

CODE OF CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

Each of us has a special place in God's plan of creation. We are created to bring Jesus' gospel message of love, peace, and hope to all. Jesus calls us to be His disciples, His followers. A disciple tries to do what is "right" even when doing what is "right" is difficult or unpopular.

The principles of this code depend upon the partnership and support of home and school. The administration and faculty of Saint Anselm School recognize parents as primary role models and educators for their children. As professional educators, our ministry is to build on the foundation begun in the home. Together, as a community of faith, we work to proclaim the gospel message of Jesus Christ while striving to live this message daily.

A student's development of desirable social attitudes and practices as well as a sense of personal responsibility for his/her actions is as much a part of education as excellence in academic areas. Therefore, the administration, faculty, and staff of Saint Anselm School believe that it is our responsibility as educators to correct a student for any violation of regulations or lack of academic cooperation. The full cooperation between parents and teachers and the mutual respect for regulations help to develop in the student a sense of security which is essential to his/her psychological and spiritual growth.

When a parent or student does not understand the action taken in correcting that student, he/she should contact the teacher who gave the correction.

The purpose of discipline in Saint Anselm School is to bring about the self-discipline of each individual and of the Catholic school community as a whole so that their actions promote the Christian development of each member, and thereby enhance the community. Discipline ought to provide for an awareness of spiritual values, thus bringing the student to a realization of one's ultimate end.

Discipline in a Christian, Catholic educational community is part of a teaching/learning process; therefore, it is the responsibility of the school to attempt to provide each student with moral guidelines and leadership.

Actions by an individual that deter Christian development are considered by the administration and faculty of Saint Anselm School to be injurious to the well being of both the individual and the community. An individual demonstrating socially or morally undesirable behavior is in need of specific educational experiences which the school must attempt to provide. In addition, the school must minimize the threat such actions present to the community, and, when feasible, attempt to educate the school community at large. All disciplinary actions must strive for an optimum balance between the welfare of the student and that of the community.

Saint Anselm School strives to reflect Christian ideals that it desires to instill in its students. It demonstrates its acceptance of the dignity of each individual by according him/her just treatment, consideration, and respect. In this way, the school attempts to foster the student's respect for himself/herself and the other members of the school community.

EXPECTATIONS

Saint Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit lives in us so we use our bodies for God's glory. (1 Cor 6:18-20)

Part of God's plan for us is that we value and care for the life that He has given us, and that we value the lives of others as well. Students are expected to behave consistent with the mission, philosophy, and spirit of the school and the moral teachings of the Catholic faith. Because the school cannot anticipate all conduct that violates this policy, it reserves the right to take any form of disciplinary action, including expulsion, against behavior that violates this policy, even if not specifically stated in this handbook.

Students are expected to:

- Respect all persons, adult and peer, in word, action, and attitude. This includes any adult in the school building, schoolyard, or church. Students should treat each other with consideration and respect.
- Treat all personal and school property with respect.
- Obey all classroom rules established by the teacher.
- Obey established lunchtime and schoolyard rules.
- Be prepared for class. This includes completing all assigned work.
- Comply with the school dress code.
- Act with reverence in church.

Unacceptable conduct includes but is not limited to:

- Violation of safety rules
- Possession of weapons, drugs, or alcohol.
- Bullying- behavior that prevents or discourages another student from exercising his/her right to education; aggressive or intentionally hurtful behavior perpetrated repeatedly over a period of time in a relationship characterized by an imbalance of power. Such prohibited behavior includes the use of teasing, taunting, threats, coercion, repeated harassment, abuse, oppression, intimidation, or exclusion.
- Disrespect towards others (written and spoken)
- Abusive and offensive language
- Truancy

A Saint Anselm student is a student at all times. A student who engages in conduct, whether inside or outside of Saint Anselm Catholic School, that is

detrimental to the reputation of the school, may be disciplined by school administration.

Corporal punishment is strictly forbidden in Saint Anselm School and in all Catholic schools within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Even in the event of parental permission for such action, it is not permitted in any situation. Corporal punishment shall be defined as any punishment which in any way physically abuses a child. It must be noted that this is state law.

However, within the scope of his/her employment, a teacher may use and apply such amounts of force as is reasonable and necessary:

1. to quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to others;
2. to obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object upon the person or within the control of the student;
3. for the purpose of self-defense; and
4. for the protection of persons and property.

Such acts shall not be construed to constitute corporal punishment.

VIOLENT - THREATENING - HARASSING - AND INAPPROPRIATE ACTS BY STUDENTS AND PARENTS

It is the intent of Saint Anselm School to provide an educational environment free from all forms of improper threats, intimidation, hostility, and offensive and inappropriate behavior. Such improper conduct may take the form of unwanted verbal or physical conduct, verbal or written derogatory or discriminatory statements, and behavior otherwise not conducive to the educational and religious mission of our school. These include, but are not limited to:

- disrespectful behavior of any kind toward or about any staff, student, or other parent of students
- insubordination
- fighting
- bomb scares or triggering other false alarms
- cheating or plagiarism
- use or possession of drugs or alcohol
- smoking
- stealing
- intimidation, harassment, or threats of any kind
- Weapons

These categories do not cover every possible situation. The school is responsible for determining what is appropriate or inappropriate behavior, both in and out of the classroom, in the school community generally, and outside the school community where such improper behavior affects the school community. Conduct by students or parents/guardians, or anyone acting on their behalf, incompatible with the educational and religious mission of the school is grounds for disciplinary

action, including but not limited to immediate dismissal of the student, as well as reporting the incident to the appropriate legal authorities where appropriate. In addition, in the case of threats of violence or harassment, in any form, including oral, written, or electronic, by a student against any member of the school community, the student, if suspended but not dismissed, may be required to have psychological or psychiatric clearance before returning to school.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The process of earning involves the development of integrity and values. All students are expected to do their own work. Any forms of cheating, dishonesty, and plagiarism are forbidden. Written work and projects are to be completed by students and not parents/guardians.