



Under the Auspices of
THE BROTHERS OF THE SACRED HEART
Educating in Metuchen since 1901

Approved by State Constitution of New Jersey
Accredited by the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools
Accredited by Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools

Member of
National Catholic Education Association
New Jersey Association of Independent Schools
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
National Association of Secondary School Principals
New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Saint Joseph High School is to form young men, preparing them for life through holistic education in the Catholic traditions of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart.

2026-2027

145 Plainfield Avenue · Metuchen, NJ 08840 · (732) 549-7600
www.stjoes.org



SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Saint Joseph High School admits students of any race, color, national, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious affiliation, national, and ethnic origin in administration of its education policies, admissions policies, scholarship and need-based financial assistance program, athletics, or other school-administered programs.

*In developing the **standards** and policies for Saint Joseph High School, we have tried to be as explicit as possible, but we are aware that during the school year new and unusual situations will arise. The Principal will have the authority to use her discretion in unforeseen circumstances.*

Please Note Carefully: *Parental cooperation is essential for the welfare of students. Normally, a child is not deprived of a Catholic education or otherwise penalized for actions of parents/guardians. However, the Principal may require the dismissal of a student when parents/guardians have been persistently and overtly uncooperative regarding school policies, regulations, or programs. Student dismissal may also be required when parents/guardians have interfered in matters of school administration to the detriment of the school's ability to serve their own or other children. If, in the opinion of the School Leadership, parent/guardian behavior interferes with the teaching/learning process, then the School Leadership may require parents/guardians to withdraw their children and sever the relationship with the school. Harassment of School Leadership, Partners in Mission (Faculty and Staff members), or students by parents/guardians may result in the dismissal of students. Tuition and fees will not be refunded if a student is dismissed.*

HISTORY

BROTHERS OF THE SACRED HEART

Father André Coindre, founder of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, was born in Lyons, France in 1787. Devoting his life to the restoration of the Church following the Reign of Terror at the end of the French Revolution, his chief mission became the moral, intellectual, and religious development of young orphan boys left in distress by the disintegration of family life following the Revolution.

In 1821, he formed the Brothers of the Sacred Heart to further his efforts, resolving to establish a community of Brothers trained to work for the poor through the establishment of schools. Following the death of Father Coindre in 1826, the efforts of Brother Polycarp, the first Brother Superior General of the Institute, led to

tremendous growth. By the time of his death in 1859, the Institute had grown to more than 400 Brothers and 70 schools.

In January of 1847, five missionary Brothers of the Sacred Heart arrived in Mobile, Alabama at the request of Bishop Portier to do charitable and educational work. With their arrival in America the congregation began its transformation into a worldwide institute composed of many nationalities.

SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

Saint Joseph High School was founded on the principle that in an extraordinary age, students must have teaching of extraordinary caliber. It was designed to meet this challenge with modern facilities, new programs, and an innovative concept of high school organization and scheduling.

Saint Joseph High School is currently engaged in a long-range plan for buildings and programs to support capital improvements and endowment needs.

The Brothers of the Sacred Heart and their Partners in Mission have touched the hearts and shaped the lives of more than 10,000 young men in their more than 120 years in Metuchen. These alumni are a testimony to the love of service and dedication to excellence modeled by the Partners in Mission that continue at Saint Joseph High School.

PHILOSOPHY

BROTHERS OF THE SACRED HEART

The educational tradition of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart is grounded in a holistic approach to education. We believe that young people learn from their total experience of the school setting. We attempt to address the religious, academic, social, psychological, physical, and cultural development of the young person through school programs, courses, and policies.

Because we believe that students learn through their experience of the total school environment, we devote ourselves to build within the school a community spirit that is characterized by a pervading influence of Christian values, a strong insistence on an orderly and disciplined atmosphere, a personal approach to education, and a firm commitment to academic excellence.

The most important aspect of any Catholic education is the development of Christian values and the transmission of the Catholic heritage. We accept this task as the call

of the Church and as the primary goal of our school apostolate. Our efforts to have religion permeate the school environment include pastorally oriented religion and campus ministry programs, modeling of Christian values in dealings with others, the presence of religious activities in the school calendar and religious symbols in school facilities, classroom instruction in all disciplines which reflects the Church's teaching and Christian values, and a commitment to service to others. In general, we aim to help students experience religion as the love of a personal and loving God who cares for them and who is their ultimate source of true happiness and freedom.

We also believe that an orderly and disciplined environment is essential to teach love of God, love of neighbor, and love of learning. Our emphasis is on friendly discipline which corrects but at the same time teaches and encourages. While we expect and demand respect for authority and adherence to Saint Joseph High School standards, we advocate discipline which is respectful of the dignity of the individual, is consistent and fair, and is based on a relationship of mutual trust and cooperation.

To promote an environment characterized by Christian concern and friendly discipline, we attempt to know our students personally and individually. We look for opportunities to work with students outside of class time and in less formal settings. Realizing our partnership with parents in the education process, we extend a warm and friendly welcome to parents. We give our personal attention to developing a spirit of openness and cordial relations with students and parents.

We view academic excellence as the development of our students to the maximum of their potential. We commit ourselves to this goal as a means of helping students become the whole and complete persons that God created them to be. To accomplish this end, we pursue our own ongoing professional development, establish a demanding curriculum which emphasizes command of the basics, work at presenting well-prepared and interesting classes, and continually adapt our curriculum and methodologies to meet changing needs.

SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

Saint Joseph High School is founded on the conviction that each person is created free and unique by God and is to be treated with dignity because of being loved and redeemed by Christ. Because of this conviction, Saint Joseph High School is conducted with the belief that, although an individual might do evil, each person has a basic tendency towards good and, therefore, a right to hope and strive for personal happiness.

Our aim is to provide the experience and the environment that will best enable members of the Saint Joseph High School community to be secure in themselves and that will encourage them to reinforce what is good in society and correct what is wrong and, in this way, participate generously in the building of a more Christian nation and world.

We believe a holistic approach to education is the best means to pursue these goals. Each person learns from the total experience of the school environment and, therefore, we attempt to address the religious, academic, social, psychological, physical, and cultural development of each person through the school's programs, courses, and policies.

Because of our belief in this holistic approach, we devote ourselves to build within Saint Joseph High School a family spirit that is characterized by a pervading influence of Christian values, a strong insistence on an orderly and disciplined atmosphere, a caring approach to education, and a firm commitment to academic excellence.

ALMA MATER

All hail, to stalwart men of yore, to sons all tried and true
Let's toast our cherished days gone by and mem'ries old renew;
Saint Joseph, cradle of our youth, we pledge our loyalty;
Our faith and honor to the end; Alma Mater, Hail to thee!

ADMISSIONS POLICY

An individual's worth is determined not solely by his intelligence or any particular talent but flows rather from God's love and Christ's redemptive act for each person. Thus, every applicant to Saint Joseph High School is deserving of serious consideration as a potential recipient of our best efforts towards Christian education. However, the design of the college preparatory curriculum and guidance opportunities along with the physical facilities impose the duty upon admissions personnel to accept, out of a sense of justice, students who have the potential to achieve while pursuing an education at Saint Joseph High School.

Saint Joseph High School admits students of any race, color, religious affiliation, national, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious affiliation, national, and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship, and

need-based financial assistance programs, athletics, and other school-administered programs.

The following considerations are used in admitting prospective students to Saint Joseph High School: the student's priority of choice in selecting Saint Joseph High School, the overall elementary school record, their results from the Saint Joseph High School Entrance Exam, an interview with each applicant, and the recommendation of elementary school principals and/or teachers.

Upon formal notification of offers of admission to Saint Joseph High School, students and parents must agree and adhere to the general conduct and behavior expectations as outlined in this handbook.

Withdrawal Procedure:

Official withdrawal is handled by the Guidance Office. Prior to withdrawal, the following requirements must be met:

1. All tuition fees must be paid in full.
2. Student must return:
 - student ID card
 - all textbooks, with the fines assessed for damages, if necessary, except for those books that he has purchased
 - any uniforms or equipment which are the property of Saint Joseph High School.

FINANCES

TUITION AND FEES

The Board of Directors sets registration, tuition, and fees on an annual basis. Parents are notified of any tuition rate increase via email from the President.

Registration: The Registration Fee for new students is \$550. New students are also required to make a \$1,000 tuition deposit at the time of registration. Returning students re-register each year by paying a \$1,000 deposit toward next school year's tuition in April of the current year. **Both the Registration Fee and the Tuition Deposit are non-refundable.**

Tuition: Tuition for the 2026-2027 school year is \$19,743.00. All Saint Joseph families must be enrolled with *FACTS* Management. **All tuition payments must be made through *FACTS* Management portal by automatic withdrawal** from a

checking account or from a debit/credit card. There is an additional service fee for the use of a debit/credit card.

Fees: The required **non-refundable** fees are:

Activity Fee:	\$900
Technology Fee:	\$1,000
Graduation Fee:	\$250 (seniors only)
Athletic Transportation Fee:	\$150 (athletes only)

The Activity Fee includes: clubs and activities on campus, excluding co-curricular; Formation days with speakers; tutoring; standardized test prep with materials; retreats; community day programs; class-level activities, e.g., Freshman Cup, Junior Ring Ceremony, Senior Cup, Awards and Recognition Ceremonies; student insurance; Guidance programs and speakers; Career Day; American Heart Association CPR certification; free admission to regular season athletic events at Saint Joseph High School and the school yearbook.

The Technology Fee includes band width; maintenance and upkeep of wiring and equipment; 3rd party IT maintenance and support; World Languages Lab; firewall; security monitoring; academic software, e.g., *Google Classroom*, *PowerSchool*, online software, and smart boards.

The Graduation Fee includes Senior Awards Night, awards, caps & gowns, diplomas, church rental, organist, and printed programs.

The Athletic Fee includes: This fee is to offset the expense of transportation. One fee per school year will be charged to each student regardless of the number of seasons/sports they participate in.

Payment Options: Tuition and fees payment options are:

- Option 1: Payment in full in July
 - Option 2: Two equal payments in July and January
 - Option 3: Four equal payments in July, October, January, and April
 - Option 4: Ten-month payment plan – July through April
 - Option 5: Twelve-month payment plan – May through April
- Note:** \$1,000 deposit for the 2027-2028 school year is scheduled to be withdrawn through the *FACTS* account in April 2027.

The sum total of tuition required fees, and the following year deposit are divided in equal payments based on the tuition payment option chosen.

Late Enrollees: Any student who enrolls in Saint Joseph High School for the current school year after August 15 must pay the registration fee and the required non-refundable tuition deposit directly to the school before attending any classes. These payments must be paid by check, or money order to ensure immediate attendance. A credit card payment is acceptable, but there is a 3% additional processing fee added to the total due. Students who enroll after October 1st will have the yearly tuition prorated based on the number of school days remaining.

Outstanding Balances: All financial obligations must be paid in full by April 30th.

The school reserves the right to suspend students from school for nonpayment of tuition. The school will evaluate outstanding tuition balances monthly. If a student's account is in arrears for more than 30 days, the student may be withheld from classes and/or from attending or participating in school-sponsored activities, athletic events, clubs, trips, or programs. Without exception, all indebtedness to the school must be fully paid in order for students to take examinations and to participate in the Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation.

If unique circumstances require special financial consideration, then a parent or guardian of the student must contact the Business Office before outstanding balances become an issue.

Special Fees: Special course fees are due by Orientation. Certain courses require the use of privately purchased hard copy or electronic texts and/or laboratory fees. Students are responsible for all texts and materials provided for use and must pay for them if they are lost or damaged. All sports and club and activities fees are billed through FACTS.

Payment Plan Change: After May 1, a change to your payment plan may result in a fee charged by FACTS.

Schedule Changes: A student's tuition account will be charged a **\$250** fee for a schedule change initiated by the student or parent after May 15.

