



SCHOOL RULES

SCHOLASTIC
YEAR 2024-2025

Foundation for Catholic Education

The competent authority of The St. Joseph School is the Foundation for Catholic Education.

Catholic Education in St. Maarten was established in 1890. The Foundation for Catholic Education however was established in 1970.

The main goal of the Foundation for Catholic Education is:

To have the interest of education and upbringing at heart in accordance with the Roman Catholic Faith.

Mission Statement of St. Joseph School

We are committed to the Roman Catholic formation of young people in the different aspects of their lives; spiritual intellectual, physical, social, emotional and moral.

This will be done in cooperation with home, parish and community.

We will provide a child-centered, holistic approach by striving to:

- A. Motivate each child to achieve according to his/her ability.
- B. Create a Christ-like, nurturing, loving and privileged environment where learning is an enjoyable, meaningful and challenging experience.

PHILOSOPHY

We Believe that:

The Roman Catholic Faith of our parents, staff and students is the foundation for our academic growth and Christian formation.

Education is a process of continuous growth. We are concerned with the spiritual, physical, mental, emotional and social growth of the individual.

Parents must take responsibility for their children's education by actively supporting the academic programs designed to meet their specific needs.

Teachers are not only educators, but witnesses of God's love for people of every race.

The ability to think constructively, to reason independently, to solve problems and to accept responsibility is the basis for academic growth.

Students are children of God and thus must respect themselves and others. Self-discipline and responsibility must be part of their daily lives so that they sincerely try to express love, joy, kindness, forgiveness, generosity and patience.

Participation in meaningful liturgical celebrations deepens the spirit of belonging to God's family among, parents, staff and students.

OBJECTIVES

To teach as Jesus did.

To provide opportunities for parents, staff and students to share and celebrate their **Roman Catholic Faith**.

To provide specific sacramental programs for parents and children.

To provide regular school Eucharistic Liturgies and Penitential Services.

To provide a sound academic program that suites the needs of the students in areas of:

- Language Arts, Literacy and Communication
- Social Studies and Technology
- Integrated Science and Technology
- Healthy Life Style
- Philosophy of Life
- Mathematics
- Social Emotional Development
- Culture and Artistic Development

To provide, when necessary, individualized instruction in order to meet the needs of each student.

To encourage open dialogue between parents, staff and administration and to provide planned opportunities for parent teacher meetings.

To bring Christian values into all areas of school related

activities.

To lead children to an awareness of their Christian vocation to be responsible citizens of today's world.

To provide a safe environment for our students during the after school hours by offering extra-curricular activities.

We commit ourselves to an ongoing review of this statement, in order that it may be a guiding force at St. Joseph School.



St. Joseph School Wide Strategic Goals



We aim to attain “Model School” status by providing a high standard, holistic, literacy-rich learning environment, for students through the integration of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) within our traditional best practices.

At St. Joseph school we aim to offer an innovative environment for children to become critical, open minded, respectful future citizens.

This school year 2023-2024 one of our goals is the incorporating STEAM educational approach to learning within our classroom.

What is STEAM? STEAM stand for Science- Technology, Engineering (Entrepreneurial), Arts and Mathematics.

The 4Cs of 21st-century skills – Collaboration, Creativity, Critical Thinking, and Communication – aren’t going anywhere. They are a critical component to student success in a rapidly changing workforce and society. Luckily, these are easily woven into any quality STEAM lesson. This is where the active engagement really starts to shine with student groups, creating original solutions

and compositions and exploring questions from multiple perspectives.

What will STEAM look like in the classroom? The STEAM approach is an active learning environment whereby students are encouraged to ask questions and collaborate with their classmates to solve real-life problems. This inquiry-based learning is student-centered and there is no wrong or right. Students are encouraged to communicate their findings and reflect on their inquiry journey. Your participation in this development is needed as we strive to equip our students with 21st-century skills.

SCHOOL BOARD AND FACULTY

The Catholic School board is responsible for developing new and improving existing school policies for the school. It is the board's duty to set policies for the administration, faculty and student body so as to provide for a smooth operation of the school, along with high standards for quality programs.

