



# Juan Diego Academy

## ATHLETIC AND FINE ARTS HANDBOOK

Juan Diego Academy  
Catholic Regional High School  
5208 South FM 494  
Mission, Texas 78572  
(956) 583-2752

## About our Program

### Vision

Juan Diego Academy is a Christ-centered, Catholic learning community forming young men and women to answer the call to lead and be active participants in their Church and community.

### Mission

As a Catholic regional high school, Juan Diego Academy:

- Offers a quality, comprehensive academic curriculum
- Utilizes the latest in technology and innovation
- Educates the whole person: mind, body, and spirit
- Instills a sense of Christian responsibility and service to others
- Trains leaders to meet the current and future challenges of society

### Statement of Philosophy

Juan Diego Academy is dedicated to giving students a Catholic-based, holistic education.

**Religious and Spiritual Formation**—Education in the doctrines, customs, and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church challenges students to see and appreciate the dignity of all persons as children of God. Catholic values are reflected throughout the curriculum: in daily prayer, religious instruction, weekly Mass, Christian ministry, and periodic retreats. In this environment of prayer and reflection, students are challenged to internalize their Christian beliefs and put them into practice. The centrality of religion to life is foundational.

**University Preparation**—Rigor, relevance, and relationship are hallmarks of a thorough, comprehensive, college preparatory program for the 21st century. Students are academically challenged with courses that emphasize the development of critical thinking skills, the integration of technology, an understanding of the relevance of what is being studied to life and career goals—all the while forming relationships between ideas and concepts across the curriculum. Students are equipped with the tools needed to be successful college students and life-long learners.

**Educating the Whole Person**—In addition to the religious and the intellectual, a truly Catholic education: builds character based on gospel values, promotes physical fitness and health, gives students the opportunity to exercise their aesthetic, kinesthetic, and artistic abilities, and involves them in competitive activities designed to foster growth of self-image, the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, and the pursuit of excellence. These important concepts are addressed in various forms across the curriculum, particularly in competitive sports, fine arts, and extracurricular clubs and organizations.

**A Christian Learning Community--** Educating the whole person requires more than excellent classroom instruction. For this reason, Juan Diego Academy continually strives to build a Catholic Christian community where each student is offered love, acceptance, discipline, and challenge. The witness of faculty, with the care, attention and respect shown to students, contributes significantly to this atmosphere. In turn, students are expected to treat faculty and each other in a similarly loving and respectful manner, responding to the Gospel mandate to, "...love one another as I have loved you." (John 15, 12).

### **Nondiscriminatory Policy**

Juan Diego Academy admits any students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students of the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its participatory policies, admissions policies, or athletic programs.

### **TAPPS**

Juan Diego Academy participates in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools in the following interscholastic activities: volleyball, boys soccer, boys and girls basketball, golf, track & field, and one-act play. TAPPS, which has been in existence for over 30 years, is the largest state association of private schools in the nation with over 250 members that compete in five classifications. Juan Diego Academy supports and abides by all TAPPS By-Laws governing the athletic and extracurricular activities sanctioned by TAPPS, including policies on student-athlete eligibility, and guidelines on the conduct and behavior of all participants and spectators at athletic and extracurricular activities.

### **TMEA**

Juan Diego Academy participates in the Texas Music Educators Association for music competitions and events. The TMEA allows our school to participate with all other private and public schools throughout the state in allowing our students to strive for excellence in both instrumental and vocal performance.

### **Pre-Participation Responsibilities**

Prior to participating in the school's athletic and/or fine arts program, JDA students and parents must complete the following:

### **Athletic Participation**

- Submit the signed Athletic and Fine Arts Handbook Acknowledgement Form
- Submit the TAPPS Pre-Participation Physical Exam Form (*including annual sports physical*)
- Submit the TAPPS Acknowledgement of Rules Form
- Submit the TAPPS Steroid Notification Form
- Submit the JDA Transportation and Travel Permission Form
- Attend a student-athlete & parent orientation program (*both the student-athlete and at least one parent must attend*)
- Pay the \$150.00 participation fee (*per sport*)

### **Fine Arts Participation**

- Submit the signed Athletic and Fine Arts Handbook Acknowledgement Form
- Submit the Fine Arts Contract (*per activity*)
- Submit the JDA Transportation and Travel Permission Form
- Attend a student & parent fine arts orientation program for the activity you are participating in (*both the student and at least one parent must attend*)
- Pay the participation fee (*per activity – fee is set annually by the fine arts director based on the type of activity, and the transportation costs associated with it*).

