

A Proactive Approach to Student Conduct and Bullying

A Statement of Faith

The faculty and staff of St. Lorenz School understand the importance of a secure school environment, conducive to teaching and learning in an environment free from threat, harassment, and any type of purposeful mistreatment of other members of the school family. We acknowledge that children have been entrusted to our care. With that care comes the responsibility of providing a safe environment so that physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual growth can take place.

The mandate to care for one another comes from our Lord Jesus. Jesus commands us to love God and to love one another.

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” Matthew 22:37-39

At the heart of following Jesus command is a commitment by the faculty and staff of St. Lorenz School to model the love that Jesus has shown to us and encourage all members of our school family to do likewise.

A Statement of Belief

It is the belief of St. Lorenz School that the entire school community; students, teachers, parents, administrators, must be involved in the process of building a positive school climate in which caring and considerate interactions thrive and are encouraged while inappropriate conduct toward others (physical and emotional) is deemed unacceptable.

Main Objective: Develop a climate within the school that promotes a pro-social, caring, Christ-like community.

Methods of Building a Positive School Climate

- *Intentional lesson plans created by teachers at each grade level that are intended to promote a positive school climate and clearly define bullying and the dangers it creates.
- *Incorporate our 6 Respect Statements into the classroom and school-wide disciplinary procedures.
- *Monday morning devotions centered on God’s Word and the importance of building Christian character.
- *All-school weekly chapel services which allow our student body to worship together on a regular basis and receive a message based upon a monthly theme.
- *A Buddy Program implemented throughout the school to encourage a sense of community and develop positive mentoring relationships between upper and lower grade students.
- *Faith Family Activities designed to bring student representatives from each grade level (1-8) together to work in teams on service projects or field day events.
- *Hold a Community Service Day to reinforce the concept of Service to others.
- *Initiate Host Families for incoming students in order to help them feel welcome and acclimate them to their new school environment.

Our Sinful Nature

We acknowledge that sin is a part of our human condition and is present in our school. One manifestation of sin is evident when those in our school family intentionally mistreat one another. Because of the grace shown to us in Christ Jesus, we emphasize the need to accept responsibility for our actions and to forgive one another.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Col. 3:13

It is important for all members of the St. Lorenz School family to understand that bullying behaviors in school will not be tolerated. Students demonstrating bullying behaviors will be subject to the School-Wide Disciplinary procedures as described in the School Handbook and summarized below.

Definition:

“Bullying” is the **repeated** intimidation of others by the real or threatened infliction of physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted, or emotional abuse.

It may include, but not limited to, actions such as verbal taunts, name-calling, and put-downs, including ethnically based or gender based verbal put-downs and exclusion from peer groups within school.

- A. Teacher will handle initial situation according to their classroom procedures.
Parents who are aware of bullying in school should encourage their child to report such incidents to their teacher or administration.
If the child is unwilling or unable to communicate with the teacher, the parent should inform the teacher of the situation.
- B. Teacher or other faculty member will issue a Conduct Report to formally notify the parents if classroom procedures have failed to resolve the bullying behaviors.
Student will be required to visit the principal’s or assistant principal’s office to discuss the dangers of such actions and the consequences for continued mistreatment of other students.
Parents will be informed of the student/administrator meeting.
- C. When further action is necessary based on non-conformity a Student Referral will be issued.
A mandatory Parent/ Teacher/ Principal/ Student conference will take place.
An in-house suspension will be issued at a length determined by school administration.
- D. Referral: administration may recommend/require counseling.
- E. Proper authorities will be notified when criminal intent is obvious or when the situation warrants such action.

Each of the six areas of respect can be connected to Bible verses for continuous study and teaching in the classroom.

1. **Respect for God and His Word.** Deuteronomy 11: 18-20, “Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” Colossians 3:16-17, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.”
2. **Respect for those in authority.** Hebrews 13:17 “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.” Titus 3:1-2, “Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.”
3. **Respect for our classmates and others.** Philippians 2:3-5, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.” Romans 12:10-11, “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.”
4. **Respect for our bodies and our God-given talents.** I Corinthians 6:19-20, “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.” I Peter 4:10, “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”
5. **Respect for the learning process and the classroom environment.** James 3:17, “But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.” James 1:19, “My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.”
6. **Respect for our school and personal property, and the property of others.** Exodus 20:15-17, “You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. You shall not cover your neighbor’s house.” Acts 4:32, “All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.”