The School Board consists of:

Board members of Foundation Catholic Education St. Maarten

Mr. M. Halley	President
Mr. C. Peterson	Vice President
Mrs. M. de Weever-Lopez	Secretary
Ms. N. Hodge	Treasurer
Mr. P. Gumbs	Member

Mrs. L. Aventurin-Hodge	Executive Director of the Board
Mrs. J. Greene-Eleonora	Superintendent

Faculty and Staff

School Manager	Mrs. Shaina Fernandes
Student-Care Coordinator	Mrs. Hilda Brown Carty
Secretary	Ms. Syria Hodge
Custodian	Ms. Silverina
Cycle One	
Cycle one Coordinator	Ms. Shaundel Glasgow
Kindergarten	Mrs. Sneh Damaria
Group 3	Ms. Shantall Zorilla
Group 4	Ms. Melissa Eights
Cycle Two	
Cycle two coordinator	Ms. Vania Maynard
Group 5	Ms. Shudeska Leonard
Group 6	Ms. Vania Maynard
Group 7	Ms. Shaundel Glasgow
Group 8	Mrs. Nishtha Khitani
Team teaching	
Assistant Teacher	Ms. Tasia James
Assistant Teacher	Ms. Shantee Henry
Assistant Teacher	Ms. Rhianna Boirard
Gym Teacher	Ms. Gracella Olijfveld

Parental contribution

All payments can be made at WIB on the following account numbers:

- Naf. 300.00/ US \$166.66 (1st child)
- Naf. 275.00/ US \$ 152.78 (2nd child)
- Naf. 250.00/US \$ 138.88 (3rd/4th, etc. child)

STICHTING KATHOLIEK ONDERWIJS ST. MAARTEN
WIB US \$ ACCOUNT # 81467506 OR
WIB NAF ACCOUNT #81467604

Arrival

School starts at 7:30 am. On arrival, students must sit on the benches or in their class if the teacher gives permission. Running and playing before school starts is not allowed.

Latecomers must report to the office before entering the classroom. School finishes at 2:00 pm on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, and at 12:45 pm on Wednesday and Friday, you must pick up your child by 2.15 pm on Mon, Tue, and Thur., the teachers leave the premises at 2:30 pm! On Wed and Fri., you must pick up your child by 1:10 pm, the teachers leave the premises at 1:15 pm.

Tardiness

Students are considered late if they arrive after 7:30 am.

Absent

You must inform your child's class teacher if your child is not in school. The student must bring a doctor/parent letter upon his/her first day of return.

BYOD – Bring Your Own Device

Use of digital devices All students will be issued a BYOD (*Bring Your Own Device*) User Contract that outlines the terms and conditions for using digital devices. This contract will be signed by the student, parent, SKOS Applications Manager and School Manager. The BYOD User Contract is complemented by the BYOD Policy Protocol which will be issued to every student at the start of the academic year.

Mass and Assemblies

We start our week with an assembly and all students must participate with respect. The week openings start at 7:30am.

As Catholic school we attend monthly masses at Roman Catholic Church on Front Street.

There are moments when we attend extra-ordinary masses as school for example at the start of the Advent Season, start of Catholic School week. Respectful and reverent behavior is required of all students during any religious service.

Field trips

Field trips are planned by the school or by the individual teacher. Students permitted to participate in the field trips only if they have turned in a permission slip signed by a parent/ guardian prior to the trip. Appropriate behavior is encouraged by the students at all times.

Request to leave school

As part of the law on Compulsory Education, students must attend classes during regularly scheduled school days. Request forms to leave school outside the vacation can be picked up at the secretary's office. Supporting documents substantiating travel are needed. This process must be started at least two weeks' prior the anticipated travel date.

The Division of Inspection will only be approving the following types of exemption requests.

- Medical exemptions with SZV referrals ONLY
- Funeral exemptions with death certificate/obituary notice
- Cultural/Sports exemption with an official invitation
- Immigration exemption with official immigration letter/appointment or valid proof

All supporting documents for the exemption will be thoroughly screened. The school is the first step in receiving the exemption request and all supporting documents. Once the school validates the exemption request, the exemption will be issued and sent digitally to the Division of Inspection for further handling. The Division of Inspection makes the final decision in permitting or not permitting the exemption request.

Illness and Injury

If your child is to be excused from participation in dance or physical education classes for health reasons, a doctor's note is required.

Medical Emergencies

If a student has a medical emergency at school or at a school-related activity the parent will be notified. If the parent cannot be reached, the school will have the student transported to the hospital to obtain emergency medical treatment.

Therefore, parents are asked each year to keep emergency care information up-to-date (name of doctor, emergency phone numbers, and allergies).

Dress Code

As a school we encourage students to wear outfits that promote an attitude of modesty and decency and moderation or jeans with holes or rips will be required to change.

