

Student Participation on Social Networking Sites

Social Networking Sites are a part of 21st century culture for students today. It is important that Catholic elementary and secondary students understand that they have a responsibility to participate in Social Networking Sites in an appropriate manner. The values and ideals of the Catholic faith are to be followed in posting comments on a Social Networking Site. The following points, while not comprehensive in nature, provide initial guidance:

1. Students are not to comment, post, join, or otherwise affiliate with or publish any information on social networking sites, including (but not limited to statements, comments, photographs, groups, profiles, or links to third party websites) that in the discretion of the school or the diocese contains inappropriate content.
2. Students are not to infringe upon another's copyright or trademark without appropriate permission.
3. Students are not to write or post anything that is sexual in nature.
4. They are to refrain from postings that involve illegal, dishonest or unethical conduct and that involve the use of drugs or alcohol or support or sell drugs or alcohol.
5. Students will refrain from postings that are offensive in nature or are considered discriminatory or harassing in nature.
6. Posting are to be free from elements that harm the reputation of or cause embarrassment to the school, diocese, teachers or other students.
7. Students are not to interact with current administrators or teacher on a Social Networking Site. This includes, but not limited to, listing current administrator or teachers as friends or connections on Social Networking websites or posting any comments whatsoever on current administrators or teachers pages or profiles.
8. Students shall screen, block and/or remove any comments that violate this policy.
9. Students should critique any third party comments or posting prior to publication.
10. The school and diocese reserve the right to conduct periodic internet searches in order to determine whether students have violated this policy.
11. Students will not post any photographs or information about another student without that student's parent's permission.
12. Signing the school Acceptable Use Policy indicates student's agreement to comply with this policy.
13. If a student violates this policy the local school and diocesan discipline policy will be followed. (See Policy 5050, Discipline in a Catholic School)