

Creating a Safe Environment

St. John the Evangelist is committed to providing its students with a healthy, nurturing, and safe school environment. Our school has a family spirit; it is important to us that we have a caring school community where everyone, respects and trusts each other and where all students feel connected, understand expectations and receive the behavioral and mental health support they need. We are also very concerned about the safety of all of our students and have many procedures in place to keep our school secure including:

- Limited access to the school building. St. John the Evangelist has a designated entrance with all other access points locked from the exterior. Visitors arriving after 8:30 AM must ring a doorbell to enter and check in at the main office for a Visitor's Badge.
- Monitoring of the school parking lot. St. John the Evangelist has strict procedures for morning drop-off and afternoon dismissal as detailed in the school handbook. Cooperation with these procedures is essential for student safety and is continuously monitored. Cars are not permitted on the school parking lot during recess.
- Monitoring and supervision of student common areas such as hallways, classrooms, and playgrounds. All St. John the Evangelist faculty and staff are responsible for supervising student movement throughout the building. Students are never left alone in a room. The presence of a security system (video monitoring) serves as an additional tool to help staff supervise hallways and entrances.
- School-wide behavioral expectations. St. John the Evangelist's Shared Spaces Program emphasizes the importance of a caring school climate, positive interventions and support systems, and bully and violence prevention programs (bully-proofing, social skills development, and conflict mediation). Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their part in maintaining a safe and supportive school environment.
- The promotion of compliance with school rules. Through our religious education activities, classroom and pastoral reinforcement, we assist students to resist peer pressure and to choose to act responsibly. School-wide activities as well as classroom activities and discussions are held throughout the year to ensure the climate is increasingly safe, nurturing, and respectful.
- Good local police partnership including regular visits from "Officer Friendly" and utilization of the D.A.R.E. Program.
- School preparedness drills (intruder alerts, weather, and fire) are held regularly, evaluated, and recorded.
- Crisis plans and emergency preparedness training. St. John the Evangelist regularly reviews its plans and trains teachers and staff in crisis management.

Nothing is more important than the safety and protection of our children. St. John the Evangelist School currently provides a safe environment for its students and intends to do everything possible to ensure that we continue to do so. We expect everyone's support and cooperation in this important work