



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
JEFFERSON CITY

Serving Central
and Northern
Missouri

June 1, 2021

Dear Families,

A few months ago, the Diocese of Jefferson City updated its Safe Environment requirements for schools, beginning for the 2021-2022 school year. All parents/guardians are required to take our Safe Environment training and be cleared to volunteer in order for their children to register and attend school (the Diocesan policy is included below).

Please let me reiterate: it is required for all parents/guardians of all our students to be trained prior to registration and the start of school in August 2021 in order for their child to attend a Diocesan school.

This policy will not impact all of our parents – most are already trained and able to volunteer freely in our schools. For those of you who might be new to training, please know this is not an arbitrary requirement. It is actually tied fundamentally to who we are as stewardship-model Catholic schools.

The four pillars of stewardship are hospitality, prayer, formation and service. Our schools expect parents and guardians to participate in all four pillars as part of their belonging to their Catholic school. In order to be able to serve our schools fully, our families need to be prepared to volunteer. A big part of that preparation is being trained in how to provide a safe environment for our students.

We all appreciate the level of commitment our parents make to our Catholic schools. We have done everything we can to make this process as convenient and easy as possible. All registration and training may be completed online at <https://diojeffcity.org/safe-environment>. Check the steps on the right-hand side of the page to get started.

If a parent or guardian has any complication regarding complying with this policy, I encourage you to contact your school principal, or myself. I am happy to answer any question or address any concern you may have.

Thank you again for all you do for your Catholic schools. We are proud to serve your families.

Blessings,

Erin Vader, Ed.D.
Superintendent
evader@diojeffcity.org

DSR 5825: 1.2

Safe Environment Requirements for Volunteers Whose Duties Involve Contact With Minors

All volunteers whose duties involve contact with minors must accomplish the following prior to volunteering:

- complete a *Protecting God's Children (Virtus)* workshop in person or online;
- complete a check through the *National Sex Offender Registry*;
- complete the *Child Abuse or Neglect Registry* background check form;
 - read and consent to the *Code of Pastoral Conduct*.

If the person wishing to volunteer does not have a Social Security Number, a copy of the individual's passport or visa must accompany the *Child Abuse or Neglect Registry* background check form. If the individual does not have a passport or visa, then the Director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection must be informed of the individual's non-citizenship status. This information will accompany the form when submitted to the State of Missouri.

Effective July 1, 2021, all Catholic School parents will be required to complete the requirements in 1.2. In some instances, parents may be exempt from some requirements. These instances must be approved through the Catholic Schools Office and the Office of Child and Youth Protection.

Alphonse J. Schwartz

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