

November 1, 2013

Dear Parent of a St. Joseph School Student,

The Diocese of Joliet Safe Environment Instruction is an age-appropriate personal safety curriculum to provide your child with basic skills to help keep them safe from dangerous or abusive situations. Our school will provide instruction to children and youth to help them recognize improper touch, understand that they can say “no” and tell a trusted adult. The instruction is gentle and will help your child learn about these unpleasant realities in a positive way.

Your child will not be exposed to specific sexual language or depictions of graphic situations or to anatomically correct language regarding private body parts. Children will be instructed as follows:

- Kindergarten will read and discuss the storybook *Sam’s Story*
- Grade 1 will be instructed using two photo cards –“The Touching Rule” or they may use *Sam’s Story*
- Grade 2 will be instructed using a photo card – “The Touching Rule”
- Grade 3 will be instructed using photo cards – “The Touching Rule and the Safety Tips,” “Using the Touching Rule,” “Telling Touching Secrets”
- Grades 4, 5 and 6 will view and discuss the Emmy-award-winning video *Yes You Can Say No*
- Grades 7 and 8 will view and discuss *Katie’s Secret*

The opportunity for parents to view the Safe Environment instructional materials is November 8 during your visit to the school for Conferences.

Dates for the children’s instruction will be November 18, 19 and 20. There will be a make-up session for students who are absent on the date of instruction.

It is important to note that adults can make every effort to provide a safe environment for children, but they cannot always be there to protect children from exposure to dangerous situations. Working together and using the materials in this program, parents and educators can help provide the rules, information, encouragement and practice that children need to protect themselves

If you do **NOT** wish for your child to participate, please sign the release below, detach it and return to the school before the date of your child’s instruction. Other options will be provided for your child during the session.

I give permission for my child/children _____ to receive instruction from St. Joseph School faculty using the safe environment curriculum on November 18-20). I understand that I am sharing with my child’s teacher/catechist my responsibility as a parent under the guidelines of the Catholic Church to do any such instruction myself.

I ask that my child/children _____
 Be excused from attending instruction at St. Joseph School using the safe environment curriculum on November 18-20. I acknowledge that I received a copy of the Parent Guide, *Understanding and Preventing Child Sexual Abuse*. I understand that it is my right and responsibility as a parent under guidelines of the Catholic Church to do this instruction myself.

 Signature of parent/guardian

 Date

Rita Stasi