Students may not participate in a sport or fine arts activity until all of the above responsibilities are satisfied (this should typically be done no later than the first week of practice)

### ***Transportation and Travel***

1. When athletic and fine arts events are being held at JDA, students will be responsible for their own transportation.
2. For athletic events off campus, a starting lineup, backups and two additional players (Volleyball 14, Basketball 12 Soccer 24) will travel. Fine Arts transportation will be determined by the sponsor of the activity & communicated to students and parents through appropriate channels.
3. When travel outside of Mission, TX, occurs, JDA will provide transportation that all students are required to use. Exceptions to this policy will be handled on a case by case basis.

4. In case of an emergency, students may travel home from an event with a parent/guardian with written permission that has been secured in advance (signed note from parents or email from parent with phone consent). A text message is not considered written permission. Please indicate in written permission: student name, date, location, reason and who will be picking them up.
5. Responsibility for supervision on the school bus rests with the coach or sponsor, not the bus driver. Disciplinary consequences will occur for inappropriate conduct on the JDA van, school bus, or other arranged transportation.
6. Metal cleats and track spikes are not allowed to be worn on the bus.

### *Fees*

Student-athletes and their families are required to pay a fee of \$150 per athlete, per sport to help offset costs for transportation, uniforms and equipment, tournament fees, and officials.

The fee for participation in a fine arts activity is set by the Fine Arts Director in consultation with the Principal. This fee is announced and explained at the fine arts orientation program.

Financial constraints should not inhibit any student from participating in an athletic or fine arts activity. For financial assistance, please contact the athletic or fine arts director.

### *Multiple Sport/Fine Arts Activities*

Students may not participate in multiple team sports at the same time. Students may, however, participate in an individual sport (golf, swimming, track & field) and a team sport at the time if agreed upon by the coaches of both sports. Consistent, open communication between student, parent, and coaches is vital in these situations.

Students will not be discouraged from participation in multiple fine arts activities. However, students participating in multiple athletic and fine arts activities must take into consideration the seriousness of their commitment to teammates, fellow students, coaches, and sponsors, as well as the time necessary to reach a high level of excellence. Students are expected to consider their responsibility to their teammates, cast members, group, and school as an obligation to be taken very seriously.

Creation and size of teams and groups is determined by many factors including, but not limited to, the number of participants interested, availability of facilities, and necessary coaching/sponsor resources. Decisions will be made on a continual basis in order to insure a healthy experience for all parties involved.

### ***Dress Code and Grooming Regulations***

All students participating in sports and fine arts activities are expected to strictly adhere to the dress code guidelines as stated in the current *Student-Parent Handbook*.

### ***Athletic and Fine Arts Games, Events, Tournaments & Practice Times***

No team shall participate in more than two (2) tournaments, plus 23 regular season games (volleyball, basketball). For soccer, one (1) Tournament, plus 14 regular season games. The number of track meets and other athletic competitions shall be determined by the athletic director in consultation with the coach(es) and the Principal.

These guidelines do not include postseason tournaments/playoff games.

Fine Arts competitions and activities are determined in advance by the Fine Arts Director in consultation with the activity sponsor and the Principal.

Beginning with the first day of classes, practice time for all athletic and fine arts activities should be limited to no more than 8 hours per week, including weekends. No practices or games are allowed on Sundays and Federal Holidays. Exceptions to this rule may only be granted by the Principal. No practices may start earlier than 6:30 AM or end later than 7:00 PM.

The maximum length for any single practice session is two hours (excluding driving time for off-campus practices – soccer, track & field, etc.). Volleyball and boys soccer practices before the first day of school may not exceed three hours per day and 15 hours per week.

### ***Communication Using Social Media***

Coaches and Sponsors may choose to communicate to both students and parents using communication apps such as WhatsApp and Remind. All students and parents will be included in these message chains. Communication from coaches and sponsors is oneway only through these apps. Students and Parents are to contact the coach through the school office or through professional e-mail. The policies and procedures in the *Student-Parent Handbook* are followed concerning all other technology and communications.

