

Faith and Reason Learning Community

Statement of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.
Amen.

Mission Statement:

“Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth- in a word, to know himself- so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves.” John Paul II *Fides et Ratio*

In service to the Church and faithfulness to the Magisterium, the mission of Faith and Reason Learning Community is to glorify God by providing community, support and encouragement to homeschooling families educating their children. By following the classical model of education and employing God's gifts of our Faith and our Reason, we strive to seek the Truth, Beauty and Goodness in all of God's creation and thereby deepen our intimate relationship with Him. All are welcome to join us in pursuing this mission. “That they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” (John 17:23)

Policies and Procedures

The following policies and procedures are put in place to create a cooperative learning environment for all Faith and Reason Learning Community members. It is not meant to be exhaustive, but intended to create common guidelines within which all members can participate comfortably. The Board of Directors reserves the right to modify the policies and procedures at any time. All members will be immediately made aware of any changes should they occur.

Parental Authority

Faith and Reason Learning Community (FRLC) acknowledges that parents are the ultimate authority in their child's education and faith. While FRLC does offer a curriculum and encourages full participation in it, FRLC defers to the parent in determining what and how each child learns and follows the curriculum.

General behavior

All students and adults in the Faith and Reason Learning Community are required to behave in a respectful manner. This includes, but is not limited to, speaking and acting charitably; avoiding gossip, slander, offensive language, and physical aggression of any type; listening well, and exercising good stewardship of St. Patrick's church building and property. Students should always address adults in a respectful manner. FRLC strives to create an inclusive and welcoming Christian environment. All behavior and speech should foster this ideal by being kind, including others and speaking charitably. Parents will review the general behavior guidelines with their students.

Classroom behavior

In a classical environment, classroom discussion is a normal part of the learning process. Students are required to be respectful of each other's viewpoints, opinions and observations. All students should listen well, not interrupt or speak over others. All students are encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas in a positive and civil manner. While at times vigorous discussions and disagreements may ensue, condescension and disrespect will never be allowed. Parents will review the classroom behavior guidelines with their students.

Discipline

Failure to observe the FRLC behavior guidelines will be addressed in the following manner. Students will receive a verbal warning. If the behavior is not modified, a second warning will be given. Upon the third infraction, the student will be asked to leave the

classroom for 5 minutes and then invited to return. If the unacceptable behavior continues, the parent will be called and asked to collect the student for the day. At this point, the student may return the next week, but will be considered probationary for one week. If the behavior does not return to compliance with FRLC guidelines, the student will be asked to leave the program.

Conflict Resolution

At times, it is normal for some conflict to arise. FRLC has established the following procedure for resolving any conflicts. Avoid gossip and calumny by keeping your concerns between you and the party with whom you have conflict.

First, approach directly (face-to-face is best in most cases) the person with whom there is conflict. Keep in mind humility and charity go a long way in helping to resolve conflict. State clearly the concerns. Listen well to the response and concerns of the other party. Try to be flexible and open in reaching a resolution.

Second, if you are unable to reach a resolution, it is advisable to go to the next person in the line of authority. The increasing line of authority at FRLC is as follows: student, parent, tutor, director, board of directors along with the director of religious education, pastor. Every effort must be made at the appropriate level before going to the next person in line of authority. For example, if a student is having conflict with another student, the parents should get involved in facilitating a resolution between the students. If a parent has a problem with a tutor, the parent should try to resolve directly with the tutor.

Third, if there is a very serious issue that cannot be approached directly, it is advisable to address it with the person next in line of authority and so on until a resolution is reached. If a resolution has not been reached at an earlier stage of mediation, the pastor will have the final decision on the matter. FRLC is committed to a peaceful and cooperative environment for all participants and will make every effort to maintain it as such.

Volunteer and Employee Certification

ALL adult (over 18) volunteers, parents, tutors and directors are required to participate in and pass the Catholic Diocese of Peoria's approval process which involves two background checks and a seminar called, "The Safe Environment Program for the Diocese of Peoria."

Illness Policy

If your child is sick, please keep him or her home. Students are required to stay home in the case of fever, vomiting, diarrhea, visible and contagious rash, conjunctivitis (“pink eye”), or any other communicable diseases. Before an ill student can be welcomed back to Faith and Reason class meeting day, the child must be free from fever, vomiting or diarrhea for at least 24 hours.

Clean up

At the conclusion of the FRLC meeting day, all are required to help clean and return the facility to order. There will be a list of duties to help the clean-up go faster. Please look for those at meeting day and participate where possible. Directors, tutors, parents, and students will be expected to participate. Many hands make light work.

Cancellations

In the event of bad weather creating the need to cancel meeting day, notification will be sent via text or email no later than 7:00 am. Parents will make their contact information available and specify how they would like to receive notifications of schedule changes and cancellations.

FAITH AND REASON LEARNING COMMUNITY

Parent Agreement

I acknowledge that I have received and read the Faith and Reason Learning Community (FRLC):

1. Statement of Faith _____ (initial)
2. Mission Statement _____ (initial)
3. Policies and Procedures _____ (initial)

I agree to abide by all of the policies and procedures.

I understand that FRLC is a Roman Catholic program and a ministry of St. Patrick Catholic Church. All people are warmly welcome regardless of their faith tradition.

Signature

Date

Printed Name