



Saint Joseph High School

Dear Freshman and Senior Parents/Guardians,

The week of August 30th – September 3rd will be “Freshman Welcome Week.” All activities are planned with “fun” as the primary goal, and all activities are scheduled to take place on campus. One part of “Freshman Welcome Week” activities we have eliminated is kidnapping. In the past, seniors who have “kidnapped” their freshman sisters had them participate in embarrassing pranks, such as walking in to a McDonald’s in their pj’s and ordering Jack-in-the-Box food, or standing in their pj’s in front of St. John Bosco with a sign stating , I’m a Freshman.

As a school, we are also guided by Archdiocesan policy and often the education code for the State of California. Each reads as follows:

No student may engage in hazing or commit any act that injures, degrades, or disgraces, or tends to injure, degrade or disgrace a fellow student or person attending the school.

No student, or other person in attendance at any public, private, parochial, or military school, community college, college, or other educational institution, shall conspire to engage in hazing, participate in hazing, or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical harm to any fellow student or person attending the institution. The violation of this section is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100), nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or imprisonment in the county jail; for not more than one year, or both. (E.C. 32051, Amend Stats. 1983, Ch. 1092.)

[H]azing includes any method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such an organization which causes, or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation, or disgrace resulting in physical harm, or mental harm to any student or other person attending any school, community college, college, university or other educational institution in this state; but the term “hazing” does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests of competitions. (E.C. 32050, Amended Stats. 1981, Ch.1022.)

Consequently, as a school, we cannot condone “kidnapping” as a part of “Welcome Week” activities. We want “Welcome Week” to be just that—a week of fun-filled events that promote a positive transition from elementary/middle school to high school. Furthermore, all of the “Welcome Week” activities are optional. Nothing is mandatory and harassment and humiliation is never tolerated. If we work together, I believe we can guarantee your daughter’s “Welcome Week” will be memorable.

Thank you for your cooperation and support. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Connell—senior class moderators, or Mrs. Madsen—Freshman class moderator.

Sincerely,

T. Mendoza, PhD
Principal