Girls and Boys (Group 1 & 2)

- Yellow polo with embroidered school logo (boys & girls).
- Boys- blue short pants (no belt)
- Girls – navy blue & gold plaid skort
- Navy blue socks mid-shin length (crew socks)
- Black school shoes (boys & girls)
- No gym uniform required
- Hair accessories (navy blue, yellow, white or black ONLY)

- Jacket- navy blue fleece jacket (front zipper & hood) with embroidered school logo for boys and girls

Girls (group 3-8)

- Yellow Oxford shirt with school emblem embroidered above pocket on left side (no polo shirts allowed)
- Navy blue and gold plaid crisscross tie.
- White sleeveless vest under the blouse
- Navy blue and gold plaid pleated skirt maximum 1 inch above the knee,
- White or black short tights under the skirt
- Navy blue crew socks (height must be half way between the knee and the ankle)
- Plain black shoes or plain black sneakers- example K-Swiss (high top and bulky sneakers will not be allowed)

Boys (group 3-8)

- Yellow Oxford shirt with school emblem embroidered above pocket on left side (no polo shirts allowed)
- Navy blue and gold plaid adjustable tie (long)
- Long navy blue pants
- Plain black belt (must be visible)
- Sleeveless plain white under shirt/vest (marina)
- Navy blue long socks (same height as girls, no socks below the ankle)
- Plain black shoes or plain black sneakers- example K-Swiss (high top and bulky sneakers will not be allowed)

Dress code: Gym/Dance

Girls and boys (group 1 and 2): No gym uniform required

Girls and boys (3-8)

- Yellow St. Joseph T- shirt with large logo on chest
- Navy blue sports pants with logo on right leg
- Navy blue long socks. (no socks below the ankle)
- Plain black sneakers

Swim wear requirements for group 5 students

- One-piece swim suit (girls)
- A swimming trunk (boys)
- A swimming cap (girls)
- A towel
- A change of underwear
- A bag to put clothes in

***Uniforms must be properly washed and ironed. Please label all uniform pieces so in the event an item is left behind, it can be returned to the respective owner. To avoid any inconvenience to yourself, please ensure that your child is properly dressed in complete school uniform. Parent will be called in to bring the missing item(s) before the child will be allowed to enter the classroom.

Uniforms are available at 0-14 Store and Penny's
NO OTHER ITEMS ARE ALLOWED

UNIFORM RULES ARE STRICTLY ENFORCED!!!

GENERAL APPEARANCE

- Body piercing and tattoos not allowed
- Boys are not allowed to wear earrings
- Boys are not allowed to wear braids, locks, hair tails, shaved patterns on the head, or any other seasonal hairstyles that may emerge in the future.
- Socks must be visible (halfway between knee & ankle, anklets not allowed)
- Extension, false hair braids, and beads in hair not allowed
- Nail polish, lip gloss, or any form of make-up are not allowed
- Nails must be clean and cut short No acrylic nails
- Students are not allowed to wear hats, caps, sunshades, or visors to school unless permission is given.
- Girls are not allowed to wear more than one earring on each ear (NO OVERSIZED JEWELRY)
- Students are not allowed to come to school in sandals or slippers.
- Students are not allowed to come to school with commercial T-shirts under their regular uniform
- Jewelry such as chains, bracelets, and rings are not allowed.
- When not in uniform, clothing should be appropriate (no “belly/back outs, sleeveless and spaghetti shirts” skirts and dresses and short pants should not be too short or tight)
- No coloring of hair
- No designs on the eyebrows
- Boys ‘hair must be groomed and cut short regularly

BEHAVIOR / CONDUCT

- School and class rules must be respected and adhered to at all times.

- School uniform must be worn and respected at all times.

(except when it is your birthday or any other special occasion announced by the school manager (see dress code and appearance for more details).

- Teachers, other staff members, and fellow students must be respected at all times. This means you should have self-respect and consideration for the personal materials and rights of others.

In other words: no obscene language, no obscene gestures, bullying, stealing, fighting, cheating, and destroying property are strictly forbidden.

- It is not allowed to run, shout, or play before 7.30 am. Students must sit on the benches or in the class if the class teacher gives permission.

Care of School Property

Students must take care and respect all property including books, equipment, and materials belonging to the school, other students, or teachers. They also have to be careful with their personal belongings. Any items found on the school premises that do not belong to the student must be brought to the office. If any of the school material is damaged by a student, then he/she will receive “the damaged property” letter to reimburse the money so we can replace the material.

Teacher's property

Students are not permitted to use a teacher's desk or any materials in/on the teacher's desk without the permission of the teacher.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

St. Joseph School strives to encourage **ALL** parents to be involved in their child's academic development at school. Parental involvement is proven to motivate students' social-emotional development thereby increasing student's performance at school.

We encourage you to start thinking ahead towards high school, and ask yourself: ***"Which high school would be best suitable for MY child to continue his/her academic career in?"***

Please note that academic high schools such as St. Dominic High School, St. Maarten Academy (Academic Section), Charlotte Brookson Academy, MAC Comprehensive Secondary Education, and MPC-CSEC are all **ACADEMIC SCHOOLS**. They accept students who have scored an average of 75% or higher respectively in Math, Language (Grammar and Reading Comprehension), and General Knowledge (Science & Social Studies). Scoring high in Dutch will be an asset toward acceptance to an academic high school.