NSF Charge: *FACTS* Management charges a student's tuition an **NSF** fee for any check returned or EFT denied by the bank. The school charges a \$35 NSF fee for returned checks.

Tuition Refund Policy: The non-refundable tuition deposit for the following year, the registration fees, activity fee, technology fee and the graduation fee are non-refundable. When a student registers at Saint Joseph High School, a place is held for that student, and resources are committed to optimize the student's educational experience. Should a student withdraw from Saint Joseph High School, the tuition refund will be prorated.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Academic Scholarships at Saint Joseph are administered by the Academic Scholarship Committee. They are based on academic merit. Academic scholarships are awarded to incoming freshmen each school year. Some scholarships are renewable annually contingent upon maintenance of the required GPA; other scholarships are a one-time award. In determining scholarship recipients for incoming students, the Academic Scholarship Committee uses the following considerations:

- elementary school grades
- standardized test scores
- record of conduct
- composite score earned on the Entrance Exam administered at Saint Joseph High School

Scholarship award recipients are notified in writing.

NEED-BASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Need-Based Financial Assistance: Financial assistance is awarded to students based on financial need and funds available. The application is on the Grant and Aid tab in the *FACTS* portal. All recipients are required to file an application with copies of tax returns. Need-Based Financial Assistance awards **are not automatically renewed. An application needs to be completed annually. Students must be in "good standing" or they could be at risk of losing aid or the ability to apply for future aid.**

Timeline for Application: Due to limited funds, parents or guardians need to apply for Need-Based Financial Assistance in a timely manner. For incoming freshmen,

the FACTS Grant and Aid portal opens in September and must be completed by December 15th. Returning students' applications must be completed by April 15th.

Acceptance of Need-Based Financial Assistance Awards: The school notifies parents or guardians of the financial assistance award by email, generated in the FACTS portal.

FUNDRAISING

All fundraising activity proposals must be first submitted to the Saint Joseph High School Director of Advancement, which will then be presented to the President for final approval. If the fundraising activity is proposed by a club, organization, or team, then the moderator or coach is responsible for obtaining approval by completing and submitting a detailed proposal to the Saint Joseph High School Director of Advancement. All fundraising activity proposals must be submitted to the Saint Joseph High School Director of Advancement at least 60 days prior to the proposed date of the fundraising activity.

ACADEMIC POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The integration of Christian truths and values within the framework of academic learning characterizes the educational approach of Saint Joseph High School. The curriculum, providing broad and varied elective offerings, is college preparatory. It is constantly evaluated and revised so that students may have the opportunity to develop those Christian insights that will enable them to best contribute to the political, social, economic, moral, and intellectual life of American society.

In every aspect of the curriculum, Saint Joseph High School strives to provide educational opportunities that will enhance the continued growth and development of its students. In order to encourage students to work to their fullest potential, to use their talents most effectively, and to give themselves the broadest possible education, Saint Joseph High School encourages each student to plan his own academic course selections with the assistance of Partners in Mission, including his teachers, his guidance counselor, and his parents. The student is thereby guided to foresee his future plans and to assume responsibility for meeting those goals.

Offerings are designed to permit the student to elect courses that are within his range of ability and interest. In the areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages, courses are available to meet the needs of the honors-level and the academic-level student. Our Fine and Performing Arts

Program encourages students to develop their musical and artistic abilities. Programs in Computer Science and Applied Technology, Health and Physical Education, and Theology foster the development of well-rounded, well-informed students prepared to navigate and contribute to an ever-evolving world.

A fully equipped Zenga Library and Media Center and Formation Center provide areas for study and preparation during each student's unstructured time during the school day.

The unstructured time is designed to provide students the opportunity to do independent study, including reference work, and to use the Zenga Library and Media Center and Formation Center. Also, the student is provided with time to arrange conferences with Partners in Mission, including guidance counselors. The intent of the unstructured time is to develop in the student a sense of self-responsibility, self-discipline, efficient use of his time, and serious study habits.

Through its philosophy, admission policies, curriculum, and facilities, Saint Joseph High School strives to create an atmosphere for learning and self-growth. Each student is afforded the opportunity to realize his potential and to develop healthy attitudes and responsible behavior that will permit him to pursue continued studies and assume his place in society as a thoughtful and engaged citizen inspired by the school's Christian tradition of service, integrity, and respect for others.

Saint Joseph High School conducts a four-year high school program. Students must complete four years of high school studies before they graduate.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

English	4 years	20 credits
Health & Physical Education (Includes Driver's Ed.)	1 1/2 years	7.5 credits
Mathematics	3 years, 4 strongly recommended	15 credits
Science	3 years	15 credits
Social Studies	3 years	15 credits
Theology	4 years or years enrolled at SJHS	20 Credits
World Languages	2 years, 3 strongly recommended	10 credits
Electives		<u>32.5 credits</u>
Total		135 credits

All full year courses earn 5 credits.

All semester courses earn 2.5 credits.

All 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students must enroll in 35 credits per semester. All 12th grade students must enroll in at least 30 credits, regardless of credits previously earned.

COURSES

Saint Joseph High School provides courses in academic, honors, and advanced placement level. The tier of classes enables students to proceed at a level commensurate with their ability and interest in a given academic area. The selection of courses at Saint Joseph High School is an individualized process. Placement for incoming students is based on current grades, standardized test scores, the high school entrance exam, the Saint Joseph High School Placement exam, and in consultation with the academic department chairs and the Dean of Studies. Placement for current students is based on current grades, standardized test scores, and in consultation with the students and Partners in Mission, including Dean of Studies, academic department chairs, guidance counselor, and parent.

Academic Courses

Saint Joseph High School provides academic courses that meet the requirements for graduation and prepare students for college. Courses are designed to develop skills that provide students with a solid foundation and the key fundamentals for future success.

Honors Courses

In order to encourage students to work to their fullest potential, to use their talents more effectively, and to give themselves a broader education, Saint Joseph High School provides honors courses. For qualified students, honors courses are available in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages. Entrance into honors-level courses is contingent upon meeting the criteria that is available on the Saint Joseph High School website section entitled, Academics: Curriculum. Depending on the subject area or course, criteria will vary and may include earning an A average in prior coursework, placement test results, teacher recommendation, departmental approval, or other specified requirements. In addition to meeting the stated academic criteria, students may be considered for honors-level study based on factors such as attitude, work habits, and study skills. These factors help determine whether a student is prepared to manage the rigor, depth, and pace of an honors curriculum. Placement into an honors-level course is determined through consultation among the student, teacher, department chair or lead teacher, school

counselor, and parent/guardian, as appropriate. In all cases, the Dean of Studies makes the final decision regarding enrollment in honors courses. Honors courses receive greater weighting in students' grade point averages.

Advanced Placement Courses (AP)

Advanced Placement (AP) courses provide students with the opportunity to engage in rigorous, college-level study. Enrollment is based on the criteria published in the Saint Joseph High School website section entitled, Academics: Curriculum. Because expectations differ across disciplines, eligibility requirements vary by course and may include prior academic performance, placement assessments, teacher recommendation, departmental approval, and other course-specific prerequisites. When evaluating a student's readiness for AP coursework, the school considers not only academic achievement but also evidence of strong study habits, consistent effort, personal responsibility, and the ability to succeed in a fast-paced and demanding learning environment. Course placement is determined through a collaborative review involving the student, teacher, department chair or lead teacher, school counselor, and parent/guardian, as appropriate. Final approval for enrollment in all AP courses rests with the Dean of Studies. Students enrolled in an AP course are required to take the corresponding Advanced Placement Exam at the conclusion of the course. Students taking AP courses must pay the testing fee required by the College Board, which is due shortly after enrollment. Advanced Placement courses receive additional weighting in the calculation of grade point averages. Students enrolled in AP courses may also be required to attend instructional sessions outside the regularly scheduled class meeting time.

Project Acceleration (Dual Enrollment) with Seton Hall University

Project Acceleration (often called Dual Enrollment) enables qualified Saint Joseph students to take college-level courses that, upon successful completion at the end of the school year, will earn them college credits that appear on a Seton Hall University transcript. Through this partnership, Seton Hall affirms that students may earn up to 22 credits from designated courses taken at Saint Joseph High School. Please note that participation in Project Acceleration requires a tuition fee per course payable to Seton Hall University. If the Project Acceleration course is also an Advanced Placement (AP) course, this fee is in addition to the AP exam fee required by the College Board. The most updated list of approved Project Acceleration courses appears on our school website under Academics: Curriculum.

HONORS PROGRAM

The Saint Joseph High School Honors Program is designed to recognize students who attended Saint Joseph High School for four years and who have successfully completed the most rigorous Honors and AP curriculum offered. Students who achieve academic excellence in the Honors Program, have no incidents of dishonesty or any major disciplinary incident, and meet the established considerations of the Honors Program earn a Saint Joseph High School Honors Diploma at graduation.

GRADING

PowerSchool

PowerSchool is used to inform students and parents of their son's performance in all courses. Students' grades are regularly posted on *PowerSchool* for students and parents to view.

GRADE REPORTS

Grade Reports are available to parents in *PowerSchool* at the conclusion of each marking period.

SCHOOL-WIDE GRADING SCALE

A+ (100 - 96)	A (95 - 91)	B+ (90 - 86)
B (85 - 81)	C+ (80 - 77)	C (76 - 72)
D+ (71 - 69)	D (68-65)	F (64 or less)

QUARTER GRADES

Quarter grades are determined by a combination of daily work and assessments.

SEMESTER GRADES

Semester grades are calculated in *PowerSchool* using the numerical averages of the respective quarters and semester exams. The first semester grade includes the first and second quarter averages and the first semester exams. The second semester grade includes the third and fourth quarter averages and the second semester exams. A semester grade is composed of two quarter averages, each contributing 20%, and one semester exam, which contributes 10%, for a total of 50% of the final grade. All quarterly and semester numerical averages are converted to letter grades on the high school transcript.

FINAL GRADES

The final grade is assigned at the end of the academic year and is calculated in *PowerSchool* using the numerical averages from both semesters. Each quarter

counts for 20% of the overall grade, and each semester exam counts for 10%, combining to form the final grade. This final numerical average is then converted to a letter grade on the high school transcript.

FAILING GRADES

For full year courses, students who have earned a grade of F in the second semester earn a grade of F for the final grade regardless of quarterly numerical averages. For half year courses, students who earned a grade of F in the second quarter earn a grade of F for the semester and for the final grade regardless of quarterly numerical averages.

Students who have earned a grade of F as a final grade must continue that/those course(s) in credit recovery at Saint Joseph High School as determined by the Principal. No more than two courses may be made up in credit recovery. A student who successfully completes credit recovery may achieve the highest grade of D, which will replace the grade of F on the high school transcript. Any student who does not earn the required number of credits will not be allowed to continue at Saint Joseph High School. Any student below a 2.0 GPA at the end of each semester will have his enrollment status subject to academic review, will be placed on academic probation, and is subject to dismissal. A senior who fails a required course will not receive his diploma until he passes the failed course(s) in credit recovery, as determined by the Principal. Failure to successfully complete all requirements of Saint Joseph High School credit recovery and requirements for a Saint Joseph High School diploma will result in the senior forfeiting his diploma and all honors and privileges thereunto appertaining.

TRANSCRIPTS

The Saint Joseph High School transcript serves as the official student record. All high school level courses and final grades are recorded on the high school transcript. The Dean of Studies makes all decisions regarding student transcripts.

GRADE POINT AVERAGES

In determining grade point averages, quality points are awarded for letter grades as follows:

Academic Courses

A+	4.5	B+	3.5	C+	2.5	D+	1.5		
A	4.0	B	3.0	C	2.0	D	1.0	F	0.0

Honors Courses (no extra weighting for grades of C or lower)

A+	5.0	B+	4.0	C+	3.0	D+	1.5		
A	4.5	B	3.5	C	2.0	D	1.0	F	0.0

CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE

A student's cumulative grade point average is reported on a student's high school transcript. To calculate a student's GPA at the end of the school year, take the value of the final grade and multiply it by the number of credits that the course is worth (2.5 or 5.0). This number is known as the quality point for the course. Calculate the quality points for each course. Add them together and divide the total by the number of credits taken, which will give the student's GPA for the end of year and for accumulation.

