

**DIOCESE OF DAVENPORT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

SERIES 200: BOARD OF EDUCATION

POLICY 213.1

PARENTAL CODE OF CONDUCT

This Code of Conduct applies to all parents/guardians who interact with our schools and are present at the school and school sponsored activities, meetings, and functions within and outside of school hours. As parents/guardians there is an expectation of support for the Mission, Vision, and Values of the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Davenport. Catholic schools of the Diocese of Davenport are very fortunate to have a dedicated and supportive school community. We recognize that the education of our children is a partnership between educators and parents.

Parents/guardians play a formative role in the development of their child's understanding of justice, equity, and worth. The parent/guardian is the primary educator for their child and an influential role model. It is the responsibility of all adults to strive to build a harmonious community where students can flourish. This Code of Conduct is designed to guide parents/guardians in their dealings with staff, other parents, students, and the entire faith community.

Adults connected with the Catholic school are committed to resolving difficulties in a constructive manner, through open and positive dialogue. We understand that misunderstandings can cause frustrations and have a negative impact on relationships. The Diocese adheres to the principle of subsidiarity; problems and issues are best resolved at the level in which the problem occurs.

Your Rights as a Parent/Guardian:

- To be treated with respect and courtesy by staff, students, and other parents
- To be listened to, and clearly communicated with by the school in regards to your child
- To have confidentiality over sensitive issues
- To be treated in a caring and polite manner
- To have a timely response to concerns raised

Your Responsibilities as a Parent/Guardian:

- Value and champion your Catholic school and its reputation. Be mindful of the hurt and damage gossip and social media may cause to staff members, students, and other parents
- Respect the rights of staff members, students, and other parents
- Respect the reputation of teachers and coaches and be mindful of communications, especially social media and the tone of emails
- Follow the correct procedures to resolve a complaint
- Participate appropriately in school sponsored events

What the Diocese and the Catholic School Asks of You as a Parent/Guardian:

- To work courteously and cooperatively with the school to assist students in meeting the academic, moral, and behavioral expectations of the school
- Adhere to the school's policies outlined in the Parent Student Handbook
- Model resilience and encourage healthy problem solving
- Help your child to understand that giving your best effort is what matters rather than always comparing yourself against the capabilities or achievements of others
- Listen to your child, but remember that the event may be interpreted differently by others
- Understand the importance of a healthy parent-student-teacher/coach relationship and communicate any concerns in a constructive and appropriate manner, not in a manner that is discourteous, scandalous, rumor-driven, disruptive, threatening, hostile, or divisive

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- Support the school in its efforts to maintain a positive teaching and learning environment
- Discourage gossip and hearsay by communicating with the school
- Maintain a positive, cooperative attitude and interact positively with other parents and members of the school community

Behavior That Will Not Be Tolerated:

- Disruptive behavior which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the normal operations or activities at the school.
- Inappropriate behavior on school premises.
- Using loud or offensive language or displaying temper.
- Threatening in any way, staff members, visitors, students, or other parents.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Sending abusive or threatening emails, text messages, voicemails, or other written communication (including social media) to anyone within the school community.
- Defamatory, offensive, or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the students, parents, Board members, or staff members on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or any other sites or apps.
- The use of physical, verbal, or written aggression toward another adult or child. Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child toward your own child.
- Smoking, taking illegal drugs, or the consumption of alcohol on school premises. (Alcohol may only be consumed at authorized events.)

If any of the above actions take place at school or a school-related event the school may take action by contacting the appropriate authorities and/or consider banning the offending adult from entering school premises.

Actions to be Taken for Code Violations:

The Diocese and the school reserve the right to determine, at its discretion, which actions fall short of meeting the Catholic principles of the diocese and the school. Failure to follow these principles will normally result in a verbal or written warning to the student and/or parent/guardian. If the inappropriate actions are repeated or in cases of severe nature, immediate action without a warning and/or without an intermediate step leading to withdrawal may be taken.

Social Media Conduct

We ask that social media (public or private) not be used to fuel campaigns and voice complaints against the school, school staff, Board members, students, or parents. Inappropriate use of social media to publicly humiliate, criticize, or threaten another individual is taken very seriously. Parents should follow the complaint procedure given if they have any concerns about their child. Parents should not use social media as a medium to air any concerns or grievances.

Online activity considered inappropriate:

- Identifying or posting images/videos of children other than your own or without the parent's permission
- Abusive or personal comments about staff, Board members, students, or other parents
- Bringing the school in disrepute
- Posting defamatory or libelous comments
- Emails circulated or sent directly with abusive or personal comments about staff or children
- Using social media to publicly challenge school policies or discuss issues about individual children or members of the staff
- Threatening behavior, such as verbally intimidating staff, or using bad language

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- Breaching school security procedures

Appeal and Complaint Procedure for Parents/Guardians

In the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Davenport, beliefs are encompassed in the tenets of the Catholic faith. This philosophy is based on the Christian theme to love one's neighbor. The goal is to educate children in the fundamentals of Catholic faith within the context of life experiences.

Clearly, open communication is fundamental for people to converse in a civil manner bound by Christian love. Open communication allows parents/guardians, students, faculty and staff to effectively address problems and resolve conflicts without any single member being harmed. Further, it fosters the growth of each member's spirit, faith and self-image. Thereby, improving the individual's ability to deal with the world.

"If your brother/sister should commit some wrong against you, go point out the fault, but keep it between the two of you. If he/she listens to you, you have won your brother/sister over. If he/she does not listen, summon another..." Mt. 18: