

## ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL Recognized as a Common Sense School

PINOLE, CA—Common Sense, the national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping kids and families thrive in a world of media and technology, has recognized ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL as a Common Sense School.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL has demonstrated its commitment to taking a whole-community approach to preparing its students to think critically and use technology responsibly to learn, create, and participate, while preparing them for the perils that exist in the online realm, such as plagiarism, loss of privacy, and cyberbullying. With the right support, kids can take ownership of their digital lives, engage with real issues, and change their communities for the better. The recognition acknowledges our school's commitment to creating a culture of digital citizenship.

"We applaud the faculty and staff of ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL for embracing digital citizenship as an important part of their students' education," said Liz Kline, vice president of education programs at Common Sense Education. "ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL deserves high praise for giving its students the foundational skills they need to compete and succeed in the 21st-century workplace and participate ethically in society at large."

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL has been using Common Sense Education's innovative and research-based digital citizenship resources, which were created in collaboration with researchers from Project Zero, led by Howard Gardner at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and are grounded in the real issues students and teachers face. The resources teach students, educators, and parents tangible skills related to internet safety, protecting online reputations and personal privacy, media balance, managing online relationships, and media literacy. The free K–12 curriculum is used in classrooms across all 50 states, in more than 65,000 schools by more than 750,000 educators.

"We're honored to be recognized as a Common Sense School," said Mrs. Lenz-Acuna, Principal. "By preparing our students to use technology safely and responsibly, we are providing them an opportunity to build lifelong habits to help them succeed in a tech-driven world."

For more information about ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL, go to <http://www.stjosephpinole.com>. To learn more about the criteria ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL met to become recognized as a Common Sense School, visit <https://www.common sense.org/education/recognition-schools>.

### About ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

In August of 2019, St. Joseph School opened its doors to 267 students, commencing its 54th year as a Catholic school in the Diocese of Oakland. While the facilities and staff have changed over the years, the commitment to providing a faith-filled education to the children of our parish and our surrounding area has never wavered. With Christ as our teacher and leader, we have continued to practice and teach our Catholic history and traditions through our foundation in religion, while addressing the general curriculum necessary to produce students who are prepared

to meet the challenges of a modern society. As a community rooted in Catholic tradition, we remember our beginnings.

In 1961, Father Thomas Collins, pastor of St. Joseph Church of Pinole, expressed to Bishop Floyd Begin of Oakland a desire to build, staff, and operate a Catholic elementary school in Pinole. With the bishop's approval, construction began and the facility was completed in 1962. However, due to a shortage of teachers, the school did not open until 1963. At that time, through Bishop Begin's rapport with the Sisters of St. Joseph, Third Order of St. Francis, three sisters came to the new school and opened the first three grades with 103 students. An additional grade was added each year. The first Eighth Grade graduation ceremony was held in June of 1969.

#### About Common Sense Education

Common Sense Education supports K–12 schools with free, timely, and research-based resources for teaching in the digital age. We believe that learning digital life skills is essential for students to thrive in today's world and that all students should have access to learning these skills. That's why we make our digital citizenship resources available for free, ready for any educator to plug in to tomorrow's lesson plan. Our core resources include a comprehensive K–12 Digital Citizenship Curriculum, all-inclusive reviews of the most popular and latest edtech tools, and expert advice on how to use those tools most effectively in the classroom. Over half a million educators in nearly half of K–12 U.S. schools use our resources to teach kids digital life skills. We're excited to keep that number growing so all our kids can thrive in the digital age.

Common Sense is the leading independent nonprofit organization dedicated to helping kids thrive in a world of media and technology. Every day, Common Sense supports parents, teachers, and policymakers with unbiased information, innovative tools, and trusted advice to support kids' digital well-being. To see all of Common Sense Education's resources, visit <https://www.common sense.org/education>.

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