Note: Colleges, universities, and other scholarship institutions reserve the right to recalculate a student's cumulative grade point average according to their requirements and regulations.

ACADEMIC HONORS

HONOR ROLL

1. President's Honor Roll – A student with a GPA of 4.4 or greater for a particular quarter is placed on the President's Honor Roll.
2. Principal's Honor Roll – A student with a GPA of 4.0 to 4.3999 for a particular quarter is placed on the Principal's Honor Roll.
3. Honor Roll – A student with a GPA of 3.8 to 3.9999 for a particular quarter is placed on the Honor Roll.

To make the honor roll at any level, a student must not have any "D"s or "F"s for the relevant marking period.

Note: *Any grade changes made after the end of the 3rd quarter may not be reflected in school publications or programs due to time constraints.*

Academic Honors and Student Recognition

Saint Joseph High School students are recognized for their academic achievement by being designated to the honor rolls. Students must earn honor roll status for the first three quarters in order to receive recognition.

Students who consistently earn high grades are invited to join Honor Societies. Students must demonstrate academic achievement as well as meet the societies' additional requirements. Saint Joseph High School recognizes students by inviting them to join our chapters of the Art Honor Society, Music Honor Society, National

Honor Society, Science Honor Society, Social Studies Honor Society, Technology Honor Society, Thespian Honor Society, and World Languages Honor Societies.

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

The Valedictorian is the graduate who has attended Saint Joseph High School for four years, has the highest cumulative grade point average, and has successfully completed the most rigorous curriculum offered at Saint Joseph High School.

The Salutatorian is the graduate who has attended Saint Joseph High School for four years, has the second highest cumulative grade point average, and has successfully completed the most rigorous curriculum offered at Saint Joseph High School.

Both the Valedictorian and Salutatorian must not have incidents of academic dishonesty or any major disciplinary incidents.

In the case of multiple Valedictorians or Salutatorians, the privilege of addressing the audience will be determined by the Principal.

EXAMINATIONS

SCHEDULE

Examinations are administered each semester. The time period for examinations is one hour and thirty minutes. The last week of each semester is devoted to this task, with two examinations administered each morning.

EXEMPTIONS FOR SENIORS FROM FINAL EXAMINATIONS

Exemptions from final examinations are permitted in full-credit courses. To be eligible for exemption from a final examination, a senior must have earned:

- A minimum grade point average of 3.0 for the first quarter, the first semester and the third quarter.
- An **A** in the course for the first quarter.
- An **A** in the course for the second quarter.
- An **A** in the course for the first semester.
- An **A** in the course for the third quarter.
- An **A** in the course in the fourth quarter.

It is the teacher's discretion whether he/she wants to offer exemptions; if exemptions are offered, then any senior who meets the academic criteria is exempt. A teacher is not required to exempt seniors from an examination. A senior who is exempt from a final examination receives a grade of **A** for that examination.

COURSES AT OTHER SCHOOLS

Saint Joseph High School students may enroll in courses at other schools only with advance permission from the Dean of Studies. Any such courses must not conflict with the Saint Joseph High School schedule, and the courses must be in addition to the academic requirements of Saint Joseph High School. Saint Joseph High School does not accept courses taken in other programs, including summer programs, in place of credits required and courses that must be taken during the school year.

The Dean of Studies, in consultation with the Principal, makes the final decisions regarding all academic matters.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

The Guidance Department consists of a team of counselors whose goal is to provide students with individual direction as they transition from middle school, navigate through high school, and prepare for college. The Guidance Department provides individual services, group activities, and educational forums. Counselors assist students with adjustments to high school, decision-making strategies, time management, and improving study habits. They provide a testing program that indicates students' strengths and weaknesses, assess interest to guide students toward possible career opportunities, and provide practice/preparation for college standardized testing. Counselors also assist in the course selection process to ensure a comprehensive evaluation of needs and wants as students work toward developing their potential and goals for the future.

The Guidance Department's college planning process includes defining interests and goals, a realistic assessment of college choices, serving as a liaison between the student and the college admissions office, and providing individualized student and parent assistance during the college admission process. The Guidance Office houses a library of resources for accessing information on colleges, college admissions, financial aid, scholarships, college athletics, and careers.

Additionally, for students who need specialized assistance, referral services are available through their counselor. Each counselor is assigned to a particular group of students. The guidance counselors are available to students, parents, and other Partners in Mission in order to best assist in the total development of the young men at Saint Joseph High School.

Special Needs Considerations

Limited special needs accommodation may be provided for students who have recently undergone educational and/or psychological evaluation through a licensed psychologist approved by the Guidance Department. Those students may be eligible for accommodation based on the diagnosed conditions. The guidance counselors review all pertinent educational information and determine if the student is eligible for additional classroom accommodation that may assist him in achieving his academic potential. However, the school may not meet all recommendations of the evaluation and offers no guarantee in that regard. Special needs accommodations do not include special education curricula or remedial courses. Students with special needs accommodations will be required to meet all academic expectations for graduation.

ZENGA LIBRARY AND MEDIA CENTER

Saint Joseph High School's Zenga Library and Media Center has an extensive collection of print and virtual resources available in our ADA-compliant facility. The library provides numerous services and programs to support the Saint Joseph High School curriculum and the academic requirements of our students and Partners in Mission. Instruction is available at every grade level in all subject areas so that each student develops information literacy skills and an appreciation of authentic research. In addition to research resources, the collection reflects the personal reading interests of our patrons.

Rapidly changing instructional technologies, and our "Bring Your Own Device" policy, are supported by a school-wide wireless network. Students are provided with clouded storage space, and they have access to all programs and applications needed to complete assignments. Saint Joseph High School allows students to submit their work electronically, collaborate with fellow students and Partners in Mission online, and remotely review grades.

The Saint Joseph High School Library Resources web page links students to multiple research resources, including our Online Public Access Catalog, sources that access criticism found in literary journals, biographical information, multimedia encyclopedias and full text articles in periodicals, newspapers and scientific serials, and other research portals. These electronic resources may be accessed both on campus and off-site. Many reference sources are now available to students in e-book format as well as in print. Students are encouraged to make use of the extensive fiction and periodical collections to develop reading comprehension and increase their exposure to leisure reading. The library provides tremendous educational

resources for all of our students in an environment that nurtures exploration as well as enjoyment.

All computer uses, including Internet access, are reserved for academic research and is governed by the Acceptable Use Policy signed by all students and their parents/guardians. This policy is published under the Behavior Policy in the Student Handbook.

UNSTRUCTURED TIME

The unstructured time is designed to provide the student opportunities to do independent study, including reference work, and to use the Zenga Library and Media Center. Also, the student can arrange conferences with Partners in Mission, including teachers, guidance counselors, and/or campus ministers. While always under adult supervision, the student can develop a sense of self-responsibility, self-discipline, efficient use of his unstructured time, and serious study habits. All students have unstructured time every day.

THE FORMATION CENTER

The Formation Center is designated for tutoring and assistance to students who need academic help during their unstructured time, and/or after school. Students visit the Zenga Library and Media Center voluntarily or as required by Partners in Mission. Partners in Mission and honor students are available to provide any necessary assistance.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Working closely with the School Leadership and the Theology Department, Campus Ministry has as its goal the following statement taken from the Brothers' *Educational Mission and Ministry* document: to complement the family in its primary role in religious education, to support the Church parish as a center of Catholic life, and to extend the religion lessons of the classroom to lived faith experiences. We strive to recognize the many gifts of the Spirit within our students and Partners in Mission and call forth those gifts for service and ministry to the school community and to the Catholic Church.

CAMPUS MINISTRY TEAM

The Campus Ministry Team is composed of Partners in Mission and is led by the Campus Minister. The Campus Ministry Team sponsors events and activities to foster

spiritual growth in the development of our students. These events include liturgies, faith sharing, the Service Program, retreats, and days of reflection for Partners in Mission and students.

STUDENT MINISTERS

Student Ministers assist the Campus Ministry Team in the fulfillment of its goals. Student Ministers are selected after consultation with the Partners in Mission and an acceptance process. Student Ministers work alongside adults in planning and staffing retreats for underclassmen; preparing liturgical celebrations; facilitating support, goal setting, and faith sharing groups; and participating in programs to benefit the wider faith community.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are confirmed Catholics who feel called to this ministry. After consultation with the Campus Minister, interested students are invited and trained to participate in school liturgies, Eucharistic Adoration on First Fridays, and at other times during the school year.

SERVICE PROGRAM

The service program is designed to complement the Theology curriculum as it attends to the faith development of students. As part of the Saint Joseph High School faith community, students are required to complete assigned service projects and hours. Each year students will be required to complete service hours based upon their class year.

Service hour requirements by Grade:

- Seniors - 20 hours
- Juniors - 20 hours
- Sophomores - 20 hours
- Freshmen - 20 hours

Students are required to have completed at least half of their service hour requirement by November 15th.

Any student who has not met this requirement by the deadline will be:

- Removed from all extra-curricular and co-curricular activities until the hours are completed.
- Placed on a behavioral disciplinary contract.

All remaining service hours are due by April 1st. Students who fail to complete the required service hours will not be permitted to attend class the following school year until their hours are completed. Seniors who fail to complete their required service hours will not be permitted to attend graduation.

We encourage all students to plan and ensure they are on track to meet this important obligation.

RETREAT PROGRAM

Each year, all freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors are required to participate in a class retreat. Juniors and Seniors are invited to participate in our optional Kairos retreat program.

BEHAVIOR POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The behavior policy of Saint Joseph High School fosters the total formation of each student through Catholic values, self-discipline, personal growth, and co-curricular excellence. This goal is best realized through the cooperative effort of students, parents, and school.

Student behavior is considered to be within the province of Saint Joseph High School. Enrollment of a student in Saint Joseph High School implies a partnership between the school and the parents/guardians. Parents/Guardians are invited and expected to support Saint Joseph High School in the rigorous enforcement of this behavior policy since discipline is necessary to provide for the orderly growth and development of the individual and to assure the health and safety of each student.

HONOR CODE

“A Falcon will not Lie, Cheat, Steal or Ignore those who do.”

The Saint Joseph High School Honor Code describes the minimum standard of ethical behavior by which all students have chosen to live. The Honor Code requires that every student conduct them self in an honest and straightforward manner, whether at school, a co-curricular activity, or in public. It is the responsibility of every student to live by and uphold the Honor Code.

CONDUCT

While on campus, at school-related events, and traveling to and from school, students must conduct themselves as Christian gentlemen and in a manner that supports the good name of Saint Joseph High School. Behavior, therefore, must be respectful, cooperative, and conducive to meeting the established standards of our school community. Should a student become aware of wrongdoing, he is expected to pass that information on to a responsible adult in an effort to prevent the wrongdoing from taking place or to help protect others.

If a student is present when wrongdoing is evident (such as fighting, smoking, vandalism, use of alcohol or other drugs, and so forth), then that student has the obligation to remove himself immediately from that situation; otherwise, he shares in the consequences related to such misbehavior. These consequences may (will) include disciplinary consequences, suspension, or dismissal.

Students must conduct themselves in a manner consistent with his status as a member of the Saint Joseph High School community. Behavior that is contrary to the moral or religious principles of the Roman Catholic Church or the philosophy or policies of Saint Joseph High School as indicated in the *Student Handbook* may (will) be subject to disciplinary action including suspension or dismissal.

- Behavior prohibited by this regulation includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Attending, sponsoring, or participating in activities where alcoholic beverages are illegally used or legal or illegal substances, drugs, or narcotics are sold, purchased, possessed, or consumed.
 - Committing or attempting to commit acts that adversely affect a person's life, health, property, or peace of mind.
 - Committing or attempting to commit theft, vandalism, or other crimes.
 - Knowingly participating in the possession or sale of stolen property.

Care and Use of the Facilities: Students must use the building, its furnishings, and equipment only for the purposes intended.

This policy includes:

- Fire and security alarm systems in the building

- AED units (Automated External Defibrillators which are important life-support equipment in the event of a medical emergency)
- Intercom systems
- Computers and all electronic equipment
- Desks and other furnishings

Students are expected to take reasonable care in their use of all school property, furnishings, and equipment to prevent unnecessary or excessive damage or wear to the school's facilities. Students may not enter classrooms, the Zenga Library Media Center computer labs, the Maglio Gymnasium or locker rooms before school, during unstructured time, or after school unless a Partner in Mission is present.

Quiet Areas and Silent Areas: The Zenga Library and Media Center is a place of silence except during group instruction. Hallways adjacent to classrooms are also silent areas. Hallways, stairwells, and entrances to classrooms are not places for loitering and conversation. Students are to move as quickly and as orderly as possible through the hallways and stairwells, keeping to the right at all times.

Dining Halls: Orderly conduct is to be observed at all times in all dining halls, including, but not limited to, the Catanzaro Dining Hall, the Community Dining Hall and the Perch. Proper use of the furniture is expected in all dining areas. In addition to the dining halls, students may eat in areas designated by the Dean of Students. Eating in restricted areas is not permitted. This policy includes bottled drinks such as sodas and water. Therefore, students may not have any visible sign of food or drink in the school building except in the dining hall areas or outside. Students choosing to eat outside must dispose of trash in an appropriate manner. Gum and sunflower seeds are prohibited anywhere on campus.

Outside: During unstructured time, students may be outside immediately behind the main classroom portion of the building. However, rough games such as tackle football or the like and games involving objects being thrown against the building are not allowed.

Restricted Areas: Students are not to loiter around or in parked cars upon arriving at school. **Students may not go to parking areas during the school day without the permission of the Dean of Students and without a Partner in Mission escort.**

Students may not loiter any time near:

- Parked cars, trucks, buses, bikes

- Brenner Family Field
- Backfields
- Construction areas
- Parking lots
- Maglio Gymnasium lobby entrance

Additional Restricted Areas:

- Partners in Mission (Faculty and Staff) Rooms
- Students are never allowed in any area of the school, including the weight room and athletic locker rooms, without the presence and supervision of a Saint Joseph High School Partner in Mission

Distribution of Printed Material: The distribution of printed material on the school grounds without administrative permission is prohibited.

Electronic Equipment, Technology and Information Sources: Students are required to bring to school and to use charged personal laptop computers for legitimate educational purposes. However, such use must fully comply with the school's Acceptable Use Policy. Laptops and/or electronic devices must be registered with the Technology Coordinator.

The production of images, communication, recordings, etc. can be a source of potential abuse, a sign of disrespect, and a serious infringement upon the rights of others. Therefore, students are prohibited at all times from using or even having in their possession unauthorized electronic entertainment devices during their academic day. Should such unauthorized electronic equipment be found on the person of a student during the school day, or should a student be found to be using such electronic equipment for inappropriate purposes, the school reserves the right to take possession of that equipment and retain possession of it for whatever length of time deemed appropriate by the Dean of Students. Further, while in possession of such equipment, the school reserves the right to examine all data stored on the device. Any use of technologies for inappropriate purposes, such as but not limited to:

- copying of information for the purposes of academic dishonesty
- using images or recordings, statements, text messages, or Internet postings in a manner that can reasonably be interpreted as a lack of respect for another person

- communicating at any time and in any manner (including texting or messaging during the school day) that is deemed by the school to be inappropriate is strictly forbidden.

Anyone violating these expectations will be subject to serious disciplinary consequences including the possibility of suspension or dismissal. In addition, students are not permitted to use or have on their person digital or film cameras, video cameras, tape recorders or other electronic or communication equipment of any type without the explicit permission of the Dean of Students. All school electronic audiovisual equipment may be used only for school purposes. Student access to school computers and to the Internet is governed by an Acceptable Use Policy published in the Student Handbook. Anyone violating these policies is subject to disciplinary action including suspension or dismissal.

Partners in Mission may make discretionary decisions that may impact all electronic devices, written documents, calculators, personal notes, and cellular and electronic data in the interest of a viable learning environment or for legitimate pedagogical purposes.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Saint Joseph High School wishes to encourage thoughtful, ethical, and transparent use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools while preserving the integrity of student learning and assessment.

- “AI tools” include any digital tools that generate, revise, or translate content using artificial intelligence. Examples include (but are not limited to):
 - Generative text programs (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Microsoft Copilot)
 - Image or media generators (e.g., DALL·E, Midjourney, Synthesia)
 - AI writing assistants (e.g., Grammarly, Wordtune, Quillbot)
 - Translation or summarization tools that alter written content
- Teacher Approval Required: Students may only use AI tools on assignments when explicitly authorized by the teacher. Students must not assume that using an AI tool for grammar checking, spell checking, or translation is automatically allowed.
- Transparency and Disclosure: When AI use is permitted, students must make sure that their teacher is aware. Students may be required to disclose AI clearly in the assignment and provide citations or documentation if requested.

- **Prohibited Use:** AI tools may not be used to generate, revise, or translate any portion of an assignment unless approved. Submitting AI-generated content as one's own (original) work is a violation of academic integrity.
- **Protect Privacy:** Students must not input personal, peer, or school-related information into AI tools. All AI use must comply with school technology and privacy policies.
- **Student Responsibility and Accountability:** Students must verify AI-generated content for accuracy, and ensure their work reflects original thinking and mastery. Students who violate this policy are subject to academic and disciplinary consequences, including a zero on the assignment, loss of honor society membership, or disciplinary probation, which may lead to dismissal from Saint Joseph High School.

Cellular and Electronic Device Policy:

Cellular devices, ear buds, headphones, or the like, are not to be utilized in the classroom unless used for instructional purposes, which is authorized by the instructor.

All classrooms will be equipped with a personal cellular device caddy.

Prior to the start of each class:

- Students must power down and secure their cellular device in the caddy
- At the end of each class, students can retrieve their cellular device

Students may ONLY use their cellular device:

- Prior to 7:40 a.m.
- Passing time
- Unstructured
- After school

Students may only use their headphones:

- Prior to 7:40 a.m.
- Unstructured
- After school

Saint Joseph High School reserves the right to search a student's cellular or electronic device for all forms of communication, including, but not limited to, text messages, emails, voicemails, pictures, videos, and interactions on social media, at the discretion of the Dean of Students.

Students not adhering to this policy are subject to:

- **Violation #1:** Personal electronic devices and headphones will be surrendered thereafter to the Dean of Students Office for a period of **one (1) week**, prior to the start of the school day. All devices can be retrieved at the end of the school day. Additionally, the student will receive **one (1) Central detention**.
- **Violation #2:** Personal electronic devices and headphones will be surrendered thereafter to the Dean of Students Office for a period of **two (2) weeks**, prior to the start of the school day. All devices **MUST** be retrieved by a parent or guardian, who will also meet with the Dean of Students or a designee. The student will receive **two (2) Central detentions**.
- **Violation #3:** The student will be placed on a behavioral disciplinary contract for defiance of school standards. Any further violations involving cellular or electronic devices may result in a review for dismissal from the school.

Key Exemptions:

- **Medical/Disability Accommodations:** If a device is necessary for a student's medical care plan
- **Educational & Translation Needs:** If the use of the device is expressly authorized by the Dean of Students or Dean of Students for a necessary purpose, or for translation services.

If a student is found to be in possession of a second phone on his person during the day, he will be in direct violation of the Saint Joseph High School Honor Code and be subject to serious disciplinary action including possible review for dismissal.

Meta Smart Glasses and Wearable Recording Devices Policy

Meta smart glasses and other wearable recording devices are not permitted on campus during the school day or at any school-sponsored event. These devices may not be worn or used to record audio, video, or images of students, staff, or visitors at any time.

The use of wearable recording devices is strictly prohibited on the campus of Saint Joseph High School, including but not limited to classrooms, restrooms, locker rooms, and any other private or sensitive areas.

Students who require prescription glasses must wear them in traditional (non-recording) form.

Violations of this policy may result in confiscation of the device, parent/guardian notification, and disciplinary action in accordance with the Saint Joseph High School Code of Conduct.

Any exception to this policy requires prior approval from the Dean of Students.

Lockers: All lockers provided for student use by the school are school property. Combination locks issued by Saint Joseph High School are required for use on the locker(s) assigned to each student, including P.E. and athletic lockers. Each student is responsible for the contents, orderliness, and care of this assigned locker.

Students may use their assigned lockers:

- Before school
- During passing time
- During unstructured time
- After school

Students must **NOT** go to lockers:

- During class periods

Students are not to share their combinations with other individuals. The school reserves the right to enter by any means and to inspect any or all lockers at any time. The school will not be liable for any losses that the student may incur.

Book Bags: Only Saint Joseph High School book bags or plain book bags of appropriate quality, size, and appearance may be brought to school. Other than a student's name embroidered or written neatly, no other writing of any sort or any other defacing is allowed on a student's book bag.

For the safety and security of our school community, students will be permitted to carry **ONLY ONE** book bag, or the like such as briefcase, or computer case, during the school day. Once at school students must secure their personal bag in their assigned locker for the duration of the day. **The school is not liable for any losses that the student may incur.**

Responsibility: The student must demonstrate individual responsibility by bringing all necessary items to school on a timely basis. **Parents or anyone else should not attempt to deliver such items as lunch, lunch money, books, homework, uniforms, etc. during the academic day, with the exception of medicine.** Students or school personnel are not permitted to accept delivery of such items on campus.

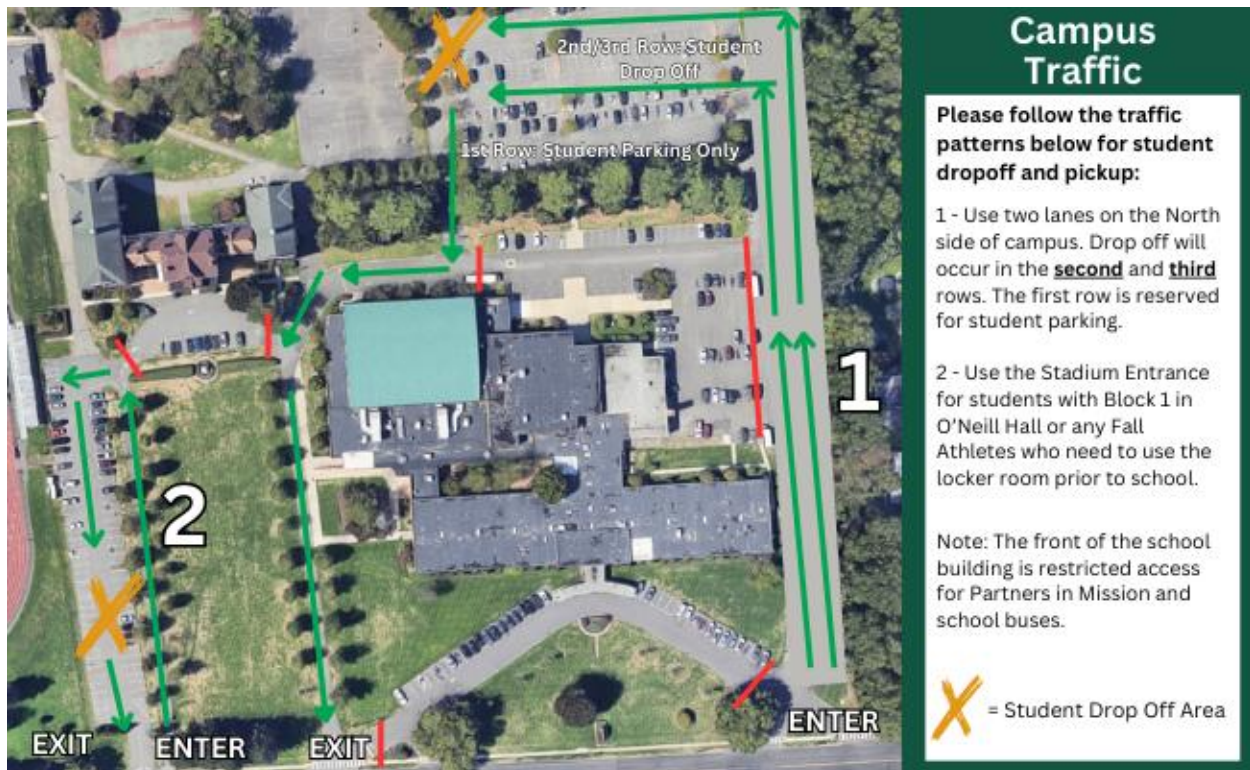
Search and Seizure Policy: Saint Joseph High School reserves the right during the school day, at all school-sponsored events (such as, but not limited to, extracurricular activities, athletic events, dances, field trips, and overnight trips) and/or while the student or his possessions are on campus, to conduct a search of a student's person, assigned locker, vehicle, or other student possessions on campus to seize any item that is in violation of school policy.