## *General Policies*

### *Sportsmanship and Manners*

All students are expected to represent Juan Diego Academy as “humble servants and noble saints,” in keeping with the high standards of our school. This conduct is expected in the classroom, on the athletic court or field, the stage, traveling to and from events, and socially (including on the internet and social media). Students, parents, and guests are expected to display the best of Christian courtesy and manners to all officials, coaches, opposing coaches, players, and guests. Good manners are the rule, not the exception. Anyone falling short of this expectation will be disciplined up to and including dismissal from events, suspension or dismissal from the team or group, and dismissal from Juan Diego Academy. Minor disciplinary actions such as excessive lateness to practices or games, receipt of a technical foul, use of inappropriate language will be referred to the athletic or fine arts director who will determine consequences in consultation with the coach or sponsor. These will typically consist of reduced playing or participation time, detention, or similar consequence. Other disciplinary actions are carried out in accordance with the *Student-Parent Handbook*. Parents will be notified of all disciplinary action by the Athletic or Fine Arts Director.

### *Expectations of Spectators and Guests*

1. Spectators and guests at Juan Diego Academy events are expected to remember that they are attending to support their team or group. Only language and cheers that are positive and uplifting should be used.
2. Spectators and guests should respect the integrity and judgment of game officials/judges and appreciate their willingness to undertake their work. Officials and judges will be treated with respect at all times. Decisions of these officials are to be accepted without quarrel or controversy.
3. Members of the JDA community should at no time engage in inappropriate behavior such as:
  - \*the use of profanity
  - \*fighting, arguing
  - \*attempts to intimidate, ridicule and/or verbally abuse JDA faculty, staff, opposing teams, guests, officials, members of the press or the general public.
4. Spectators at athletic events must observe TAPPS prohibitions on face painting, air horns, etc., indoors, and any other relevant prohibitions deemed necessary in the handbook or other prohibitions announced by game or school officials.

5. Failure to comply with the school's behavior expectations for spectators and guests may result in removal from the contest facility and/or prohibition from attending future events.

Juan Diego Academy is held responsible for the behavior of its spectators at all TAPPS events. The school is liable and therefore may receive disciplinary action as a result of behavior on the part of any member of our school community that is in violation of TAPPS, or any other governing body's standards and rules.

A continued pattern of inappropriate conduct by students or parents is subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the *Student-Parent Handbook*.

### ***Substance Abuse***

The use, possession, purchase or distribution of tobacco, vapes, alcohol, or other controlled substances (including performance enhancing drugs) of any form, either on or off campus, is strictly prohibited. Violations will be handled as per policy outlined in the *Student-Parent Handbook* and may include suspension or removal of the student from the team or activity.

### ***Gambling***

Gambling in any form is prohibited. Violation subjects the person(s) involved to disciplinary action.

### ***Harassment***

Juan Diego Academy is committed to maintaining an atmosphere that is free from violence, personal abuse, bullying, intimidation or any other form of harassment. The athletic and fine arts departments support and abide by the JDA harassment policy as outlined in the *Student-Parent Handbook*.

### ***Hazing***

Hazing and other acts of initiation of students before, during, or after athletic or extracurricular events are strictly forbidden. Before school activities and events, students will be advised of the school's policies in an attempt to ensure the safety of all participants as well as maintain the personal dignity of each student and the reputation of the school. Students found to be guilty of hazing or other acts of initiation are subject to serious disciplinary consequences as outlined in the *Student-Parent Handbook*.

### *Participation in Athletics and Extracurricular Events*

Students and parents must recognize that participation in the athletic and fine arts programs at Juan Diego Academy are a privilege, not a right to those select individuals who possess the ability, attitude, disposition, cooperative spirit, and desire to represent the Juan Diego Academy community in a Christ-like manner. By joining a JDA team or fine arts group, a student becomes a visible representative of our school.

### *Eligibility and Probation*

Student-athletes are expected to maintain academic and behavioral standards in keeping with the Juan Diego Academy *Student-Parent Handbook* and the teachings of the Catholic Church. These regulations and procedures apply while on school premises, during practices and competitions, in public, and while on social media. A student will be considered eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics and fine arts activities at JDA if their most recent academic report reflects the student:

- Carries a full course load (7-8 credits – no more than one study period may be scheduled);
- Has no failing grades during the current marking period (no grades below 70);
- Has no unsatisfactory conduct marks on their progress report and no discipline referrals during the current marking period.

