



The Beatitudes of St. Charles

The beatitudes are the first and longest message of Jesus that we have in the gospel. Jesus had been announcing that the kingdom of heaven was at hand, and he had been calling for people to repent. Now, in what has been described as the manifesto of His kingdom, Jesus unveils the foundations and character of life in that kingdom. Here He teaches the ethical guidelines for life in His kingdom. Like this story, we believe that there are guidelines students need to follow. Therefore we are expecting students to follow these beatitudes of St. Charles Catholic School:

- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be a Peacemaker

The most powerful tool we have at our disposal for teaching appropriate behavior is the feedback we give students when they do and do not meet our expectations. If we do not consistently recognize those behaviors we expect, then we have no business continuing to expect them. It is equally important to understand that if we do not consistently recognize those behaviors we do not expect, then we have no business expecting that they will change. Consistently addressing students when they do, and do not, meet our behavior expectations will increase compliance, provide them with greater structure, and clarify expected behavior. The objective is not necessarily to get tough, but to **get real**.

The feedback we provide occurs within the context of a relationship; the better the relationship the more effective the feedback. Students may not remember **what** we teach them but they will remember **how** we teach them. I am encouraging staff members to make eye contact, smile and engage with our school family or anyone who enters our school. We hope that modeling respect, taking responsibility, and encouraging kindness will improve the overall climate and lay a foundation for building relationships with kids that will pay dividends in the future.

Each classroom in the school has these expectations posted. Each teacher in the building has agreed that the introduction of these beatitudes has increased consistency in recognizing when students do, and do not, meet our expectations. Increasing consistency throughout the building will continue to be a focus for this school year. As always, if you have any concerns or suggestions please let us know.