Any prohibited item found on a student's person, in any bag in his possession, in his assigned locker, or in a vehicle that a student has driven to and/or parked on campus, will be considered to be the property of that student.

Bus Services: While traveling to and from school using bus services, students will adhere to the guidelines set forth by the bus operators as well as the standards outlined in Saint Joseph High School's behavior policy. Misbehavior on school buses jeopardizes the safety of others and will not be tolerated. Misbehavior on the bus may result in suspension from or removal from the bus or other disciplinary action including suspension and/or dismissal from school.

Automobiles: Students who drive vehicles to school will operate said vehicle in a careful, responsible, courteous manner and within the driving laws of the State of New Jersey. Students found operating their vehicle in an irresponsible and reckless manner will lose their parking privileges on the campus of Saint Joseph High School. Furthermore, parking on any side street near Saint Joseph High School may be in violation of the Borough of Metuchen Parking Authority and will result in your vehicle being ticketed and towed at the owner's expense.

Drop Off and Pick Up: For safety, students are to be dropped off and picked up in accordance with the information map below.



Parking Areas: Student parking will be limited to the parking lot behind the Cantanzaro Dinning Hall and beyond the tree line.

The following parking areas are **restricted** for students:

- Brenner Family Field
- Mathematics class wing (adjacent to the school kitchen)
- Parking area in front of the tree line behind the Cantanzaro Dinning Hall

Students may not park in spaces designated for Partners in Mission. Violation of parking guidelines will result in disciplinary action. The school will make reasonable efforts to protect the vehicles and property of students, however, will not be responsible for any loss or damage to cars or their contents from fire, theft, or any other cause.

*****Students are not permitted to return to their vehicle without the permission of the Dean of Students.**

Vehicle Registration: All vehicles operated by students must be registered with the Office of the Dean of Students.

- Registration will take place at orientation and throughout the year
- Parking in student areas is strictly limited to registered student vehicles
- Saint Joseph High School parking tags must (will) be clearly displayed on the rearview mirror or visible on the dashboard

FOR THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY, VEHICLES WITHOUT A SAINT JOSEPH PARKING TAG WILL BE SUMMONSED AND TOWED BY THE METUCHEN POLICE DEPARTMENT AT THE OWNERS EXPENSE.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Attendance: A student who is absent must have a parent or guardian contact the school before 7:45 a.m. on the day of absence. Upon returning to school, the student must also bring a note, describing the reason for his absence, signed by a parent or guardian, and must deliver that note to the Dean of Students Office before he will be admitted to his first class of the day. (No faxes or emails will be accepted.) **On the day of his absence, a student may neither attend nor participate in an athletic event (practice of game), or any co-curricular school activity without the specific permission of the Dean of Students.**

Students who arrive after 10:00 a.m. will not be eligible to participate in any extracurricular activities that day, unless they have a doctor's note. **Excessively coming in late on competition days will result in a review by school leadership and can lead to disciplinary actions.**

Saint Joseph High School follows the guidelines set forth by the New Jersey State Department of Education requiring all students attend school on all scheduled school days. Therefore, absences will be considered as **excused** or **unexcused**. Students' absences may not exceed 10 days. Excess of 10 school days will impact a student's ability to earn credit for the school year and is considered truant. Extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by school leadership.

If a student's absences exceed 10 school days:

- **Students will be suspended from extra-curricular and co-curricular events**
- **Students will be placed on a discipline contract for attendance**
- **Students that reach 15 days of absence will go through the discipline review process.**

An **excused absence** is one in which the student is absent for a legitimate reason as determined by the Dean of Students. During an excused absence, students are allowed to make up any work missed within three days of their return to school. However, students and parents are expected to keep these absences to a minimum. It is the student's responsibility to contact his teachers about the missed work within three days of his return to school. Lack of cooperation on the part of the student in

making up work or tests in a timely manner will result in a grade of **F** (or **zero**) for the missing work. A student who is absent for a single day prior to or on the day of a planned and announced quiz, test, or assignment must make up that work on the day he returns to school. **Additionally, youth sports tournaments, or showcases, are considered unexcused absences.**

An **unexcused absence** is one in which the student is absent without approval. Students must make up the time and assignments missed during an unexcused absence, and they may not receive academic credit for that work. When a student has an unexcused absence from school, further disciplinary action may be taken.

Absences of convenience, such as for trips, youth sport tournaments, days before or after holidays, etc., are considered to be unexcused absences unless permission is granted in advance by the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students will require students to make up for the time missed due to absences or tardiness regardless of the classification of the absence as excused or unexcused.

Note: Students are required to attend the days of reflection, retreats, field trips, and other required educational experiences conducted for their grade level. Should a student be absent from any of these requirements, the Dean of Students may require the student to participate in a comparable experience, as determined by the Dean, in addition to making up the missed school time.

College Visits: In order to prevent absences from school, students and their parents should begin making college plans and the associated campus visitations early. Students should plan college visits for times when Saint Joseph High School is not in session. **Absences for college visits will be excused once the student returns to school and provides the attendance office with official documentation from the College or University stating that he attended a visit.** The Dean of Students, consultation with the guidance counselors makes the final decision regarding excused absences for college visits.

Extended Absences: A student who is absent for five consecutive school days must present an original doctor's certificate to the Dean of Students Office before he will be admitted back to class. (No faxes or emails will be accepted.) The student and parents or guardians will meet with the Dean of Students to discuss these extended absences.

Excessive Absences: Excessive absenteeism is a serious matter. A student who, in the judgment of the Dean of Students, has excessive absences, excused or unexcused, or frequently tardy, may be placed on probation. Students will be required to make up time.

Checking Out During the School Day: Students checking out during the school day should be kept to an absolute minimum. Whenever possible, students and parents must schedule doctor visits and orthodontist, dental, physical, and vision appointments outside of school hours. When it is necessary for a student to leave school during the day, parents should:

- ***Students, regardless of age, may NOT call or email themselves out of school. All communication regarding absences must come from a parent or guardian.***
- send the student to the Deans of Students Office before the beginning of the school day with a handwritten note or an email from the Saint Joseph Parent email account, requesting permission for the student to check out early. Emails can be sent to **attendance@stjoes.org**.
- This note should also include specific information about the time the student needs to check out, the reason for his checking out, his destination, and his anticipated time of return to Saint Joseph High School.
- No student may check out of school without the permission of the Dean of Students.
- No student, regardless of age, may check out of school on his own accord.
- Students will report directly to school to check in following approved appointments; they are not making additional stops before arriving at school.
- A student who becomes ill during the school day should report to the Health Office and/or the Dean of Students Office so that a parent or guardian may be contacted for permission for the student to check out of school.

Punctuality: Students must arrive at school in sufficient time to be present for first period. Any student late for school, prior to 8:00 a.m., must enter through the Catanzaro dining hall. There they will receive a late pass from an administrator, and only then are they permitted to go to class. Students who arrive after 8:00 a.m. must be dropped off at the main entrance, where they will check in and receive a late pass, and then he will be permitted to go to class. Students who are excessively tardy to school will be required to make up time before, during, or after school. A student tardy for class in periods 2 through 8 will be disciplined as deemed necessary by the teacher. Students will be allowed a **3-time grace period** for the lates. Extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by school leadership.

Students who continue to arrive late at school will be disciplined in the following manner:

Tier 1 – Early Intervention (1-5 late arrivals)

- Automatic parental notification
- Student meeting with a member of the Dean of Students Office
- Required reflection and action plan

Tier 2 – Accountability Measures (6-9 late arrivals)

- Lunch or after-school detention
- Loss of privileges (parking, open campus, dress down days)
(Please see the Automobiles section located on page 29 regarding parking on the streets surrounding Saint Joseph High School)
- Attendance contract, signed by the student and parent

Tier 3 – Chronic Lateness / Excessive (10+ late arrivals)

- Suspended from extra/co-curricular activities until behavior patterns change, and all detention is completed

Tier 4 – Unchanged Behavior (Excessive and Disregarding)

- The student will be reviewed for dismissal and is either dismissed from SJHS or put on a behavioral contract

After-Hours Supervision: Saint Joseph High School offers supervision to its students from approximately 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on a regular school days schedule. On shortened schedule school days, supervision is offered to students from approximately 7:00 a.m. to approximately two hours after the last period of the school day. Parents are expected to pick up their sons by 6:00 p.m. on regular school days and approximately two hours after the last period on shortened schedule school days. Additionally, parents are expected to pick up their sons immediately after other school-related functions that take place outside of the school day, including, but not limited to, school dances. Parents understand that students cannot reasonably be supervised indefinitely, and it is the parents' obligation and responsibility to pick up their sons within the aforementioned time frame.

GROOMING STANDARDS

Students will comply with the grooming standards set forth by Saint Joseph High School during the school day and at all school functions.

1. All students will be clean-shaven each day

2. A student's hair will be:

- Clean, tidy, moderate and consistent length
- Sideburns may not extend past the middle of the ear
- Hair will not fall into the student's eyes or extend beyond the back collar of his shirt
- Dying, bleaching, and unnatural carvings into the eyebrows or hairline are not permitted

Special Note: Students who are non-compliant during scheduled picture days will have a photo taken ONLY for school identification purposes. This photo will not be utilized in the school yearbook.

ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

First Violation

- Student assigned detention
- Parents/Guardians notified
- Following school day, the student must be clean shaven and check in at the Dean of Students Office

Second Violation

- Student assigned to In-School Suspension (ISS) for the remainder of the day
- Student suspended from extra/co-curricular activities
- Parent/Guardian notification

Third Violation

- Parent/Guardian notification and required to immediately pick student up from school
- Student is assigned to in-school-suspension until parent arrives
- The student is expected to correct the violation before returning to regular school activities, including extra/co-curricular activities

Continued non-compliance

- Students who repeatedly fail to comply with grooming standard expectations may be removed from regular school activities
- Student continued non-compliance will be administratively reviewed

Administrative Discretion

The administration reserves the right to determine whether a student's appearance meets the standards and expectations of Saint Joseph High School. Failure to comply with grooming expectations may result in disciplinary action consistent with school policy. As a school community, we believe that attention to personal appearance reflects self-discipline, accountability, and respect for the Saint Joseph community and its students who do not comply with the Saint Joseph High School Standards will not be permitted to attend class until the infraction is corrected.

