

I. Mission and Philosophy

Mission Statement

John Bapst Memorial High School is an academically challenging, independent, college-preparatory day school fostering in students a respect for learning, for themselves, and for others.

School Motto and Philosophy

The school motto, *Integrity – Achievement – Respect*, emphasizes the school's three core community values.

People of **integrity** can be counted on to do the right thing for the right reasons. We expect that courtesy, kindness, fairness, tolerance, acceptance, helpfulness, and honesty will be the principles that govern everyone's personal conduct.

The school's focus on **achievement** reminds us that academically, artistically, athletically, and socially, we are all here to learn, to grow, and to better ourselves and our school.

The **respect** we agree to show one another brings about the cooperative spirit necessary for successful education. Our relations with one another are founded on the trust that comes when we assume good will and good intentions.

The John Bapst Code

Students are expected to abide by a simple code that emphasizes integrity, achievement, and respect—the three words in the school's motto—as well as the core concepts of fairness, friendliness, responsibility, and maturity.

From the moment students arrive at school to the moment they leave the premises, students should practice the John Bapst Code. Similarly, at

functions or events in which John Bapst participates, students represent the school by following the code, which promotes:

1. Academic integrity;
2. A desire for self-improvement;
3. A focus on the learning opportunities available;
4. Respect for all members of the school community;
5. Responsibility, dependability, and timeliness in completing assignments and meeting obligations;
6. Tolerance and understanding of differences that arise from personalities, backgrounds, and beliefs;
7. Support of the efforts of others in learning, competition, public events, and performances;
8. Honesty, including forthrightness when it comes to admitting mistakes;
9. Friendliness and helpfulness toward all members of the school community and toward new students and visitors;
10. Care of school facilities and property.

Ethics in Daily Practice

The school embraces the concept of Ethics in Daily Practice as the cornerstone of its approach to good decision-making and good conduct in school life. As a community, John Bapst teaches what it means to practice ethics. Building character and building community both benefit when the study of ethics and the practice of ethics align.

In daily life, the practice of ethics asks us to make decisions consciously—especially decisions involving situations that pull us in opposite directions. An important step toward mature ethical growth is to see dilemmas as positive opportunities. Instead of acting on impulse, we recognize the decision-making moment for what it can be: an opportunity to make a decision based on values in which we really believe.