Eligibility is determined on the day report cards are issued, or at the beginning of the tenth day after report cards are issued with the approval of the Administration.

Ineligible students may attend scheduled practices but may not participate in any competition until eligibility has been restored. An ineligible student remains ineligible until the next progress report or on the tenth day following the date the next progress reports are issued. If progress reports indicate that the student is passing all classes, eligibility is restored. If eligibility is not restored at the progress reports, it will be reviewed at the next report card.

Passing summer school courses may remove a student's ineligible status incurred during the previous school year. Eligibility would begin ten days following the date report cards are issued, as stated in the *Student-Parent Handbook*.

A student will be considered on probation should his/her most recent academic report reflect any one or a combination of the following academic grades or conduct:

1. One failing grade or unsatisfactory conduct mark in any course
2. One Incomplete in any subject

A student will also be considered on probation should his/her behavior require:

1. Removal from a classroom
2. After-school detention
3. Out-of-school suspension

Probation is one, two (2)-week period\* during which a student-athlete works to improve his/her grades and/or conduct. During this two-week period, a student is still considered a full, participating member of the team/group, but time should be focused on improving one's grades and conduct. Students are encouraged to seek extra help from teachers in courses where he/she is struggling, either before school, during homeroom period, or after school. Juan Diego Academy faculty and staff are always willing to assist students in their academic studies and personal growth as teenagers.

*\*The only exception to the two-week probationary period is the Incomplete. As soon as the student makes up the work that caused the incomplete AND the work is to the satisfaction of the appropriate teacher, the student-athlete is no longer on probation.*

Students who commit serious violations of the school's policies/procedures are subject to disciplinary measures up to, and including, dismissal from the team in consultation with members of the Administrative Team.

### ***Evaluating Probationary Improvement***

A student remains a full, participating member of a team/group if his/her grades at the end of the probationary two-week period reflect a passing average or better in every class, and the student-athlete maintains conduct in keeping with the JDA *Student-Parent Handbook* and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

### ***Ineligibility***

Should a student earn a grade under 70 or a mark below satisfactory conduct, he or she will be deemed ineligible. A student will also be considered ineligible for interscholastic activities at JDA should there be no improvement after the two-week probationary period (students may practice at the discretion of the coach/sponsor). Ineligibility

means that a student may not participate in interscholastic athletics at JDA for the remainder of the season or until the end of the quarter. This will result in the removal of the student from the team's/group's roster.

All students are allowed one (1) probationary period per school year. Should a student fail to meet the academic and behavior standards outlined above more than once during a school year, he/she will be considered ineligible and will no longer be permitted to participate in interscholastic activities at Juan Diego Academy for the remainder of the school year.

### *Attendance*

Students must be marked as present in school on the day of a practice, game, or event in order to participate. Please see the *Student-Parent Handbook* for what constitutes an absence, and consequences for excessive absences.

Students are expected to attend all practices and games. Common courtesy demands that the student contact the coach or sponsor if he/she is unable to attend a practice, game, or other event. Consequences for missing a practice, game, or other event will be as outlined by the coach/sponsor at the beginning of the season in addition to the natural consequences that result from missing practice, instruction or game experience.

### *Quitting or Dropping a Sport or Fine Arts Activity*

Students who make the choice to quit a team or group once the season or preparation period for the event has begun (season/preparation period defined as the first day of practices through the last team meeting day/day after the event) are prohibited from returning to that team/activity except under special circumstances and only if the following conditions are met:

1. The student & student's parents must arrange a meeting with the coach/sponsor and athletic/fine arts director to discuss the rationale for quitting and returning to the team;
2. The coach/sponsor and athletic/fine arts director agrees to accept the student back on the team per circumstances involved;
3. The student apologizes to the coach(es)/sponsor(s) and, if deemed necessary/appropriate, to the team or group.

The returning student will be suspended for a period of time/competition **at the discretion of the coach/sponsor, in consultation with the athletic/fine arts director.**

Students quitting a team/group once the competitive or performance schedule has begun will not be allowed to return to that team/group during that season.

The Principal, athletic/fine arts director, and coaches/sponsors will respect and support the decision of a parent to remove his or her child from a team/group for any reason. However, once the child is removed, he or she may not return to that team/group for the remainder of that sports season or fine arts activity.

