



Dear Parents and Guardians of BJS Students:

Robert J. Kealey, former executive director of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), once wrote that “The emphasis placed on external discipline in Catholic schools attempts to foster (internal) self-discipline. Catholic schools seek to develop the Christlike person. Part of being Christlike requires people to accept responsibility for their actions and to respect others. The rules established in Catholic schools foster growth in the value of self-responsibility.” That description is a perfect explanation of how we view discipline here at Bishop John J. Snyder High School.

At Bishop Snyder, that means our teachers’ consistent expectations, in and out of the classroom, have a higher purpose - to teach our students self-responsibility and to give them the opportunity to employ their own moral compass by choosing what is right over what is wrong. Director Kealey went on to write “Catholic school students are taught to recognize the presence of Christ in themselves and others. This reverence for people permeates all aspects of school life.” As our Principal, Deacon Yazdiya, reminds us, how we interact with each other, with competence, conscience and compassion, makes BJS the wonderful place that it is.

Finally, Director Kealey made a point that we believe wholeheartedly - that discipline is a form of *lifestyle education* in our school that prepares our students for life after graduation. He wrote, “to be involved in drugs, alcohol or violence is to be anti-Christ. Catholic schools are not merely *Gun-Free Zones*, *Drug-Free Zones* or *Violence-Free Zones*. Catholic schools seek to be *Christ-Centered Zones*. These attitudes hopefully carry over into adult life so that the homes of Catholic school graduates will be *Christ-Centered Homes*.” I hope this helps explain the mission of our Dean’s Office in regard to discipline.

One way in which our students visibly display self-discipline is through our dress code standards. It has rightly been stated that high uniform standards are indicative of the high standards that exist throughout Catholic schools. At BJS, our dress code and uniforms assist in maintaining the professional appearance of our campus and students. Here are a few highlights to be reminded of, in regard to our uniform policy:

- Girls skirts must be hemmed so that the skirt is two-inches from the floor when she is kneeling. Skirts must be worn at the waist and may not be rolled.
- Girls blouses must be buttoned, except for the top button, and shirts must be tucked in at all times. Short sleeves may not be rolled up.
- Girls must wear plain navy crew socks (mid-calf is the minimum height), knee socks, or solid navy hose or tights (no design or texture).
- Boys pants must be khaki and purchased through North Florida Uniform only. Pants must fit properly, be worn at the waist and be embroidered with the BJS pant logo.
- Boys shirts must be tucked in so that the belt and the waistband of the pants are visible at all times.
- Boys hair must not touch the eyes, ears or the collar; hair must also be neat and well-groomed. Sideburns may not extend beyond the bottom of the ear. Boys must be clean shaven and mustaches are not permitted.

If you have any questions or concerns that our office can assist you with, please do not hesitate to give us a call. Our office number is (904) 908-8954 and Mrs. Vicki Naughton is our administrative assistant. We're looking forward to a great year and to working with you to instill a sense of self-responsibility in our students.

Rusty Kellum  
Dean of Students