Special Note: Students may be assigned **Saturday Detention** for continued non-compliance, including but not limited to:

- Repeated tardiness or unexcused absences
- Failure to follow classroom or school rules
- Repeated disruption of the learning environment
- Defiance or refusal to comply with staff directives
- Failure to serve assigned disciplinary consequences
- Violation of the school's code of conduct
- Inappropriate behavior toward students or staff
- Repeated dress code violations
- Unauthorized use of electronic devices after prior warnings
- Any pattern of misconduct demonstrating a disregard for school expectations

UNIFORMS STANDARDS

Fall, Winter, and Spring Uniform Standards - Applies to all grade levels

Students must wear the following approved uniform items during the fall, winter, and spring seasons:

- **Polo Shirt:** Black, green, or grey polo shirt, short or long sleeve, with the Saint Joseph logo or a Saint Joseph team or club logo
 - Black and green short-sleeved polos are sold only through the Campus Store or Campus Store online
 - Grey short- and Grey/Black long-sleeve polos are sold only through Lands' End SJ Uniform Online
- **Oxford Shirt:** Blue or white, short or long sleeve
 - Available through Lands' End SJ Uniform Online
- **Pants:** Khaki active performance or chino flat-front, uncuffed pants
 - Available through Lands' End SJ Uniform Online

- **Belt:** Black or brown leather belt
 - Belts may not include wording, studs, patterns, or buckles that do not reflect traditional business attire
 - Store of choice
- **Socks:** Crew-length dress socks
 - White socks and socks with designs are not permitted
 - Store of choice
- **Shoes:** Leather and/or canvas dress shoes in black, brown, gray, or tan
 - Store of choice
 - The following are **not permitted:** boots, boat shoes, sneakers, Hey Dudes, or Croc brand shoes
- **Pullover:** Black Saint Joseph logo quarter-zip pullover or black Saint Joseph team or club logo quarter-zip, worn over the polo or All Lands' SJ Uniform sweaters, quarter-zips, and fleeces may be worn over the polos.
 - Available through the Campus Store or Campus Store online
 - Available through Lands' End SJ Uniform Online
- **Outerwear:** Approved Lands' End outerwear only
 - Available through Lands' End SJ Uniform Online
- **Sweatshirts:**
 - Available through the Campus Store
 - **Hooded sweatshirts of any kind are NOT permitted**

Optional Item: Saint Joseph Varsity Jacket available after a student earns a Varsity letter. Varsity Jackets are available through Main Street Sports, Woodbridge, NJ

Liturgy and Special Events Uniform Standards - Applies to all students

For liturgies and other designated special events, students must wear the following:

- **Oxford Shirt:** Blue or white, short or long sleeve
 - Available through Lands' End SJ Uniform Online
- **Necktie:** Saint Joseph High School necktie
 - Available through the Campus Store or Campus Store online
- **Blazer:** Navy blazer Required
 - Store of choice
- **Pants:** Khaki active performance or chino flat-front, uncuffed pants
 - Available through Lands' End SJ Uniform Online
- **Belt:** Black or brown leather belt
 - Belts may not include wording, studs, patterns, or buckles that do not reflect traditional business attire

- Store of choice
- **Socks:** Crew-length dress socks
 - White socks and socks with designs are not permitted
 - Store of choice
- **Shoes:** Leather and/or canvas dress shoes in black, brown, gray, or tan
 - Store of choice
 - The following are **not permitted**: boots, boat shoes, sneakers, Hey Dudes, or Croc brand shoes

Physical Education Uniform Standards - Applies to all students

Students may wear:

- Any color T-shirt
- Any color shorts or sweatpants

Outerwear Standards - Applies to all students

The following outerwear items are permitted:

- Black Saint Joseph logo quarter-zip pullover or black Saint Joseph team or club logo quarter-zip pullover, worn over the polo or All Lands' End SJ UNIFORM Sweaters, quarter zips and fleeces may be worn over polos.
- SJ Crewneck sweatshirts only (Green, Black, or Gray)
 - Available through the Campus Store or Campus Store online
- Approved Lands' End outerwear only
 - Available through Lands' End SJ Uniform Online
- Saint Joseph Varsity Jacket
 - Available through Main Street Sports, Woodbridge, NJ

Hooded sweatshirts of any kind are not permitted

All students are expected to comply with the uniform policy outlined above. Uniform policies are subject to change at any time at the discretion of the Dean of Students. Any garment that promotes or implies behavior contrary to the moral or religious principles of the Roman Catholic Church or the philosophy of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart or Saint Joseph High School is inappropriate and may not be worn with the school uniform or at any school related function.

Note: All students are expected to follow the aforementioned policy. All uniform policies are subject to change at any time at the discretion of the Dean of Students.

Professionalism starts with YOU.

The following guidelines will assist you in understanding the appropriate standards of how the school uniform will be always worn:

- Shirts will be always tucked in
- All buttons on Oxford shirts must be buttoned (including the neck top, collar, and sleeve)
- Long sleeve shirts cannot be rolled up above the elbow
- Neck ties will be tied correctly and in the proper place covering the top shirt button
- School issued name tag will be worn and visible
- Pants will reasonably fit the students' accurate waist and inseam size
- Pants will be appropriately hemmed and worn at the waist
- Belt must be securely fastened
- Dress shoes will be worn correctly (laced, tied, polished and covering the back of the foot)

When wearing the school uniform, students are required to wear the complete school uniform. Students deciding to remain in the school uniform outside of school hours must maintain the aforementioned standards and remember that the school uniform does **NOT** include:

- Body/facial jewelry or piercings
- Earrings
- Hats (*except winter hats between classes/baseball hats at sporting events*)
- Visible Tattoos (students that have tattoos must not have them showing while wearing any school uniforms)
- No makeup or nail polish

AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN

Alcohol, Drugs, E-cigarettes, or Vaping: The sale, purchase of, possession of, or consumption of legal or illegal substances or drugs including, but not limited to, alcohol, marijuana, synthetic drugs, prescription medication not prescribed for the student, vaping devices, is strictly prohibited before, during, or after a student's academic day or at any school-related function.

Furthermore, students are prohibited from engaging in the sale or possession (under the influence will be deemed possession) of any legal or illegal substances or drugs;

students are prohibited from engaging in the consumption of any legal or illegal substances or drugs except for appropriately prescribed drugs for medical treatment.

Any talk or other behavior which may arouse suspicion of the sale, purchase, possession, or consumption of legal or illegal substances or drugs, narcotics, or vaping products, such as but not limited to the possession of drug paraphernalia, is forbidden. **Anyone violating this regulation is subject to serious disciplinary action including possible dismissal.**

As a condition of continued enrollment at Saint Joseph High School, a student must submit to testing for the abuse or misuse of legal or illegal substances if there is some reasonable suspicion, as determined by the Principal or Dean of Students, of possible abuse or misuse of legal or illegal substances. Such testing is completed at the cost to the parent(s) and will be ongoing in minimum increments of 30 or 90 days for the remainder of the student's enrollment at Saint Joseph High School. Any student who tests positive for illicit substances is subject to disciplinary action including dismissal. However, if a student comes forward voluntarily to admit the use of such substances, then the school will assist the student and his family in dealing with the nature of substance use.

Tobacco and Nicotine: The use of any tobacco or nicotine product, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, E-cigarettes, or vaping products, is not allowed on campus, at any school-related activity or any time when a student is wearing any clothing representing Saint Joseph High School. The use of any form of tobacco or nicotine is also not allowed within a three-block radius of the campus or at nearby neighborhood business establishments. Further, a student may not use or have any form of tobacco or nicotine product, E-cigarette, vaping device, cigarette lighter, or matches on his person (especially when the student is wearing any clothing representing Saint Joseph High School), in his vehicle on campus, or in the school locker at any time. Violation of this policy subjects the student to serious disciplinary action including possible dismissal.

Honesty: Valuing the worth and rights of everyone, we expect and trust students to respect the ownership of academic work as an expression of honesty. Therefore, in all classes, assignments, and testing situations, we emphasize the value of honesty and attempt to preserve the integrity of testing situations and of each student's work. Students who violate this spirit of honesty or who in any way abuse the trust placed in them to respect the work of others will be subject to academic and disciplinary

consequences possibly including receiving a “0” on the work in question, suspension from class or school, or even dismissal from school. Some examples of behavior that violate honesty in regard to academic work and thus are considered to be academic dishonesty include the following:

- Having visible or readily accessible (for example, opened and not in a zipped book bag) any course-related materials or tools, such as, but not limited to, notebooks, study sheets smaller than a 3x5 index card, outlines, calculators, and the like, other than those specified by the teacher during any in-class evaluation.
- Using electronic devices for the copying or transmission of materials that could compromise an assignment or test’s integrity.
- Having any concealed notes or study aids during a quiz, test, or exam.
- Having an electronic device, including, but not limited to, Smart Watches, out or visible during a quiz, test, or exam.
- Participating in any unauthorized communication (language, gesture, or electronic) during a testing or assignment situation.
- Copying work from others or loaning work to others to be copied (except for legitimate sharing of study or class notes).
- Plagiarizing by using others’ work and claiming it as one’s own or by not crediting others’ work when used in an assignment.
- Other forms of dishonesty, including, but not limited to, forging parents’ or others’ signatures, stealing, willful lying, or refusing to cooperate appropriately by sharing information about wrongdoing with the Dean of Students or any adult, make a student subject to disciplinary action including suspension from class or school or dismissal from school.
- Unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools — including generative text, image, translation, summarization, or writing-assistance programs — to generate, revise, or complete any portion of an assignment, assessment, or academic work without explicit teacher approval is considered academic dishonesty.
- Students who submit AI-generated content as their own (original) work will be subject to academic and disciplinary consequences.

Respect: Disrespectful behavior, including, but not limited to, words, actions or the like that demean another person, whether student or adult, is not tolerated and could result in dismissal. Disrespectful behavior includes, but is not limited to, inappropriate and or hateful language, discrimination, bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, vandalism, hostile tone of voice, belittling remarks, or comments, sexist or racist language or acts, insubordination, failure to follow correction, poor care of

school facilities and supplies, and any other acts that demean human life. The Dean of Students makes the final decision and clarifies issues considered to be disrespectful.

Social media: Any postings of videos and/or pictures on social media must be positive and must be representative of Saint Joseph High School's Catholic values. Any violation(s) of this policy, including the spirit of this policy, could result in suspension and/or dismissal. Students who become aware of any violation(s) of this policy are required to report the violation(s) to the Dean of Students, or they will be subject to suspension and/or dismissal as well. The Dean of Students makes the final decision as to what are appropriate postings and/or pictures on social media.

Altercations: Any hostile physical or verbal altercation on the school grounds, at a school-related function, or at a prearranged location is strictly forbidden. Any talk or other behavior which may arouse suspicion of participating in or encouraging others to participate in an altercation on or off campus is prohibited. Any student violating these regulations is subject to serious disciplinary action including possible dismissal.

Harassment: Every person has a right to his or her own dignity and individuality. Thus, harassment, which includes, but is not limited to, repeated behavior that is detrimental to the rights, dignity, welfare, or peace of mind of another person, will not be tolerated. Anyone who harasses another person will be subject to serious disciplinary action including possible dismissal.

Language: The use of any language that is impolite, lewd, indecent, or contrary to the moral or religious principles of the Roman Catholic Church or the goals and principles of Saint Joseph High School is prohibited and will be handled as a violation of respect for others.

Gangs: Hand gestures, paraphernalia, symbols, tags (graffiti), terminology, and any other associations with street or prison gangs are strictly forbidden. Any student engaged in any form of promotion of any known street or prison gang is subject to serious disciplinary action including possible dismissal.

Major Disruptions: Disruptions to the orderly environment of the school are not tolerated. Any conduct by a student whether it be vandalism, malicious mischief, harassment, serious or chronic misbehavior or the like, which disrupts the orderly atmosphere of the academic day or any school-related activity or damages the good name and reputation of Saint Joseph High School could result in serious disciplinary action including possible dismissal.

Graduation: Appropriate, respectful behavior through the entire Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement Exercise is a graduation requirement at Saint Joseph High School. Any student or guest violating this expectation may forfeit the student's privilege of receiving a Saint Joseph High School diploma. The school Principal makes the final decision concerning the appropriateness of behavior at commencement.

