



2213 North Lindsay Road
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July 1, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of Pre-Kindergarten through 8th Grade Students:

As Catholics, we believe that every human being is created in the image and likeness of God. Each of us is sacred and our lives—body, mind and soul—should be treated with respect. The safety of your child is always uppermost in our mind. Therefore, Safe Environment education is incorporated into **EVERY** Catholic school and religious education program **EVERY** year.

Safe Environment education for children focuses on identifying appropriate physical, emotional and spiritual boundaries. All children are reminded that they are loved and valued by God and the Church. In addition, the important message that they can talk to trusted adults if they or anyone they know are being hurt, is reinforced.

In 6th grade, the 2-part lesson plan program “Created in God’s Image for Youth” is utilized to teach boundaries. These lessons will be presented during the regular religious education class time on:

Wednesdays, October 21 & 28

In Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade and 7th-8th grades, the lesson will be 20-30 minutes of the regular religious education class on:

Wednesday, November 4

Parents, as the primary educators of their child, have the option to present this material to your child directly.

So that you can make an informed decision as to whether to allow your child to participate in the classroom presentation of this material **OR** to present this material to him/her yourself, the lesson plan for each grade is available on the parish website, www.stbridget.org, under Safe Environment (Children – Pre-Kindergarten thru 8th Grade).

Also available on the website is the form indicating your choice. This form can be completed online. **(Should you select the in-class option and then your child is absent, there is a contingency plan for that.)**

If you have any questions, contact Jean McCarthy, Safe@stbridget.org OR call/text 602-300-8293 , 9-9 (except Sunday mornings).

Together, we can work towards the elimination of child sexual abuse.

Sincerely,



Diana Rosales
Faith Formation Facilitator



Jean McCarthy
Safe Environment Coordinator

Available Online: This Letter & General Overview for Parents (3 pages)
SET PK-8 Choice Form
Lesson Plans/Bible Readings for Grades Pre-Kindergarten thru 8th Grade

General Overview for Parents

Every person is created in the image and likeness of God. Every child is loved by God and must know of the love that they are created in.

BOUNDARY DEFINITION Something that marks a limit, like a fence or the lines on a basketball court.

Each person has the right and responsibility to state when a boundary is being violated.

3 TYPES OF BOUNDARIES	EXAMPLES OF BOUNDARY VIOLATIONS
Physical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who can touch you • How much they can touch you • Where they can touch you 	Physical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate massages and wrestling by adults • Adults touching private areas • Inappropriate kissing
Emotional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How close you feel to a person • How much time you spend with a person • What information you share with a person 	Emotional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate questions about minors sexuality • Asking too personal of questions • Adult approaching minors inappropriately on phones, text, the internet
Behavioral <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The things you will do • The things you will not do 	Behavioral <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving minors beer, drugs, pornography • Asking students to keep secrets from parents

REINFORCE through regular conversations

- When abuse or a boundary violation occurs, it is the adult that is in the wrong; it is never the child's fault.
- If a child is ever uncomfortable with the actions of an adult they need to tell a trusted adult and keep telling until they are heard.
- Who to trust?
 - ❖ Parent, family member, teacher, pastor, catechist, youth minister
- That they understand they will always be loved no matter what they tell you
- What is the difference between keeping secrets and holding a surprise