***SELECTION OF VALEDICTORIAN**

In group 8 a valedictorian is selected. A valedictorian is typically a student having the highest academic achievements of the class, who delivers the valedictory at a graduation ceremony. The criteria for achieving this title is based on the average of term 1, term 2, religion exams and the FBE results. If there is a tie, the overall behavior of the student will also be taken into consideration.



PLEASE DO NOT WAIT TILL YOUR CHILD ENTERS GROUP 8 TO DEMAND EXCELLENCE. PREPARATIONS TO SIT THE FBE-EXIT EXAMS STARTS IN GROUP 1 AND YOU, AS PARENT, MUST BE INVOLVED AT ALL TIMES TO ENSURE MAXIMUM SUCCESS OF YOUR CHILD(REN). IT IS A JOINT EFFORT!!!

YOUR PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

In enrolling your child in a Catholic School, you agree to certain important responsibilities. These include:

- To be a partner with the school in the education of your child(ren);
- To understand and support the religious nature of the school;
- To read and sign all communications from the school and to request clarification when necessary;
- To know your child's teachers and to observe parent-teacher conference dates and any special requests for meetings;
- To send your child to school on time and pick him/her up on time;
- To have your child properly dressed according to the school's dress code throughout the entire school year;
- To ensure that your child has the necessary materials for school;
- To discuss concerns and problems with the appropriate personnel;
- To inform the school in writing when your child(ren)are absent;
- To be actively involved as you can be in the life of the school and to volunteer assistance when possible;
- To meet your financial obligations in a timely manner and to support the fundraising efforts of the school when possible.

Article 10: Parent code of conduct

The Parents/Guardians understands that they are important role models of our students. The schools expect a high standard of personal behavior from parents/guardians when on school grounds, including but not limited to such things as: refraining from offensive, insulting or derogatory language as well as conduct on school grounds and social media. This includes wearing clothing with offensive language or insignia. Revealing clothing or beach wear, going barefoot or without a shirt is not appropriate. Please refrain from smoking within sight of the boundary of the school property. Not allowed on school grounds if affected by, alcohol or any other intoxicant.

Interaction with staff, other parents and students; Parents are expected to interact civilly with staff, students and other parents at all times. Abusive language, raising your voice, insulting or violent behavior to anyone on school grounds is not appropriate and unacceptable. *(Taken from Information and Agreement booklet for registration Foundation Catholic Education St. Maarten)*

Failure to comply with the parent code of conduct and responsibilities the school will notify parents by meeting or official letter.

SCHOOLWIDE RULES FOR STUDENTS

1. Raise your hand to speak
2. Keep the classroom clean and tidy
3. Listen quietly while others are speaking
4. Respect school's material
5. Respect one another
6. Work and play in a safe manner
7. Be peaceful
8. Be responsible
9. Always do your homework
10. Be prepared for class.



GENERAL RULES

- group 7/8 Homework must be properly and promptly done. School books, copybooks, worksheets and letters to parents must be kept in a plastic sleeve or homework pouch.
- Chewing gum is **not** allowed.
- Electronic games not allowed in school unless permission is given.
- It is not allowed to bring dangerous items such as

matches, knives, scissors, lighters, metal rulers etc.

- It is not allowed to bring toys and games to school without your teacher's permission. **The school is not responsible for stolen or damaged items.**
- **Cell phones are not allowed (zero tolerance). If caught with cell phone, it will be taken away from the student. A fine of \$20 will be charged and must be paid before collecting the Cell phone. In the event the child's phone is lost or stolen, school will not be responsible.**
- No loitering after school hours on the school premises, vicinity of the school and the school alley.



PBS Positive Behavior Support

PBS The goal of Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS), also called Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), is to help parents and school staff create and maintain a safe, supportive, learning environment, promote positive life skills, and reduce negative behaviors so that all children can succeed in school.

PBS focuses on both individual behavior and environmental factors and has proven more effective than punitive discipline strategies, such as suspension and expulsion. PBS programs can address issues such as bullying prevention, social skills development, resiliency building, and discipline strategies.

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL SONG

*We are the pupils of St. Joseph
And we like the world to know
We are very proud to show
Our talents where we go*

Chorus

The pupils of St. Joseph
We like to read and write
We like to do our sums
And that's why we are so bright
We love to play together
We learn together too
We pray and sing together
Show respect for others too



Every morning when we meet
With a smile we like to greet
Our teachers and our friends
For frowning makes no sense (Chorus)

In class we do our best
We are quiet and at rest
And when it's time for test
We study with all zest. (Chorus)

***Composed by Mrs. Marina Richardson-Haynes in
1985(A 4th grade teacher at the St. Joseph School at
the time)***

St. Joseph Pray for Us

