

Code of Conduct

This code of Conduct is presented so that parents, students, teachers and the faith formation team will have an understanding of the policies that will facilitate a safer, calmer and more productive learning atmosphere.

ATTENDANCE:

- Weekly attendance, with students arriving ON TIME is essential to the students' religious education and spiritual growth.
- An entire year of religious education instruction amounts to only 24 hours of class time out of 30 days. They are with us just one day out of 365!
- Every class is important.
- If your child has to miss class for a serious reason, please call the Religious Education Office (295-3890) and leave the message on voicemail if you are not able to talk to the Director.
- If we haven't heard from you, you will receive a call from us asking why your child is absent from class.
- You can save yourself and our office this inconvenience if you call us when absence is unavoidable.
- Please assist your teen in structuring her/his after school activities and part time job schedule so that there is no conflict with our weekly religious education commitment.
- Sunday is the Lord's Day. And Wednesday is church-day in East Texas. There should be room enough in the day for just one hour of faith instruction.

PARTICIPATION:

- Because our time together is so brief, we depend on the cooperation of each student and the cooperation of each family to assist in making the most of each class hour.
- Again, students are expected to come on time.
- It is disruptive to class flow and disrespectful of the teacher and other students if a student is habitually late.
- We all recognize the fact that circumstances beyond a student's/parents' control occasionally may affect a student's promptness. We hope that this is a rare occurrence.

- Student who has the problem of arriving on time for a number of weeks, they must speak to the Director and teacher to inform them of the situation ahead of time.

PICK UP AND DROP OFF:

- Our parking lot is a busy place. Rarely is religious education the only activity taking place: on Sunday mornings, we have Mass traffic, on Wednesday evenings other events and meetings may be scheduled simultaneously with class.
- There are no words strong enough to emphasize the caution drivers must exercise when dropping off or picking up students for religious education class.
- **It would be helpful to all if parents could bring the children into the church or to the class room.**
- If you are late picking up your child - either Sunday morning or evening or Wednesday evening- an adult from the program will wait with your child. Please call the Religious Education Office to inform.
- **Please come in to pick up your child.**
- We ask that you be aware of the time.
- Please note that on Sunday, if your child attends the class at 9:45 am it is advisable to attend the Mass as a family either at 8:45 or at 11:00 am.
- Please DO NOT use the Sunday school as “baby sitting” or “grocery shopping” time.
- Everything that goes on at religious education class, before, during, and after the class hour must be rooted in the basic principle of respect.

BEHAVIOR CODE:

- An atmosphere of mutual respect between teacher and students, and among students in a class, is the linchpin upon which learning revolves.
- All students must be respectful of Parish property, most notably the class room building which the children and teachers use.
- We are committed to providing every student who wants instruction with a place in our program. However, we must also weigh the needs and demands of one student in a class against the needs of the class as a whole.

- If a student, in any grade, is unwilling or unable to act respectfully toward others or is disrespectful of parish property, we will notify the parents.
- **If unacceptable behavior continues, the student will be admitted to class only if accompanied by a parent for the class hour.**
- The parent will be invited to instruct the child at home; for which the Religious Education Office will provide teaching materials and support the parent in this task.
- **Our Sunday teachers give up their morning of rest. All of our teachers are extremely dedicated and most generously volunteer their time. Teachers deserve to be treated with respect and appreciated for their effort.**
- Parents and students are asked to sign the Behavior Code and return it to the Religious Education Office.
- The signed copies are kept on file as an indication of our partnership and mutual cooperation in the religious formation of the child.
- It takes an entire Parish to raise a child in the faith!
- All parents are encouraged and expected to know the safe-environment programs offered in the parish/Diocese
- Any improper behavior of anyone could be brought the knowledge of the pastor or Diocesan Promoter of Justice. He can be reached at 903-266-2159.

CANCELLATION OF CLASSES:

- The parish bulletin is our megaphone!
- All cancellations, announcements, and changes in schedule are made through the bulletin or are in the announcements read at weekend Mass.
- We expect that the dates contained in the calendar are firm.
- Please make sure to take a bulletin home with you each weekend in case a date or activity is changed or canceled.
- Cancellations due to weather will be on the voicemail message at the Religious Education Office.
- Please do not call the rectory to check on Religious Education Classes.
- PROBLEMS??? QUESTIONS??? Please call the office if we can be of any assistance.