



# St. Matthew School Rights and Responsibilities

*“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.”—Matthew 5:9*

## Responsibilities

As a child of God, I have the responsibility:

**To treat everyone with kindness**—by not laughing, teasing, gossiping about or hurting the feelings of others.

*“Do unto others as you would have them do to you.”*

**To accept the differences of everyone**—by treating all others fairly regardless of whether they are fat or thin, tall or short, a boy or a girl, a child or an adult, the color or their skin, or if they learn differently than others.

*“Judge not, that you not be judged.”*

**To keep everyone safe**—by not hitting, kicking, pushing, pinching, threatening, or hurting anyone.

*“Love one another.”*

**To listen to everyone**—by respecting the opinions of others and allowing them to be heard.

*“Peace, be still ...”*

**To listen to the feelings and opinions of everyone**—by allowing others to talk by not interrupting or criticizing them for their thoughts and opinions.

*“Let he who is without sin cast the first stone.”*

**To stand up for others as Jesus taught us to do**—by not standing silently by when others are being teased, hurt, or threatened and by going for help when needed.

*“Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of my brethren, you did it to me.”*

**To learn**—by listening, accepting help when I need it, and to trying to do my very best.

*“How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver!”*

**To contribute to the learning environment in a supportive way**—by giving those in charge an opportunity to teach and my classmates a chance to learn.

*“To everything there is a season ... a time to keep silence and a time to speak.”*

**To protect my rights and the rights of everyone**—by being responsible at all times, helping others to do the same and to expect correction when I abuse the rights of others.

*“Even the least among you can do all that I have done and more.”*

## Rights

As a child of God, I have the right:

**To be happy and treated with kindness**—no one will laugh at me or hurt my feelings or say bad things about me to others.

**To be myself**—no one will treat me unfairly because I am fat or thin, tall or short, a boy or a girl, a child or an adult, the color of my skin, or if I learn differently than others.

**To be safe**—no one will hit me, kick me, push me, pinch me, threaten me, or hurt me.

**To be heard**—no one will yell at me and my opinions will be listened to.

**To be free to express my feelings and opinions**—by being able to talk without being interrupted and not be criticized for my thoughts and opinions.

**To stand up for others as Jesus taught us to do**—by not standing silently by when others are being teased, hurt, or threatened and by going for help when needed.

**To learn**—by listening, getting help when I need it, and trying to be the best I can be.

**To a comfortable, challenging, and appropriate learning environment**—by giving those in charge an opportunity to teach and my classmates a chance to learn.

**To expect all these rights are mine**—as long as I am being a responsible student.