



Holy Spirit

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Inspiring Minds | **Igniting Hearts**

Elementary Parent and Student Handbook
2024-2025



This school is accredited by the Virginia Catholic Education Association whose accreditation process has been approved by the Virginia Council for Private Education as authorized by the Virginia State Board of Education.

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Holy Spirit School

Inspiring Minds ~ Igniting Hearts
2024-2025

Welcome to Holy Spirit School! We are pleased that you have chosen to entrust us to be a partner in the education of your children. For over fifty years Holy Spirit School has educated the youth of our parish and community and we continue to strive to inspire our students daily and help them develop into both critical thinkers and compassionate individuals. This year, we have chosen the simple yet profound theme of “Patience.” As one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, patience invites us to open our minds and hearts to hear, trust, and follow God's plan for us. In the midst of the many challenges we face in various aspects of life, patience calls us to rely on God's goodness and infinite wisdom.

Throughout the year, we will provide opportunities to teach our students about our divine calling to embody patience. As people of God, we are reminded that our faith is rooted in the eternal hope we have in Christ. By embracing patience as both a fruit and a virtue, we can guide our students to appreciate and trust in God's timing and purpose.

Let us move forward together, strengthened by our faith and committed to nurturing patience within ourselves and our students, as we trust in the everlasting hope we have in Christ.

Peace,

Mrs. Anne Dyke
Principal

Mrs. Ashley Martinez
Assistant Principal

Mrs. Ann Stich
Assistant Principal

I. PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION/MISSION STATEMENT

DIOCESAN PHILOSOPHY OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations teaching them to carry out everything I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20

These words of Christ addressed to the apostles at the Ascension bestowed on the Church the office of teacher. Obedient to this divine challenge, the Church provides education permeated with the spirit of Christ and dedicated to promoting the full development of the human person.¹ The two-fold goal of Catholic schools is to provide an environment which will foster rich religious training as well as solid academic education in a Catholic, value-oriented manner.

¹ Declaration on Christian Education #3

DIOCESAN MISSION STATEMENT

The Catholic schools in the Diocese of Arlington are an essential component in the educational ministry of the Church. Our schools are committed to providing an education rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ where Catholic doctrine and values and academic excellence prepare each student for a life of faith, service, and integrity.

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Holy Spirit School inspires life-long learners and ignites servant leaders through a program of academic excellence grounded in the traditions and values of the Holy Catholic Church.

PHILOSOPHY

We believe our students have families who seek a faith-based, academically challenging education.

We believe our students are diverse, engaged, passionate and morally aware.

We believe our students have varying abilities and gifts.

We believe our students learn best in a spiritual, structured and supportive academic environment.

We believe our students learn best in a physically and emotionally safe setting.

We believe our students learn best and work toward academic mastery through differentiation.

We believe our students learn best through both traditional and technology-based instruction.

We believe our students learn best when actively engaged.

We believe our students will succeed when challenged to be critical thinkers.

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

Each school shall utilize the Office of Catholic Schools (OCS) template to develop and distribute a handbook for students and parents/guardians. All local policies and procedures must be in conformity with the Office of Catholic Schools' policies, guidelines and regulations.

A committee, representative of the total school community, shall be involved in the development and periodic revision of this handbook. The handbook shall be updated annually to reflect policy and procedural changes. Principals shall establish a process for review and revision of local school policy to ensure changes reflect the input of key stakeholders. All parents, along with students in middle and high school, are required to provide a signature of receipt acknowledging they have read the rules and regulations outlined in the handbook, and they agree to abide by those rules (*Appendix AG-1 and AG-3*). An acknowledgment form will be provided to students upon receipt of the handbook. The form must be signed and returned by Friday of the first full week of school. Failure to have a signed form on file will not prevent the school from enforcing its policies and/or prevent a student from enrolling or continuing to be enrolled at the school.

Faculty and staff members shall be given access to all school handbooks.

In light of the unique situations which may arise in the educational process, and because it is impossible to foresee all school issues that arise, the faculty and administration reserve the right to address and to take appropriate action for any such situations not specifically referenced in this handbook. In addition, in view of the unique and essential religious mission of the school, it is expressly understood that the school may take action in cases where moral offenses occur which reflect adversely on the school, the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, or the Roman Catholic Church, or which interfere with the ability of the school to perform its religious mission or effectively maintain the intimate working relationship of the school and the Community of Faith.

