



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Dear Parents of 4th – 8th Grade Students,

When schools give students access to devices and online accounts, an incredible world of learning opportunities opens up — as well as potential dangers. Digital safety is critically important to St. Joseph School, which is why we are now using [Bark for Schools](#) to help us protect our students both online and in real life.

Bark monitors for signs of potential issues like:

- Cyberbullying
- Suicidal ideation
- Sexual predators
- Threats of violence
- And more

Alerts at the First Signs of Danger

When possible dangers arise on school-issued accounts, Bark for Schools sends us alerts so we can address the situation in a timely manner. These alerts also give us insights that help us promote the wellness of the entire student body.

Parents and guardians can benefit from receiving these alerts as well.

Get Alerts with the Free Parent Portal

Kids use their school-issued accounts both at school and at home, and families are often in a better position to respond to urgent alerts after hours, on weekends, and during breaks. These are times when administration may not be available in the event of an emergency. In the coming days, you will receive an invitation to create your free account for the Bark for Schools Parent Portal. As soon as you opt in, you will start receiving after-hours alerts when Bark detects potentially time-sensitive issues.

Monitor Texts, Social Media, and More

Bark for Schools is free for both our school and for you. For even greater coverage, you can also sign up for Bark for Families, which monitors texts, chat, email, YouTube, and 30+ social media platforms for potential safety concerns. You can find out more about how Bark for Parents works [here](#).

Violation Consequences

As stated in the St. Joseph Acceptable Use Policy, signed by every student and parent, “Any violation of Saint Joseph policies and regulations, these regulations, building guidelines, use agreements, handbook provisions or administrative orders or directives as issued from time to time on Computer Use by any Computer User as defined herein, including access to the Internet may result in removal of privileges, reporting enforcement agencies and additional disciplinary action, including possible expulsion of minors or students or termination of employment for staff members or employees.” Such situations will be handled in a case-by-case basis.

Learn more about [Bark for Schools](#) — including their commitment to [student privacy](#). If you have additional questions, please contact us by replying to this email. Thank you for your support as we strive to help keep our students safe online.

In Christ,

Kevin L. Naumann
Principal