### *Stewardship*

All student athletes are expected to be good stewards of all equipment, facilities, and uniforms entrusted to them.

1. Locker rooms, weight room and all other facilities are expected to be clean and orderly at all times.
2. Student-athletes are required to use assigned lockers to store equipment, uniform and personal items and those lockers should be cleaned and locked at all times.

### *Uniforms*

Student-athletes are issued team uniforms and are expected to take care of the uniform. If a uniform is lost and cannot be found, another uniform (if available) will be issued, once the lost uniform has been paid for in full. Uniform pieces which are damaged outside of practice or competition will be replaced at the expense of the student-athlete. The replacement cost for a uniform top or bottom is \$80.00. The replacement cost for both is \$160.00.

Similar guidelines apply to any uniforms/equipment issued out to fine arts participants.

### *Attendance*

During the school year, students are expected to give the in-season sport or activity in which they are participating first priority and are not permitted to train for another sport/activity in any manner during that time period unless approved by the current in-season head coach or sponsor.

During the summer, all student-athletes are expected to work on and develop their athletic abilities. JDA will provide resources and opportunities to encourage student athletes to improve during this time. While it is understood that family and personal time take priority during the summer, the student-athlete is expected to take advantage of at least some opportunities to train and condition for the upcoming athletic season. Opportunities for fine arts students will also be made available and announced when school is not in session.

### ***Communication with coaches and sponsors***

Direct communication between the coach/sponsor and student is essential to a team or group's success. This is the best way for any questions or conflicts to be handled, and is outlined further in the *Student-Parent Handbook*. At the beginning of each sports season or fine arts program, a meeting will take place between the coach, sponsor, students, and parents of students at which time the following items will be explained:

1. The coach/sponsor's philosophy
2. Goals and expectations for the team/group
3. Locations and times of all practices, contests and travel plans
4. Requirements, special equipment, preparation programs
5. Procedures for addressing injuries and accidents occurring during participation
6. Rules, guidelines and consequences for infractions
7. Criteria for earning an athletic or fine arts award
8. Selection process for participants

At any other time during the season, if a meeting is requested between a parent, student, and the coach/sponsor, the student must be present at the meeting as well. A meeting will not take place between a parent and a coach/sponsor without the student present.

### ***Guidelines to use when requesting a meeting with your Child's Coach/Sponsor***

1. Please consider waiting 24 hours before placing a call or sending an email to request a meeting.
2. Do not attempt to confront a coach/sponsor or request a meeting before or after games or practices.
3. If a coach cannot be reached, please call the Athletic Director, Fine Arts Director, or the Principal to help set up the meeting.

Guidelines in the *Student-Parent Handbook* will be strictly adhered to regarding the handling of conflicts between parents and members of the faculty/staff of Juan Diego Academy. Please seek to address concerns **with a team/group coach or sponsor** before taking concerns to the athletic director, fine arts director, or the Principal.

*Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches and sponsors:*

1. Concerns about your child's general welfare
2. Ways to help your child improve
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

*Things not appropriate for discussion and are left to the coach's/sponsor's discretion:*

1. Playing time
2. Playing positions or role of the child in the group
3. Team strategy
4. Play calling
5. Other students

*Changes or amendments to this handbook*

The Principal may make changes to any policies outlined in this handbook as needed, and has the final decision with regards to any policy. Changes will be made public in the weekly *E-News*, or other special e-mailing or web site posting.

The Principal has the authority to remove a student or cancel a season if students or parents are not adhering to guidelines stated in the *JDA Athletic and Fine Arts Handbook*, *Student-Parent Handbook*, or TAPPS By-Laws.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

***Athletic and Fine Arts Handbook Acknowledgement Form***

We have received the Juan Diego Academy *Athletic and Fine Arts Handbook* and have familiarized ourselves with its contents. We support and agree to abide by the policies contained therein.

I, the undersigned student, promise as a matter of personal honor and integrity to act at all times in accordance with the code of conduct outlined in this handbook. We understand that these policies are applicable for the current school year, unless otherwise notified of changes by the principal. Furthermore, we understand that the policies and procedures in the current Juan Diego Academy *Student-Parent Handbook* take precedence over this handbook at all times.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name (*Print*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's/Legal Guardian's Name (*Print*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's/Legal Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date