This handbook may be modified by the school after reasonable notice to the parents/students of the effective date of any changes. Any section headings are for convenience of use, and shall not affect the interpretation of any provisions. If the school should elect not to take action in a particular situation, this shall not be construed or interpreted as a waiver, or preclude the school from acting in a subsequent situation of the same or similar kind.

Handbooks and all subsequent changes are subject to prior written approval by the Diocese. To the extent any local handbook or policy statement therein may be inconsistent with the policies, guidelines, or regulations of the Office of Catholic Schools, the Office of Catholic Schools' policies, guidelines, or regulations shall be of controlling force and effect.

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN ROLE

In this handbook, the term "parent" refers not only to a child's natural or adopted parent, but to a

student's non-parent legal guardian or to any person or agency authorized to act in place of parents.

Since parents/guardians have given their children life, the Catholic Church recognizes parents as the primary and principal educators of their children. The Catholic parents' promise at baptism to raise their children Catholic supports this premise. The Catholic school exists to assist parents in the Christian formation of their children. Since the school is a continuation of the education children are receiving at home, diocesan schools should demonstrate respect and support for the parents in their important and challenging task.

As foundation for a faith-community, parents are invited and encouraged to participate in the school's celebration of prayer and liturgy.

Parents are encouraged to participate in the programs which are developed for the education of their children. The wide spectrum of this involvement includes volunteer work, participation in parent-teacher conferences, attendance at meetings and seminars designed to help parents assist their children at home, and active involvement in the school's Parent-Teacher Organization.

Parents are expected to support the school's mission and commitment to Christian principles and support the school policies as outlined in school handbooks (i.e., annually sign the school's Handbook Agreement Form). One of the conditions for initial and continued enrollment at the school is receipt of this signed form indicating the parent's support of the school's philosophy, policies, and regulations.

If a parent repeatedly or seriously violates proper school protocol, displays inappropriate or disruptive conduct toward students, or displays disrespectful, disruptive or harassing behavior toward teachers or toward school, parish, or diocesan staff (in verbal, written, or digital form), the school may take corrective action. Such corrective action may include, at the discretion of the principal (and, for parish schools, the pastor of the parish) the following: imposition of particular rules or procedures the parent must follow in interacting with the school and its students and staff; restriction or termination of the parent's access to school or parish property; dismissal of the parent's child(ren).

The school may impose other appropriate corrective action, without prior recourse, based upon the nature of the parent's conduct and the surrounding circumstances.

TEACHER/PARENT PARTNERSHIP

Holy Spirit School endorses a strong partnership between its faculty and parents with the goal of enhancing the educational experience for each child. When parents and teachers respect each other, children thrive. This partnership requires a commitment to support each other's goals for the child in accordance with the School's mission statement. This partnership:

- affirms that all communication is open, direct, and honest and conveys messages that are respectful, courteous, and constructive. Please note that electronic communications may convey unintended messages and must be used responsibly;
- requires a willingness and expectation on both sides to work on and nurture the relationship;
- is fostered by mutual trust and respect;
- acknowledges that teachers and parents bring different areas of expertise to the relationship. Each teacher contributes a professional expertise about curriculum and child development and each parent brings a personal expertise about his/her child;
- respects the privacy and personal boundaries of parents, teachers, and students.

TEACHER/PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

To achieve the best possible teacher/parent partnership, there are specific responsibilities for both teachers and parents.

Parents:

- will first bring concerns directly to the appropriate staff member in a timely manner and will not engage in discussions with children or other parents that are disrespectful, unkind, or hurtful to another child, parent, family, or staff member;
- will keep the teachers informed of any changes at home or other information about their child that might affect their child’s performance and/or behavior in school;
- will support the teacher at home if a problem occurs so that the child understands that the parents and teachers are working together;
- will respect professional boundaries and not request personal email addresses, private phone numbers, or “friending” requests through social media sites.

Teachers:

- will listen to and elicit information about the child from the parent and will respond appropriately when a parent requests time for a consultation;
- will be as specific as possible in giving information about a child’s performance and/or behavior to a parent in a timely manner;
- will work in concert with the parents to develop specific goals to be worked on at home and at school with regard to behavior and/or performance issues;
- will explain to parents the behavioral and homework expectations for the child and the role of the parents that particular year;
- will describe at the start of the year how best to keep in touch (time and place for calls and communications).

