



Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic School Social Media Policy

Definition:

Social media is defined as any online platform that encourages and facilitates users sharing content and interacting with other users through comments, tags, etc. Social networking sites and applications may include, but are not limited to: SnapChat, TikTok, GroupMe, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Pinterest, LinkedIn, and other similar apps or websites.

Background and Rationale:

We at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School:

- Believe in a positive environment focused on our mission – to learn, love, and live in God’s presence
- Believe that a foundation of virtue and the practice of Virtue-Based Restorative Discipline helps us all to grow in community based on our Catholic faith
- Recognize that social media and other platforms are of growing prominence in our society
- Appreciate the potential for social media to support positive relationships and communication
- Believe that the school has a moral and legal obligation to provide a safe environment for all students, which may be impacted by social media usage

Guidelines in Support of this Policy:

St. Catherine of Siena Parents will:

- Support the school in enforcing this policy and appropriate social media use of their student(s)
- Model positive social media use to communicate and build positive relationships that support Catholic values and the mission of the St. Catherine Parish and School
- Monitor their children’s online activity, including social media

St. Catherine of Siena Students will:

- Follow the Acceptable Use Policy and Social Media Policy of the school
- Avoid any involvement with material or activities that are inappropriate and could put at risk personal safety or the privacy, safety or security of the school or members of the school community
- Ensure that any published material aligns with Diocesan Policies on School Safety and Security (408a) and Student Bullying and Harassing (408b)
- Take responsibility for their actions which have a negative impact on the school environment, other students or staff, and the school reputation, regardless of when or where the original action took place

St. Catherine of Siena School Faculty and Staff will:

- Implement educational opportunities for all stakeholders to learn about social media and internet safety, i.e., Mental Health Week, Wellness Fair focused on these topics, evening workshop for parents/students, newsletter corner, etc.
- Apply appropriate restorative discipline procedures and consequences, in accordance with the St. Catherine of Siena Parent & Student Handbook and Diocesan Policies 408a & 408b
- Work to restore relationships harmed by inappropriate social media use
- Ensure that all employees follow Diocesan Employee Social Media Policy (304c)

Inappropriate content may include, but is not limited to:

- Pornographic material/images
- Abusive, offensive language or threats
- Bullying, harassing, libelous or defamatory comments
- Personal and/or cultural attacks or insults
- Content that promotes hate of any kind
- Unauthorized copyrighted material
- Impersonating another person by using their online profile or creating an alias
- Posting identifiable information such as photos, names, or locations of another person
- Content that is detrimental in any way to the school's reputation

adopted 5/2/2022