



41 East First Street
Waconia, MN 55387
Telephone 952-442-4500 • Fax 952-442-3719
email: schooloffice@stjosephwaconia.org
website: www.stjosephwaconia.org

March 19, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Protection of Children and Youth Initiative (PCYI) of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis has one goal: shielding our children from abuse. The initiative has two components: one is training for clergy, teachers, volunteers, and others who work with children (VIRTUS training). The other is age-appropriate, church-approved, safe environment lessons for children in our Catholic schools and religious education programs. It is our goal here at St. Joseph Church and School to partner with parents and families in creating safe and sacred places for children and young people.

It is now the time of year when we begin to teach our children about personal safety. We have two programs that we will begin to utilize in the coming month. Each of these programs is age-appropriate and respects parents' role as their children's primary educators. These are the same programs used last year.

Grades PreK - 4: NetSmartz, "Know the Rules," four lessons taught between April 13-30. The lessons cover the following topics:

1. Check first (with a trusted adult).
2. Take a friend.
3. Telling people "No" (if scared, uncomfortable or confused).
4. Tell a trusted adult.

There is also an internet safety component.

Materials are accessible at www.netsmartz.org or can be seen by appointment with your child's teacher.

They will also be available at the Home and School Meeting on April 2.

Grades 5 - 8: KidWISE Institute Inc.'s "Out of Harm's Way: Personal Safety Curriculum" four lessons taught between April 13-30. The lessons focus on:

1. personal empowerment,
2. Internet Safety,
3. bullying prevention,
4. appropriate touch.

Materials can be examined at Kidwisecorner.com or can be seen by appointment with your child's faith formation teacher. They will also be available at the Home and School meeting on April 2.

This curriculum is mandated by the Archdiocese and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. If you do not want your child to participate in this curriculum, opt-out forms must be in by April 3, 2009. Opt-out forms are available at the school office, online and attached to this email. If you have any questions, please call or email.

Thank you

Margarete Smith, Principal



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Protection of Children and Youth Initiative (PCYI)
Personal Safety Curriculum: Netsmartz, “Know the Rules” (PreK-4)
KidWISE, “Out of Harm’s Way” (5-8)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Complete this form **only** if you choose to assume the full responsibility for educating your child about personal safety.

Please sign and return this form to the principal by April 3, 2009.

Complete a separate form for any child in your family that you wish to excuse.

Dear School Leader,

I **do not** wish for my child to participate in the Personal Safety Program. In choosing to have my child excused from these classes, I understand that it is my responsibility to share with my child the personal safety rules that I deem appropriate.

Parent/guardian name (please print)

Child’s name and grade (please print)

Parent/guardian signature

date

In partnership with family, parish, and the community, St. Joseph Catholic School serves God and community by educating Pre-K through 8th grade students. The school develops the whole child by providing an education integrated with traditional Catholic values and spirituality.