



## ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOLS  
SUPERINTENDENT

September 12, 2019

Dear Parents:

I am happy to greet you and welcome you to the 2019-2020 school year. As we continue this "Academic Year of Discovery," I wanted to address an important issue regarding safety in our schools. Keeping our community safe is a top priority.

With the prevalence of social media use in our community, it is important to be aware that Florida law makes threats of violence including through social media a felony offense. There are significant potential consequences for a student's threat of violence including suspension, expulsion and criminal prosecution. I encourage you to discuss the importance of digital citizenship with your children who may have access to social media or other electronic communication.

In the post-Parkland era in which we live, students must understand that even joking and teasing about such issues can have dire consequences. I encourage you to review our recently amended Threats of Violence policy found in our Parent-Student Handbook (a copy attached). We also ask you to report any threats of violence or other inappropriate behavior that may compromise the safety of our school community to the proper authority (the president of the school, the principal, a teacher, the superintendent, local police, etc.).

We appreciate your cooperation and thank you for your continued support in the Catholic education of your child.

May the Lord keep and protect each of us as together, we seek to know His will, do His work and live His way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kim Pryzbylski".

Kim Pryzbylski, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Secretary of Education

## **ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

### **XXVI. Threats of Violence**

Students are prohibited from making threats of violence. Students whose verbal or written comments, including electronic messages, pictures or posts on social media, that threaten serious bodily harm to another student, him/herself, a member of the faculty or staff or the destruction of property or whose behavior otherwise demonstrates they may pose a threat to the safety of the school, may be subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to:

1. Immediate suspension or expulsion from the school, at the school's discretion;
2. Treatment or consultation by a psychologist or psychiatrist at the parents' expense and/or by the school counselor, both of whom may be asked to submit a written evaluation; and/or
3. If allowed to return to school, the child may be placed on probation with an indication that, should a similar threat occur, the child will be expelled from school.

This policy applies whether such threats or misconduct were made intentionally, unintentionally, or with or without ill will. Such misconduct may also violate Florida law and may subject the student to criminal proceedings. At all times, the school will cooperate with law enforcement investigations and maintains the discretion to contact law enforcement at any time.

Students and parents should immediately report any threats of violence or other concerning behavior that may suggest an individual intends to commit an act of violence.