



## Student Code of Conduct

**Background:** St. Mary's Central High School is a fully accredited Catholic high school offering four years of secondary education, grades 9-12. St. Mary's is owned by the five Bismarck Catholic parishes and serves the young people of Bismarck, Mandan, and the surrounding communities. The high school was founded in 1916. In 1951 a remarkable facility was built at 1025 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Renovations and major additions in 1987 and 1997 provided the Catholic students of this community with a facility for the 21st century. In 2019 the new and exquisite SMCHS was opened at 5801 Saints Drive and will serve the needs of the Catholic and non-Catholic students for years to come. Student enrollment is approximately 345 students and the school employs approximately 35 staff members.

**Value Statement:** St. Mary's Central High School strives to promote a Christian atmosphere of learning in which all students develop themselves academically, spiritually, emotionally, socially and physically.

SMCHS is committed to providing a foundation of faith in the Catholic tradition, and in fostering an environment in which students and staff will be free to experience the presence of Jesus Christ in their personal lives.

SMCHS is a student-centered school. It recognizes its responsibility to prepare students to be true and virtuous leaders and understands the unique needs and characteristics of adolescent students and uses teaching methods to meet those needs.

SMCHS promotes a close working relationship among students, staff, administration, family, and the community by recognizing the need of these groups to interact through mutual support, respect and cooperation.

### Be a **SAINT**

- Support one another
- Act with virtue
- Integrity at all times
- Never give up
- Treat others with respect



## **Code of Conduct Topics:**

1. Academic Honesty Policy
2. Bullying Policy
3. Co-Curricular Policy
4. Dress Code
5. Eligibility
6. Grading System
7. Student Discipline
8. Technology Expectations

## **Narrative:**

I created this student code of conduct to give clear expectations to students, so they understand the acceptable behavior at St. Mary's Central High School. I started off by giving background information of SMCHS to provide some context into the history of this tradition rich school. I then outline some value statements. Each one of these statements directly aligns with the mission and vision of SMCHS. BY reading these, students know that they are valued, and at the forefront of our decision-making process. We are committed to providing students with the best possible environment possible, and are intentional about building Saints for this life and the next. The underlying theme of the value statements is that we value faith and we value people. I then listed eight policies that I would include in my student code of conduct. This is not a comprehensive list, but these are very important ones. The actual SMCHS student handbook has over 80 policies, procedures, and expectations in it. These are eight topics that I feel get addressed most often in our school, and that is why I included these specific topics.

I went in alphabetical order and started with academic honesty. Every school has to deal with cheating at some point, so it is vital to be proactive and outline expectations and guidelines. I then would discuss our bullying policy. Consequences for bullying are determined on a case-

by-case basis. However, if a person has multiple bullying offenses in their file, they are subject to be removed from school. Co-curricular activities are also extremely important. At SMCHS, they are viewed as an extension of the classroom, and students spend several hours a week participating in co-curriculars. Because of this, it is important to outline expectations. Dress code is something that is unique to SMCHS because we are a private school. This is something the entire staff enforces, so students must abide by this dress code. It will outline what is appropriate attire for each gender, what is acceptable attire during winter months, and what is acceptable for Mass. The next two policies are related to grading and eligibility. If a student is failing one class, they are put on probation. If a student is failing that same class for consecutive weeks, they are considered ineligible. If at any point a student is failing multiple classes, they are immediately ineligible. Grade checks are run the third Wednesday of each quarter, and then every Wednesday following. My code of conduct also addresses student discipline. St. Mary's is a certified RCD school, so we follow the RCD model for behavior management. This model will be outlined in the code of conduct. Lastly, I will address technology policies for the use of SMCHS technology and I will go over expectations for students' private use of technology.