

November 19, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In keeping with the Archdiocese of Washington's *Child Protection Policy*, annual Personal Safety Education will be offered to our students in grades K-8. Age appropriate lessons will be presented by teachers to address the following *Child Protection Policy* standards:

- a. Basic safety skills
- b. Recognition of dangerous and abusive situations
- c. Appropriate and inappropriate physical contact and other personal boundary violations
- d. Ability to say "no" to unwanted situations
- e. Ability to identify trusting adults with whom to speak
- f. Importance of disclosure of inappropriate or unwanted actions directed to self or others
- g. Recognition that abusive situations are never the fault of the child
- h. Ability to safely navigate through internet forums

Lessons will be conducted during religion classes. Approved resources from the Catholic Schools Office, such as *Think First and Stay Safe! Virtus*, and *Netsmartz*, will be used to teach age appropriate concepts.

I will be working with teachers to coordinate compliance with the implementation of Personal Safety Education. As parents, you are encouraged to view the videos produced by the Archdiocese of Washington as part of its child protection video series, *Focus on the Child*. They can be found at <https://adw.org/about-us/resources/child-protection/>

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your support as we work together to equip our students with the knowledge and skills they need to ensure their safety and protection.

Sincerely,

Mary Jenkins

School Guidance Counselor