

Policy on Student Sexuality

Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy provides its diverse student population a Catholic and internationally recognized, college-preparatory experience of lasting value. We affirm our Marist mission to work with God to form Christian persons, upright citizens, and academic scholars

Notre Dame is a Catholic school, and its policies regarding the virtues of chastity, matrimony, and human sexuality are consistent with the Church's teaching on the dignity of the human person. As Catholics, we believe that every person is created in the image and likeness of God and that every person is a child of God with inherent value. This is true for students of all religions, cultures, races, socio-economic backgrounds, and sexual orientations. We believe that we are all children of God, and we want all students to feel safe. We strive to create an environment free from bullying and harassment. We want every student to feel like Notre Dame is a school for them.

In general, all students that meet the academic requirements and accept the Catholic mission of the school will be eligible for enrollment. However, it is important that parents and students understand the school's policies, in their entirety, including what to expect from the school regarding same-sex relationships and gender identity issues.

A key distinction in our policy on student sexuality is that love and acceptance of the individual does not necessarily mean that the school supports outward expressions of sexuality that could be construed as confusing as to the Church's position on chastity and marriage as it applies to sexual orientation. This is consistent with how the school would treat any student of any sexual identity.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the virtue of chastity is defined as *"the successful integration of sexuality with the person and thus the inner unity of man in his bodily and spiritual being. Sexuality, in which man's belonging to the bodily and biological world is expressed, becomes personal and truly human when it is integrated into the relationship of one person to another, in the complete and lifelong mutual gift of a man and a woman. The virtue of chastity therefore involves the integrity of the person and the integrity of the gift"*.

What Parents can expect from the school:

The school will work to build a culture of inclusion where all students are respected and loved for who they are as God's children. Every student is on a path to Christ and our job as educators is to meet students where they are on their journey and to guide them to a stronger relationship with God following Natural Law as defined by the Catholic Church.

It is important to us that students feel safe at school and can learn and grow in an environment that loves and supports them for who they are as children of God and those who practice the virtue of chastity as defined by the Catholic Church. The virtue of chastity is applicable to all students, regardless of their sexual identity. Our Marist priests, religion teachers and counselors are available to talk to students to help them understand the Church's teachings regarding chastity.

What the school expects from parents:

The school expects that parents recognize that Notre Dame is a Catholic School and that the school follows the guidance and teachings of the Catholic Church in matters related to morality, sexuality, and

sexual identity. We are sponsored by the Marist Fathers who oversee our Catholicity on behalf of the Archbishop of Detroit. Ultimately, the Archbishop of Detroit has final authority on issues of Catholic teaching in our Archdiocese and solely determines the Catholicity of our school.

What students can expect from the school and what the school expects of students

All school policies, procedures, resources, employee training, and assistance given to families are consistent with the Church's teaching on the dignity of the human person, including human sexuality, chastity, and the sacrament of matrimony.

1. Student's names and pronoun usage will correspond to his/her identity as congruent with their sex at birth. In other words, students will be identified as "male" or "female" based on their birth identity.
2. Student's will be required to wear the uniform that corresponds with their birth identity.
3. Student's will be expected to utilize either family restrooms (where they exist) or restrooms that correspond with their birth identity.
4. Student access to facilities and overnight accommodations will align with their birth identity.
5. Male student's will be eligible to participate in sports based on their birth identity. Female students will be allowed to participate in sports, either male or female, in accordance with current CYO and MHSSA guidelines and Title IX law. In cases where females participate on a male team, both sexes will maintain private changing areas according to their birth identity.
6. Expressions of a student's sexual identity are prohibited when they cause for disruption or confusion regarding the Church's teaching on human sexuality, chastity, and matrimony.

Faculty and staff are expected to be knowledgeable on basic Catholic doctrine on chastity, marriage, and human sexuality and they are called to be role models of the Catholic faith for our students.