Off Campus: Students are required to be on campus at all times during their academic day unless they are given permission to leave by the Principal or the Dean of Students. The academic day begins with a student's arrival at school and continues through the completion of his last scheduled period. Anyone violating this regulation is subject to serious disciplinary action including possible dismissal.

Theft: Theft of any sort is strictly forbidden and could result in discipline or dismissal. Entering other students' lockers or the locker rooms or classrooms or Partners in Mission work areas without proper supervision is not allowed. The sale or purchase of any property at school is not allowed. Anyone violating this regulation is subject to serious disciplinary action including possible dismissal.

Vandalism: Vandalism, intentional damage, or damage as a result of misuse of any sort to school property, including, but not limited to, computers or to the property of Saint Joseph High School students or employees, is strictly forbidden and could result in serious disciplinary action including possible dismissal.

Weapons: A weapon is defined as any instrument (including, but not limited to, firearms, knives, clubs, any gas, liquid or other object or substance) that in the manner used could or may cause bodily harm. No student is permitted to possess or pass on to others any such instrument or ammunition while on the school grounds or at any school-related function. Possession of a weapon by anyone (student, non-student, or adult) on school property, on a school bus, within one thousand feet of school property or at a school-sponsored function, is a violation of the New Jersey Criminal Code N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5(e)(1). Anyone violating this regulation is subject to serious disciplinary action including possible dismissal.

NOTES:

- Use or possession of any medication while a student is on campus must be reported to the Health Office and/or Dean of Students Office. A note from a parent along with instructions and/or an original doctor's note or prescription along with the medication must be brought to the Health Office and/or Dean of Students Office, where the medicine is stored. Students can then take

medicine from the Health Office and/or Dean of Students Office according to parent/doctor instructions with proper documentation completed in the Health Office and/or Dean of Students Office.

- A student accused or suspected of serious wrongdoing may be placed on a study program in or out of school pending the outcome of a judicial proceeding or internal investigation.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING

Saint Joseph High School (the "School") believes that a safe and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards. Therefore, the School will not tolerate acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying ("HIB").

The school expects all students to treat each other with civility and respect and not to engage in behavior that is disruptive or violent. The district expects students to always conduct themselves in keeping with its behavior policy and honor code, with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, for school personnel, for the educational purpose underlying all school activities, and for the care of school facilities and equipment.

The school prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying against any student. The school's responses to harassment, intimidation and bullying shall be aligned with the behavior policy and honor code, and the grounds and procedures for discipline set forth therein.

HIB is defined as any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents, that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory characteristic. HIB is also defined as any intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical act of a student that:

- Physically harms another student or damages their property.
- Has the effect of greatly interfering with another student's education; or
- It is so severe, persistent, or significant that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment for other students.

Peer conflict, however, happens in everyday life and can look like anything from a minor disagreement to a full-blown argument. Peer conflict is typically mutual and spontaneous rather than being one-sided or ongoing, and it is not always HIB that must be reported.

Students must always conduct themselves in a manner consistent with their status as a member of the school's community. Behavior that is contrary to the moral or religious principles of the Roman Catholic Church or the philosophy or policies of the school as indicated in the *Student Handbook* may (will) be subject to disciplinary action including suspension or dismissal.

Any student who is notified of, observes, overhears, or otherwise witnesses HIB may not ignore such conduct, and should report the conduct to a staff member, and/or, if necessary, to the Dean of Students and/or his or her staff. Failure to do so may, in appropriate circumstances, lead to disciplinary action up to and/or including suspension or dismissal. Such allegations will be taken seriously and can, in the discretion of the school, result in a formal investigation and remedial and disciplinary action up to and/or including suspension or dismissal.

MAJOR DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Serious disciplinary issues, which lead to the consideration of dismissal of the student or students involved, are discussed and reviewed by the Disciplinary Committee which is appointed by the Principal. After its deliberations, this group makes a recommendation to the principal. The principal then decides what action is to be taken.

Suspension: This disciplinary action places a student in jeopardy of being dismissed from Saint Joseph High School. It requires that a student not attend class for a stated period of time. Suspension from school requires that a student not return to school until told to do so by the Dean of Students. Suspension from class or classes requires that the student report to school to be disciplined under the direction of the Dean of Students. In the case of suspension, the student must make up missed work, and the Dean of Students, in collaboration with the Dean of Studies, will determine academic credit.

Probation: This disciplinary action places a student in jeopardy of being dismissed from Saint Joseph High School. During the stated length of time the student is on probation, no serious behavior difficulties are tolerated. A violation of probation will

lead to further disciplinary action, which could include dismissal from school. During the probationary period, the Dean of Students evaluates the student's attitude and performance to determine whether to remove him from probation or to take additional action.

Dismissal: This disciplinary action requires that a student withdraw from Saint Joseph High School.

SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

These guidelines are provided to ensure efficient, ethical, legal, and proper utilization of all electronic resources in accordance with the mission, philosophy, and values of Saint Joseph High School. **Users of the school's technological resources must be aware that any actions taken by them, including their online activities, will reflect upon the school and must be in support of education and research consistent with the ideals of Saint Joseph High School. The Principal will have the authority to use their discretion to determine appropriateness in any area of uncertainty.**

1. Saint Joseph High School reserves the right to prioritize use and access to all of its resources and the right to obtain any electronic communication or files transmitted through or stored on school equipment or applications. Transmission of any material in violation of any national or state regulation, including, but not limited to, copyrighted, threatening, or obscene material, is prohibited.

2. Saint Joseph High School provides Internet access to its constituents to promote research, communication, and collaboration. With access to people and information worldwide comes the availability of material that may not be of educational value in the context of the school setting. Saint Joseph High School takes precautions to restrict access to inappropriate material; however, this restriction does not in any way diminish each user's responsibility to act ethically and legally. Should a student accidentally access inappropriate material, then he should "hide" his screen and immediately notify the nearest Partner in Mission.

3. When using the school's electronic resources and posting information online, users must behave in an ethical and legal manner. Users are prohibited from copying or claiming others' work as their own. Users must also fully comply with all copyright laws.

4. Use of the school's network for personal or financial gain, product endorsement or advertisement, political lobbying, visiting online discussion groups or forums, or

for non-school-related transactions involving the transfer of money, merchandise, services, or personal information is strictly prohibited.

5. Partners in Mission can make discretionary decisions that may impact on the use of electronic devices or data in the interest of a viable learning environment and for legitimate pedagogical purposes. All students must have access to a personal electronic device for completing legitimate academic coursework and remain compliant with school policy. Personal computers used on campus must be registered with the school's Technology Department and may be used with the approval of individual Partners in Mission.

6. Individuals are solely responsible for the security of their personal device. Saint Joseph High School and its employees are not responsible for the device if it is lost, stolen, damaged, nor does Saint Joseph High School provide technical assistance for users' personal devices, except for the completion of academic work or research.

7. Devices and system accounts may only be used by the authorized owners (students and parents/guardians) for the purposes defined in this policy. Users are not to share their personal devices, accounts, or passwords with another person. Ultimately, each user is responsible for all activity under his accounts.

8. Any attempt to "hack" into the school's network, to circumvent existing security measures, or to harm or destroy any data, hardware, or software, including the loading or creation of unauthorized data or programs on school equipment, is strictly prohibited.

9. Nothing in this policy is intended to preclude the appropriate use of all electronic resources in conformity to school policies and procedures found in the Student Handbook.

10. Violations of any of the conditions of use will be cause for disciplinary action including, but not limited to, financial remuneration, suspension, and/or dismissal from school as outlined in the Student Handbook at the discretion of the principal.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION

Saint Joseph High School provides a variety of co-curricular, extracurricular, and athletic activities in an effort to promote educational and social opportunities that will enable the student to realize his talents and interests and to learn how to live, work, and share with others. These activities not only add to the enjoyment of school

life but also permit the student to develop broader insights and experiences in the academic, cultural, political, social, and athletic areas.

CO-CURRICULAR ORGANIZATIONS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ORGANIZATIONS PURPOSE

"We believe that high quality extracurricular organizations help to develop students' pride in their school and in themselves. If students feel good about themselves and about their school's extracurricular activities, there is a better chance that they will feel good about classroom work, discipline, and any other aspects of school that are necessary to develop them into the type of persons God has created them to be." (Educational Mission and Ministry, Brothers of the Sacred Heart)

LETTERING AND AWARDS POLICIES

The general qualifications for lettering are duration of participation, dependability, attendance at club functions, attitude, and service. The specific lettering policy for each organization that offers an extracurricular letter is outlined in the club by-laws and approved by the Director of Athletics. Students who letter have the privilege of wearing a cloth letter on an extracurricular letterman's jacket. At the completion of an academic and/or club activity, a student who has lettered may purchase an extracurricular letterman's jacket through Main Street Sports, located in Woodbridge, New Jersey. No additional decoration may be added to a letterman's jacket unless it is issued for that express purpose by the school. **The student and his family are responsible for the payment of the jacket.**

CONDUCT OF ATHLETIC TEAM / CLUB MEMBERS

- On road trips, club members must dress appropriately and conform to the grooming standards in the behavior section of the Student Handbook.
- While traveling to and from club-sponsored events, members will conduct themselves in a respectful and cooperative manner consistent with their status as a Saint Joseph High School student following all the guidelines for behavior outlined in the Student Handbook.

ATHLETICS

PURPOSE

The athletic program strives to develop a student's ability to think both as an individual and as a member of a group; to improve his motor skills; to encourage better health and physical fitness; to instill the desire to excel and succeed; to develop an appreciation of wholesome recreation; to foster high moral and ethical

standards and to develop a sense of self-discipline and emotional maturity; to stress high ideals of fairness; and to instill high standards of school spirit and loyalty.

Saint Joseph High School maintains a strong commitment to sportsmanship in every aspect of its athletic program. It is expected that all students, student-athletes, coaches, and parents will show respect to opposing teams, fans, game officials, and each other while attending or participating in Saint Joseph High School sporting events.

Anyone who violates the ideals of sportsmanship is subject to ejection from Saint Joseph High School sporting events, and any student who violates these ideals is subject to further disciplinary action as outlined in the school's Behavior Policy.

Expectations of sportsmanship include the following:

- Respecting all people involved in an athletic event
- Respecting contest officials and their decisions
- Applauding the players and coaches of both teams
- Avoiding derogatory yells, chants, songs, or gestures,
- Avoiding the use of profanity or displays of anger
- Avoiding singling out individual opponents
- Being a positive, exemplary role model for your team and school

Saint Joseph High School abides by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) scholastic eligibility standards. Saint Joseph High School requires that all varsity and sub-varsity student-athletes meet these required eligibility standards.

If a student-athlete does not maintain these guidelines in the first quarter, then he may be declared ineligible for the remainder of the first semester. If a student-athlete does not maintain these guidelines in the second quarter, then he will be declared ineligible for the second semester. If at the end of the first semester, a student-athlete does not meet the standards, then he will be placed on academic probation. The School Leadership reserves the right to remove from any sport any student-athlete who fails to meet Saint Joseph High School or NJSIAA standards.

LETTERING AND AWARDS POLICIES

Athletic lettering is limited to the varsity level. The general qualifications for lettering are:

- Attitude and behavior at school and as part of the team
- Sportsmanship
- Participation in the current season
- Growth in team spirit
- Dependability
- Team standing at the end of the season (Academically eligible)

The specific Lettering Policy for each sport is approved by the Director of Athletics. Students who letter have the privilege of wearing a cloth letter on an athletic letterman's jacket. No additional decoration may be added to a letterman's jacket unless it is issued for that express purpose by the school.

At the completion of the athletic season, a student who has been earned a Varsity letter can order an athletic letterman's jacket. The student and his family are responsible for the payment of the jacket.