It is imperative that all members of the Holy Spirit School community adhere to the above principles and responsibilities in their electronic and other communications, including blogs, tweets, Facebook, etc. These communications are not to include disparaging or damaging comments about individuals, the community or the school.

The school reserves the right to withhold or terminate an enrollment contract of any student

whose family does not participate with the school in the spirit of cooperation and partnership in a manner that the school deems necessary to support the child and the goals of the school.

SEXUAL IDENTITY POLICY

The Diocese of Arlington is committed to providing a safe environment that allows students to develop and prosper academically, physically and spiritually, consistent with Catholic teachings and principles affirming that the body reveals each person as male or female and that the harmonious integration of a person's sexual identity with his or her sex is an expression of the inner unity and reality of the human person made body and soul by God and in the image and likeness of God. In fulfillment of these religious truths, our Catholic educational environment shall reflect a relation to persons (including name and pronoun usage, uniforms, access to facilities and overnight accommodations, and eligibility for single-sex curricular and extracurricular activities) that is respectful of and consistent with each person's God-given sexual identity.

Recognizing that each person is created in the image and likeness of God ensures that dignity is safeguarded, and safe environments are fostered. When parents send their children to Catholic schools and when persons choose careers in Catholic education, they should expect an environment consistent with the truth that God-created sexual identity speaks to His vision for each person's relationship to Him, oneself and others. Behavior and expressions of a person's sexual identity within the school environment that are inconsistent with these principles and/or which cause disruption or confusion regarding Catholic teachings on human sexuality are prohibited. The full cooperation with this policy of school officials, faculty, parents and students is required and a condition precedent to the continued enrollment of each student and the continued employment of each employee, and the enforcement of this policy by the school is deemed a spiritual mandate.

NON-DISCRIMINATION CLAUSE

Catholic Schools, administered under the authority of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, comply with those constitutional and statutory provisions, as may be specifically applicable to the schools, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, marital status, disability, national origin, or citizenship in the administration of their educational, personnel, admissions, financial aid, athletic, and other school-administered programs.

This policy does not preclude the existence of single sex schools, nor does it conflict with the priority given to Catholics for admission as students. This policy also does not preclude the ability of the school to undertake and/or enforce appropriate actions with respect to students who advocate on school property or at school functions, any practices or doctrines which are inconsistent with the religious tenets of the Catholic faith.

NON-CATHOLIC STUDENTS

The presence of students from other faiths provides a wonderful diversity to the school. However, the presence of non-Catholic students in the school shall not alter the primacy of Catholic religious formation as an integral component of the school's educational program. As such:

- a. Non-Catholic students are expected to participate in the religious formation and education programs of the school.
- b. Non-Catholic students must participate in liturgies (except for reception of the Eucharist), retreats, other religious functions, and religion classes for credit.
- c. Non-Catholic students may be exempt from formal co-curricular or extra-curricular sacramental preparation programs but not from the catechesis held during the school day.
- d. All students are expected, for testing and discussion purposes, to be knowledgeable of the Catholic Church's positions on scripture, revelation, and moral practices. While Catholic teaching respects the various faith traditions of the students attending the Catholic school, parents/guardians must be aware that it is the Catholic position that will be taught.

II. ACADEMICS

CURRICULUM

Curriculum encompasses the sequentially ordered learning experiences which the school provides for its students. The total curriculum includes the development of Catholic values and attitudes, as well as the attainment of knowledge and skills necessary for the student's spiritual, moral, intellectual, social and physical development.

The basic curriculum for the school (but not necessarily for each grade level) includes the following subjects: Religion, Reading, Language Arts (English, Spelling, Handwriting), Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Fine Arts (Art and Music), Health and Safety, Physical Education, Technology, Library and World Languages.

The following path is outlined for those students capable of completing High School Geometry in the eighth grade.

GRADES FIVE TO SIX

For placement in Pre-Algebra in the sixth grade:

Students must satisfy the following criteria:

- a. Math Composite standardized test score National Percentile: 96 or above on the Spring Standardized test.
- b. Class grade in 5th grade math: 93 or above.
- c. End of year diocesan comprehensive grade-level test: 93 or above (recommended time of testing – May of 5th grade year).
- d. Favorable teacher and principal recommendation.

