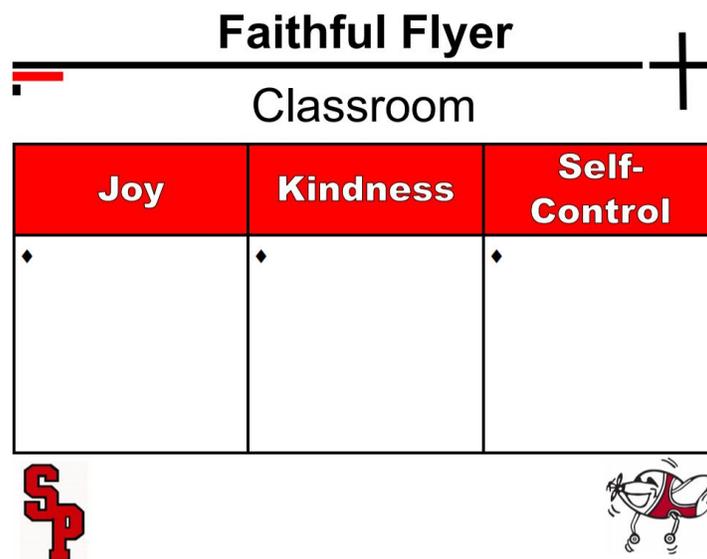


Dear Flyer Families,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year at Norwalk Catholic Schools! We have planned an exciting year and are thrilled to share with you a system-wide behavior initiative! Many schools in our area have implemented PBIS (positive behavior interventions and supports) programs to address student morale, behavior, socialization, spirituality, and to promote positive characteristics among students. The wonderful part of being a parochial school is that we are blessed to be able to include the Holy Trinity in our behavior program!

Research shows that children acquire the necessary skills to behave appropriately when they are taught, given many chances to authentically practice, and have their behaviors recognized and praised or corrected by trusted adults. The Bible and Catholic Catechism outline behaviors Christians should exhibit, imitating Christ's example. The Catechism gives references to passages from Holy Scripture which detail these desired attitudes, dispositions, habits and behaviors. It is from these sources that we are basing this model for teaching, practicing and responding to the behavioral/social/emotional needs of students at the Norwalk Catholic Schools. Specifically, we are teaching and responding to **The Fruits of The Spirit** in a program we are calling **Faithful Flyer**, which encourages our students and educators to exhibit these fruits in their daily life whether at school, at extracurricular activities and/or any time they are representing Norwalk Catholic School.

In addition, research also informs us there should be only a few overarching expectations for children; therefore, we are teaching and responding to just three of the **Fruits of the Spirit: Joy, Kindness, and Self-Control**. Various building settings have been selected within which these **Fruits of the Spirit** will be taught and practiced on a daily basis. For example, what do **Joy, Kindness and Self-Control** look and sound like in the classroom, hallway and cafeteria? You will be hearing much more about the **Faithful Flyer** program in the near future, but we wanted to share the graphic below so you would have a deeper understanding of this initiative.



Specific positive behaviors will be listed below each of the larger expectations. In the classroom, **Joy** might include giving your best effort and accepting that mistakes are opportunities to learn, while **Kindness** could include speaking only when it is your turn and being helpful to the teacher and your friends. **Self-Control** might include remaining in assigned areas and raising your hand to be recognized before speaking during instruction.

Again, this is only a brief overview of the **Faithful Flyer** program. We encourage you to have a conversation with your family about the **Fruits of the Spirit** and consider using this same vocabulary at home. What might **Joy, Kindness and Self-Control** look and sound like when playing with your friends, eating dinner, or getting ready for bed?

We will be providing more detailed information about the **Faithful Flyer** program in the coming weeks. We welcome your feedback about this program and look forward to growing together academically, behaviorally and spiritually as **Faithful Flyers** this year!

Sincerely,

The NCS Administrative Team