



**VERMILION CATHOLIC**  
*a legacy of Mount Carmel*

Dear Parents,

At Vermilion Catholic, a legacy of Mount Carmel, the welfare of your children is our utmost concern as we strive to help you form your children in a life of virtue. Since even before I came to Abbeville as pastor, I have spoken to this school community repeatedly about the particular threat that unlimited technology use and social media pose to the development of character. I've also sent articles, videos, and emails to provide resources and information to parents via my monthly pastor's letter. Lately, schools across the state of Louisiana have begun to enact increasingly strict policies to address that threat and support parents in creating appropriate boundaries. Pope Leo XIV just released his long-awaited encyclical on artificial intelligence and digital media - [\*Magnifica Humanitas\*](#) - in which he explicitly addresses the effects of social media on children.

The benefits of information technology are many, and we want our students to be proficient in the responsible use of technology. Likewise, social media is not all bad and can be a fun and creative outlet. In the last several years, however, the data around the real harm of social media and unlimited use of technology has become even more compelling, especially for adolescents early in their development. In response, and after consultation with the School Advisory Board, Vermilion Catholic, a legacy of Mount Carmel will make the following addition to its technology and social media policies beginning in the 2026 – 2027 school year:

Artificial Intelligence & Device Usage

- VC will continue to provide devices to students in the same way as before
  - Teachers have full discretion to restrict their use in their classrooms
  - Students will be asked to take notes by hand instead of on their devices - studies have shown [much greater retention for taking notes by hand](#)
  
- Unless a teacher explicitly gives permission to utilize Artificial Intelligence (AI) in an assignment, a student is not to use AI in their homework and projects
  - We will utilize TurnItIn's software to detect AI use and act accordingly
  - Teachers will incorporate prudent use of AI into some of their assignments and lessons
  
- Students will not be allowed to use their chromebooks or other devices during lunch or recess or other communal free periods.
  - We want students to engage in a more authentic human encounter during their recreational and free time
  - Students who need to complete school work at those times can go to the library or a classroom with direct teacher supervision



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Social Media

VC will phase in a new Social Media Policy as follows:

- No student enrolled in 9th grade or below at VC shall host an account or page (whether in his/her true name or an alias) on any social media site.
  - A social media site is one that has individual user profiles, user-generated content, networking capability (can connect with others or groups), and interactivity (can comment, like, share or direct message).
  - Social media accounts prohibited include but are not limited to Facebook, Instagram, X, Snapchat, TikTok, CapCut, YouTube, Twitch, Roblox, and any social media platform or app VC sees fit to include in the future.
  
- A student who will attend VC in the fall is considered to be enrolled at VC during the preceding summer.
  - The prohibition against social media accounts includes summers, holidays, nights and weekends.
  
- Violation of the Social Media Policy will result in disciplinary action as follows:
  - First violation: detention and dismissal from extracurricular activities (including team tryouts) for the remainder of the academic quarter.
  - Second violation: one-day suspension and dismissal from extracurricular activities (including team tryouts) for the remainder of the school year.
  - Third violation: three-day suspension and dismissal from extracurricular activities (including team tryouts) for the remainder of the school year; student placed on probation.
  - Fourth violation: expulsion.
  - Violations are cumulative and do not “reset” at the beginning of a new school year. The disciplinary action for violations occurring during the summer will take place in the first quarter of the next school year.
  
- **Social Media Policy Exceptions during the phase-in period 2026 – 2027 School Year:** For the 2026 – 2027 school year, the Social Media Policy will apply to all students through grade 8, but will be voluntary for grade 9.
  - Students in grades 9 will be encouraged to sign a pledge to refrain from social media use and deactivate any existing social media accounts from all their devices in order to earn a quarterly reward.
  - The reward will be proposed by the student council and approved by the school administration.



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- Students' adherence to the pledge will be self-assessed and reported on the honor system.
- More information about the pledge and quarterly rewards will be provided to students and parents/legal guardians.
- Any student in grade 9 who does not yet have social media accounts is strongly encouraged to refrain from initiating accounts that will have to be deactivated when the phase-in period ends.

**For the 2027 – 2028 school year, the Social Media Policy will apply to all students enrolled at VC through grade 9.**

Further information about the impacts of digital technology on children and adolescents can be found in a document titled “Social Media Policy FAQs” on the social media policy section of the “Parent Resources” tab on our website. We are excited about the opportunity these changes will provide for our students to increase their capacity for learning and to become more engaged with the learning environment and the people around them.

Sincerely,

Fr. Alexander M. Albert  
Pastor & Interim Principal  
Vermilion Catholic, a legacy of Mount Carmel

*Enter to Learn Christ, Leave to Serve Christ*