CONDUCT OF STUDENT ATHLETES AND FANS

- On road trips, student athletes must dress appropriately and conform to the grooming standards in the behavior section of the Student Handbook.
- On the field of competition, student-athletes will conduct themselves in a respectful and cooperative manner, displaying the highest level of sportsmanship.
- At sporting competitions, or traveling to and from such events, student-athletes and student fans will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with their status as Saint Joseph High School students following all the guidelines for behavior outlined in the Student Handbook.

ELIGIBILITY

- Saint Joseph High School athletics are a privilege that is reserved for currently enrolled Saint Joseph High School students. No other student-athletes will be allowed to participate in Saint Joseph High School athletics or activities.
- To participate in the athletic program, students must be in good standing in school.
- Students must provide the school with a certified birth certificate and have an annual physical examination administered by a qualified physician.
- To be eligible to participate in athletics, a student must meet the requirements, including, but not limited to, enrollment requirements, set forth by the NJSIAA.
- In order to participate in a school year, a student may not be 19 years of age before September 1 of that year.

- Students must not have competed under false names or for money or merchandise of value and must have complied with all other provisions of the amateur rule.
- Upon entering the freshman year, students are eligible to compete for at most eight consecutive semesters.

APPENDIX

MISCELLANEOUS

AED (Automated External Defibrillators) Policy: The school has deployed AED units at strategic locations around campus. These devices are important life-support pieces of equipment to be used only by qualified people certified in their use and in the administration of CPR in the event of a medical emergency. Should such a medical emergency exist, and an AED unit is used, the School Leadership should be notified immediately. No other use of this equipment is permitted.

AED's can be found in the following locations

ATHLETIC TRAINING OFFICE - In Athletic Office and, the Athletic Trainer always carries one (1) for all sporting practices and events.

MAIN BLDG. - Near the entrance to the Zenga Library, on the wall next to the Mural

MAGLIO GYNASIUM LOBBY – Near the concession stand

O'NEIL HALL - In the Hall, outside the Art Room

WOODBURN - Inside the main doors to the left as soon as you enter

Asbestos Management Plan: Saint Joseph High School is in full compliance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act and the most recent legislative requirements for a 3-year AHERA Management Plan, were completed in May 2026. The Saint Joseph High School Facilities Team undergoes annual training for OSHA HazComm and Asbestos Awareness. All Asbestos related reports and documentation are for public view in coordination with the Administration.

Awards Program: The school awards program is designed to recognize the contribution of each student to the activity or activities of his choice. During ceremonies organized by the school, letter awards, certificates, plaques, and special performance trophies are presented during the fall and spring semesters. All awards and special recognition (curricular and co-curricular) presented to a student are subject to the approval of the Principal, the Director of Student Services, and the Director of Athletics.

Busing: Round-trip buses may be available to students. Contact the Admissions Department for information.

Campus Store: School-related items are available in the Campus Store. Campus store hours can be found at www.stjoes.org/store

Communication: Official communication from Saint Joseph High School will be delivered to students and parents through the Saint Joseph High School assigned Gmail accounts and through the Saint Joseph High School website www.stjoes.org. Students and parents are expected to access their Saint Joseph High School assigned Gmail accounts daily and to respond to messages within 24 hours. Emergency information will be communicated through *SchoolMessenger*.

EthicsPoint: The Diocese of Metuchen uses EthicsPoint to provide a confidential method for employees and volunteers to report suspected financial malfeasance. Option for reporting:

- Web intake site URL: <https://diometuchen.ethicspoint.com>
- Mobile URL: <https://diometuchenmobile.ethicspoint.com/>
- Hotline: 844-796-1296



Evacuation, Fire, Lock Down, and Shelter in Place Drills: As per New Jersey State Guidelines for schools, safety drills are completed throughout the year. Exit routes and procedures for vacating the building are posted in each classroom. Silence is to be strictly observed during all drills. Students and Partners in Mission are also instructed in procedures to be followed for all drills.

Events Not Sponsored by Saint Joseph High School: There will be workshops, camps, and other events held during the school year and during the summer months that are not sponsored by Saint Joseph High School. Students may be invited to attend these events. At these events, they will not be supervised by Saint Joseph High School Partners in Mission. Students may attend these events at their parents/guardians' discretion.

Health Services and Student Insurance: A full-time nursing staff is employed to be of service to the students and Partners in Mission in case of illness or injury.

- A student who becomes ill or is injured is to report to the nurse. If the nurse is not available, then the student must report to the Main Office. A student who leaves school because of illness may not drive himself. A parent/guardian or adult designee must sign out and transport the student. Also, a student who leaves school because of illness may not attend or participate in any extracurricular activities that day.
- Any injury sustained in school, on school grounds, or at any school function is to be reported to the nurse as soon as possible. Any student injured during school or during any extracurricular activity must follow these guidelines:
 - An accident form is to be completed by the nurse and/or coach (moderator)
 - The parent/guardian is to employ his/her insurance policy first as the primary coverage.

All students are enrolled in the school's secondary insurance plan, a supplemental plan which may provide reimbursement for out-of-pocket medical expenses not covered by a family's primary insurance for injuries incurred by a student as a result of a school-related accident. **It is the responsibility of the student and his parents/guardians to notify the Health Office, Athletic Trainer, and/or Main Office of an injury immediately after it occurs. Parents are responsible for completing claim forms with the assistance of an attending physician in a timely manner.** Failure to do so may result in a denial of benefit reimbursement. Further information about this plan is available from the Main Office.

Any student entering Saint Joseph High School (freshman or transfer student) must have a doctor's physical examination completed before the first attendance date. No child will be admitted to school without proper proof that the child has been immunized as required by the laws of the State of New Jersey, N.J.S.A. 26:1A-9.

All students must have a doctor's physical examination at least once per school year. The student's physical examination must comply with state regulations and must be documented on the state form only.

Medicines: Students are not permitted to carry medicines at school. Any student who must take medicine during the school day or during a school-sponsored event or trip, must bring the medicine to the Health Office and/or Dean of Students Office

when he arrives at school and report to that office for the administration of the medicine. The medication must be in the original pharmacy-labeled container, and the parent/guardian and the student's physician must complete and sign an "Authorization to Administer Medication in School" form. If a student is required to have an Epi-pen on hand for him in case of emergency anaphylaxis, then a form for authorization to Administer Epinephrine must be completed and signed by the doctor and the parent/guardian.

Parents Club: The Parents Club, consisting of the Mothers Club and the Fathers Club, is the prime means of communication between home and school. The group meets periodically during the school year. Through its many activities, the club works for the overall betterment of the school. **Prayer and School Announcements:** During prayer and announcements made over the public address system, all movement and activity is discontinued so that full attention, in silence, may be given

Public Information and Communication Release: Enrollment of a student in Saint Joseph High School constitutes the consent of his parents or guardians for the student's name, voice, or likeness to be used in news publications, audiovisuals, and other electronic transmissions including the school's website on the Internet, issued by employees or designees of Saint Joseph High School or by members of the media with permission of officials from Saint Joseph High School or offices within the Diocese of Metuchen without compensation or reimbursement of any kind related to this use. These informational items may include, but are not limited to, photographs, videotapes, live broadcasts, sound recordings, Internet postings, or electronic transmissions related to school activities.

Further, enrollment of a student in Saint Joseph High School constitutes the consent of his parents or guardians to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Saint Joseph High School, the Roman Catholic Church of the Diocese of Metuchen, their directors, officers, agents, pastors, employees, and insurers from any and all claims and or damages on behalf of themselves and their child arising from the publication of students' names, photographs or likenesses on videotape, and/or film on Saint Joseph High School's website, on the Internet.

Readmission of Students: Once a student has been asked to leave Saint Joseph High School because of academic or behavioral issues, he will not be readmitted. If a student has left Saint Joseph High School for any reason acceptable to the School Leadership, then readmission will be considered depending upon available space at

the time the student wishes to be readmitted. If space is available, as defined by the principal, then regular admission considerations and procedures apply.

School Dances: Student dances are sponsored by the Student Council. ***It is each student's responsibility to arrange his prompt pick-up after school dances.*** Late pick-up of a student after a school dance may result in that student being barred from attendance at future school dances. Only Saint Joseph High School students, their dates, and girls from the schools may attend school dances. School I.D. or proof of enrollment is required. Once a student leaves the school dance, he or she will not be allowed to re-enter.

Any pictures taken at school dances and/or at school-related functions, including, but not limited to, senior portraits, must be approved by the Dean of Students. Any pictures that are deemed inappropriate will not be issued, and no refund will be granted.

Student Academic Records: Saint Joseph High School abides by the provisions of the Buckley Amendment. Thus, non-custodial parents will be given access to academic records and to information regarding the academic progress of their children, unless there is a court order specifically stating that the non-custodial parent is denied access to such information. If there is a court order specifying that no information is to be given, then it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the school with a court-certified copy of the custody section of the appropriate decree.

Student ID Cards and Biometric Finger Scans: ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE A STUDENT ID PICTURE FOR SECURITY PURPOSES. Each student is issued an ID card, valid for the school year. He is expected to have his current card with him at all times during the school day and at all school-related functions. The student ID card is necessary to check out materials from the Zenga Library and Media Center. A student's Biometric Finger Scan gives a student access to his credit balance for purchases of food and other items from Food Services.

1. The ID card is presented for admission at most regularly scheduled home athletic competitions; it is not valid for admission to non-regular season competitions.
2. If the ID is lost, then the Dean of Students Office will provide a new card for a fee.
3. Students must maintain a positive balance on their meal accounts at all times.

Telephone Calls to School: Phone calls to the school and to the school office should be placed between 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Teachers are not pulled from the classroom for phone calls. Parents are asked to leave a message with the receptionist to have a Partner in Mission return a call or to leave a voicemail message. Parents may email any Partner in Mission. Except in case of emergency, telephone messages are not delivered to students during the school day.

Trademark Management: Saint Joseph High School ("School") policy provides that the names, logos, trademarks, and other identifying Marks of Saint Joseph High School are protected and cannot be used without the express approval of the school or its designated representative. The School Leadership delegated the responsibility to take whatever steps are reasonable and necessary to enforce this policy. This policy promotes and protects the School through implementation of a management system which establishes the means of consistent, favorable, and professional use of the Marks; to fulfill the legal obligations of the Marks; to protect the consumer from deception or from faulty or inferior products and services bearing the School's Marks; to provide fair and equitable treatment of all licenses; and to realize and distribute earned royalties and other revenues for the benefit of the School. The school delegates the legal protection, management, and enforcement of the rights in the Marks of the School to the School Leadership. This policy acts as the basis of the school's management of the School's Marks. External use of the Marks by external entities is managed by the school with the following principles: Licensing is required for all users; the Marks must be licensed to the user, and the use must be approved by the School. All requests to register or to use a Mark must be submitted to the Director of Communications and Marketing for approval.

Working Papers: As of June 1, 2023, working papers for high school students can be obtained online at myworkingpapers.nj.gov

Public Health Crisis

In case of a public health crisis, the School Leadership will do everything in its power to keep students safe while continuing to provide the best possible Catholic, holistic education. We would continuously monitor the situation and follow guidance from federal, state, and local health experts in order to determine the safety protocols needed.

Student Long Term Absence

In case of a student's long-term absence, School Leadership will handle this on an individual basis, consulting with parents and other necessary officials in order to determine the best course of action.

Remote Learning: In the rare case that a student has a serious and prolonged medical issue, the Dean of Students, the Dean of Academics, and the Guidance Department will meet with the student's parents to determine if remote learning is necessary. Remote learning will no longer be offered for students isolating or quarantining due to COVID-19 or for any other short-term illness.

FIGHT SONG

We're here to win this victory!
We're here to show our loyalty;
We're gonna, fight fight to the end;
Falcons, you gotta win, Rah, Rah, Rah!
Hold the banner high; raise it up to the sky;
Fight on Green and White!
Fight on Falcons, fight! fight! fight!