GRADES SIX TO SEVEN

For placement in Algebra I in the seventh grade:

Students must satisfy the following criteria:

- a. Math Composite standardized test score National Percentile: 96 or above on the Spring Standardized test.
- b. Class grade in Pre-Algebra: 93 or above.
- c. Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test results: 85 or above (recommended time of testing – May of 6th grade year).
- d. Favorable teacher and principal recommendation.

Because the Algebra I course incorporates numerous word problems that students need to solve, a teacher's recommendation should take into consideration the reading comprehension standardized test score when making a final decision for placement in Algebra I.

GRADES SEVEN TO EIGHT

For placement in Geometry in the eighth grade:

Students must satisfy the following criteria:

- a. Math Composite standardized test score National Percentile: 96 or above on the Spring Standardized test.
- b. Class grade in Algebra I: 93 or above.
- c. Scoring 77 or above on the Diocesan Algebra I exemption exam.
- d. Favorable teacher and principal recommendation.

The following path would be followed by those students identified as capable of completing Algebra in the 8th grade.

GRADES SIX TO SEVEN

For placement in Pre-Algebra in the seventh grade:

Students must satisfy the following criteria:

- a. Math Composite standardized test score National Percentile: 93 or above on the Spring Standardized test.
- b. Class grade in 6th grade math: 93 or above.
- c. End of year diocesan comprehensive grade-level test: 93 or above (recommended time of testing – May of 6th grade year).
- d. Favorable teacher and principal recommendation.

GRADES SEVEN TO EIGHT

For placement in Algebra I in the eighth grade:

Students must satisfy the following criteria:

- a. Math Composite standardized test score National Percentile: 93 or above on the Spring Standardized test.
- b. Class grade in 7th grade math: 93 or above.
- c. Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test results: 80% or above (recommended time of testing – May of 7th grade year).
- d. Favorable teacher and principal recommendation.

The Algebra I course incorporates numerous word problems that students need to solve. A teacher's recommendation should take into consideration the reading comprehension standardized test score when making a final decision for placement in Algebra I.

Eighth grade students must satisfy the following criteria to receive credit for Algebra I instruction and placement in the next level of high school math instruction:

- a. Pass the Algebra I course.
- b. Score 77 or above on the Diocesan Algebra I exam.
- c. Receive teacher recommendation for placement in the next level of high school math instruction.

If a student does not score 77 or above on the exam, a compelling case made by the teacher through the use of the Teacher Recommendation Form (*Appendix X*). The form is then forwarded to the high school. The decision of the high school will be final.

SPANISH

At the conclusion of grade 8, all Spanish students will take a Spanish I exemption exam. Students must achieve the required score in order to be placed in Spanish II upon entry to high school. In addition, the Spanish teacher for grade 8 will complete high school Spanish placement recommendation forms for all students matriculating to a Diocesan high school. These forms are considered confidential between schools and will not be disclosed.

The only students exempted from participating in Spanish are those participating in the Resource Program and who meet criteria as established by the Office of Catholic Schools.

VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION

1. Maintain effective communication between teachers, students and families about the virtual learning plan.
2. Teachers should be available throughout the day for questions and feedback.
3. Feedback is paramount and students should be accountable for their work. Assignments shall be assessed in a timely manner to provide feedback to the student.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

The school recognizes the beauty and potential inherent within each student. In an effort to foster continued growth, the school embraces the opportunity to provide assistance and services for students with disabilities according to the resources available within/to the school. Parents/guardians are considered an integral part of the process.

In order to accommodate a student who has been evaluated for special learning needs, parents are obligated to share educational/psychological testing results and any resulting plan with the school. The refusal to provide such information is grounds for terminating enrollment in the school. A student may be admitted on a probationary basis with dates and criteria of evaluation clearly established in writing.

If a student has a documented disability, a copy of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Individualized Services Plan (ISP), 504 plan, and/or Student Assistance Plan (SAP) should be maintained in the student's confidential file. Students who have a documented disability, but do not qualify for services through the local public school, may be eligible for interventions through a Student Assistance Plan written at the Catholic school.

When a student qualifies for special education services through the public school and will not receive services, an Individualized Catholic Education Plan can be written following the information in the Guidelines for Serving Students with Disabilities.

Students with disabilities are expected to follow the school's policies and honor code.

