

Saint Rose School Social Media Policy

At Saint Rose Catholic School, we rely on a partnership between school staff and parents and guardians in service of your children. This partnership is crucial to allow Saint Rose to fulfill its faith-based mission directed towards the successful formation of our students.

Over this school year members of our school community have brought social media posts to my attention. These posts were created by school parents and highlighted students in our community in a less than positive way. This can lead to unhealthy division amongst our community. With very few details, opinions and judgments were quickly formed and publicly shared within the community.

Parents and guardians must be mindful that social media presents a single sided perspective. When children are referenced, a single sided perspective can lead to vilification of a child who lacks the ability to defend him/herself. Such posts can also threaten the safety of our school community. We do not control who reads such posts or how someone may respond either in the cyber or real world. The safety and security of our children is the single greatest concern of the Saint Rose faculty, staff and administration, and therefore cooperation of parents and guardians who use social media is required.

With the support of the Diocese of Toledo, Saint Rose Parish Administration, Saint Rose School Advisory Council and the Saint Rose Faculty and Staff, I am formalizing the following communication protocol for parents and guardians to implement as it relates to all students of the school:

1. Because we believe that Catholic schools are partners with parents and guardians, who are the primary educators of their children, parents and guardians should first contact their student's teacher(s) to discuss any school-related concerns. The school administration should be contacted after bringing the issue to the attention of the teacher(s).
2. Because we believe in the virtue of meekness and serenity of spirit, while focusing on the needs of others, parents and guardians should not use social media to lodge complaints, concerns, or attacks regarding school issues or any members of the school community.
3. Because we believe in the virtue of courtesy, recognizing that all people are made in the image and likeness of God, no student (other than one's own) should be referenced or mentioned on social media as it relates to any complaint, concern or attack. Students are youths and have a right to privacy, so references to or general insinuations about a student's identity that can lead others to identify a student will not be tolerated at Saint Rose.

4. Because we believe in the virtue of responsibility, violations of this policy or violations of the spirit of this policy may be grounds for dismissal of the family from the Saint Rose School community.

Saint Rose Catholic School identifies Compassionate Community as one of our core charisms. At the core of this charism is the understanding that our young people are to be nurtured and protected. Students are still growing and learning. They are likely to make mistakes. That is why God provides them with parents and teachers. We are here to support them and help them learn from mistakes. Our handbook highlights this charism, which is consistent with the Catechism of the Catholic Church (cf. 1784-1785).

The education of a student is a partnership between the parents and the school. Just as a parent has the right to withdraw a child if desired, the school administration reserves the right to require the withdrawal of a student if the administration determines that the partnership is irretrievably broken. In such instances, tuition paid for the remainder of the year will be refunded. At Saint Rose Catholic School, conduct of students/parents/faculty inside or outside of school that interferes with the peace and tranquility of the school, and impedes the school from realizing its ecclesiastical mission, will be disciplined/dealt with according to our disciplinary code (Saint Rose Catholic School Handbook 2019/20).

Our administration takes its responsibilities with respect to our students very seriously and endeavors to address all concerns brought to our attention with sensitivity and consistent with our Catholic values. That being said, enrollment at Saint Rose is a privilege, not a right. All families are required to agree to this policy as part of the registration process for the 2020/2021 school year.