bullying:

- Treat each other respectfully.
- Refuse to bully others.
- Refuse to let others be bullied.
- Refuse to watch, laugh or join in when someone is being bullied.
- Try to include everyone in play, especially those who are often left out.

By signing below I acknowledge I have received and read the above policy.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____