IMPLEMENTATION OF FAMILY LIFE PROGRAM

Catechesis in sexuality is an important and sensitive component of a comprehensive program of catechesis. According to the Second Vatican Council, “As they (children and young people) advance in years, they should be given positive and prudent sexual education.” Education in sexuality includes all dimensions of the topic: moral, spiritual, psychological, emotional, and physical. Its goal is training in chastity in accord with the teaching of Christ and the Church, to be lived in a wholesome manner in marriage, the single state, the priesthood, and religious life.

Holy Spirit School utilizes the Circle of Grace Safe Environment Training Program. Parents may view the diocesan webpage (<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/child-protection/youth-training-programs/circle-of-grace/>) for more information. The Circle of Grace Program is an opt-out program meaning that parents must specifically request that their child be excused during the teaching of the material.

Middle School students in grades 6-8 are provided the opportunity to participate in a Diocesan recognized program on The Gift of Human Sexuality. The program is a total of three one-hour presentations which are done by grade level and in single sex environments. The program is presented by persons outside of the Holy Spirit School teaching faculty. The program is an opt-in program requiring parents to sign and return a consent form prior to the first day of the program. A parent information session is held prior to the start of the program.

TEXTBOOKS/SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

The book fee (for grades K-8) covers the purchase of consumable books, consumable educational materials, online teaching materials and the rental of textbooks. These books are very expensive. While normal deterioration of books is inevitable, we expect for these books to last many years. Families will be held financially responsible for the entire cost of replacing a book that is lost, defaced, or damaged. Each textbook is examined and coded when given to the student and when collected at the end of the year. Books should be carried in book bags and stored in safe areas at home and school. Books should be covered with a fabric or paper cover. Contact paper should never be used on non-consumable books.

Lists of required classroom supplies for each grade level are available on the school web site www.holyspiritflames.org. Families must purchase the supplies prior to the beginning of the school year. The opportunity to purchase school supplies online is available for a limited period prior to the start of the school year. All supplies should be brought to school on the first day. Please check your child’s supplies periodically throughout the year and replenish supplies as needed.

SCHOOL-OWNED DEVICES FOR STUDENT EDUCATIONAL USE

Holy Spirit School students in grades Prekindergarten through Grade 8 are assigned a device for instructional use at school and at home. Parents/guardians and students should be aware of the following:

- The assigned device belongs to Holy Spirit School.
- The assigned device, its charger and case must be returned at the end of the school year or upon leaving the school, whichever applies.
- The assigned device must be returned in the same condition it was issued (except for what is deemed normal wear and tear).
- Students will not trade devices with other students.
- The student/student's family is responsible for the cost of repairs to the assigned device if it is determined that damage is caused by intentional actions neglect.
- All use of the assigned device must be in full compliance with the Diocesan Acceptable Use Policy which outlines acceptable and responsible use of school devices.
- Holy Spirit School has the right to inspect the contents of any device at any time. The use of the device is a privilege, and all users should have no expectation of privacy.
- Holy Spirit School will use GoGuardian as the filtering software to monitor website use and ensure student compliance during lessons both in school and at home.
- School assigned devices are meant for the exclusive use of educational endeavors as assigned by the School and are not meant for personal use.
- Changes to the hardware are not permitted in terms of either software, applications, or appearance.
- It is the responsibility of the student to protect the assigned device from damage, loss, or theft.
- It is the responsibility of the student to alert a teacher immediately if the assigned device stops working, requires service, or the device gets lost/stolen.
- Students in Grade 6-8 are responsible for transporting the assigned device and its charger to and from school daily. Devices must come to school fully charged.
- Students in Prekindergarten – Grade 5 may bring their device home on occasion at the specific request of a teacher (or for purposes of distance learning) and must return with it to school the next day, fully charged.
- It is the responsibility of the student to bring the device fully charged to school each day

RESPONSIBLE USE POLICY FOR TECHNOLOGY AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS

There is no expectation or right to privacy or right to freedom of speech when using the school's computer resources, which are the school's property. Any use of the school's computers and internet access must be in support of education and research and be consistent with the educational objectives of the Diocese of Arlington Office of Catholic Schools.

Using school facilities for internet access and e-mail is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use which includes, but is not limited to: unauthorized transmittal or improper use of copyrighted materials or materials protected as trade secrets; transmission of threatening or obscene

materials; vandalism of computer files; and violation of computer security as determined by the school administration can result in a cancellation, denial, suspension and/or revocation of those privileges by the school administration and also subject the student to other disciplinary action.

Electronic and/or digital communications with students should be conducted for educationally appropriate purposes and employ only school-sanctioned means of communication.

Users must adhere to local school policy that may further define uses of mobile devices. Access will be determined by the administration of the school. If a particular mobile device is to be used for an educational purpose, the school administration and/or teacher will provide parameters for this use.

Additional responsibilities for use of school facilities for the internet and e-mail are:

- a. When using networks or computing resources of other organizations, students must observe the rules of that organization regarding such use.
- b. Users should not reveal their personal addresses or phone number(s) and shall not reveal the personal address or phone number(s) of others without their authorization/permission.
- c. Users are reminded that e-mail is not guaranteed to be private. Operators of the network/system have access to all e-mail. Messages relating to, or in support of illegal activities, may be reported to the authorities.
- d. Students shall immediately notify the system administrator/school administration if they suspect that a security problem with the system and/or the internet exists.
- e. Any attempt to log onto the internet or the school's network/system as a systems administrator will result in a loss of user privileges at the school. Any user identified as a security risk by the school administration/systems administrator due to a history of actual or suspected unauthorized access to other computer(s), network(s), or system(s) may be denied access to the school's computers, networks, and/or systems.
- f. Users of artificial intelligence (AI) shall generally abide by:
 - i. Teachers and administrators are responsible for supervising students using AI technologies to ensure compliance with this Acceptable Use Policy (AUP).
 - ii. Users are accountable for their actions when using AI technologies. Any misuse or violation of this AUP may result in disciplinary action.
 - iii. Students must use AI technologies in a respectful and responsible manner, treating others with courtesy and consideration in both virtual and physical interactions.
 - iv. Students are expected to create and consume content that is appropriate for an educational setting. Content that is offensive, discriminatory, or violates school policies is strictly prohibited.
 - v. Users should create and access AI content appropriate for an educational

environment. Permission and supervision by a teacher or school administrator are mandatory for students to use AI tools at school. Please note that many AI programs require users to be at least 13 years of age for use. Schools should be thorough in their research of the AI programs' Privacy Policy.

- g. Users shall abide by generally accepted rules of network etiquette, which include but are not limited to:
 - i. Messages to others shall be polite and shall not be abusive.
 - ii. Messages shall use appropriate language and shall not use obscenities, vulgarities, or other inappropriate language.
 - iii. Use of the network shall not disrupt use of the network by others.
- h. The diocese/school makes no warranty of any kind, whether express or implied, for internet service. The diocese/school will not be responsible for any damages suffered. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its own negligence, user errors, or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the internet is at the user's risk. The school specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through internet sources.
- i. Examples of Unacceptable Uses – Users are not permitted to:
 - i. Use technology in sexting or cyber bullying: to harass, threaten, deceive, intimidate, offend, embarrass, or annoy any individual.
 - ii. Post, publish, or display any defamatory, inaccurate, violent, abusive, profane, or sexually oriented material. Users must not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, or threatening language. Users must not knowingly or recklessly post false information about persons, students, staff, or any other organization.
 - iii. Use a photograph, image, video, or likeness of any student or school employee without express permission of the individual, individual's parent/guardian, and the principal.
 - iv. Create any site, post any photo, image, or video of another except with express permission of the individual, the individual's parent/guardian, and the principal.
 - v. Attempt to circumvent system security.
 - vi. Deliberately visit a site known for unacceptable material or any material that is not in support of educational objectives.
 - vii. Violate license agreements, or copy other protected media.
 - viii. Use technology for any illegal activity.
 - ix. Use of the internet for commercial gains or profits is not allowed from an educational site.
 - x. Breach confidentiality obligations of school or school employees.

- xi. Harm the good will and reputation of the school or school employees.
 - xii. Transmit any material in violation of any local, state, or federal law. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, licensed material, and threatening or obscene material.
- j. Users must immediately report damage of school equipment to the appropriate school officials.
- k. The school has the right to monitor student use of school computers, computer-accessed content, AI, and social media. Social media refers to activities that integrate technology, telecommunications, and social interaction through the use of words, images, video, or audio tools. Examples include, but are not limited to, social websites, blogs, message boards, wikis, podcasts, image and/or video-sharing sites, live webcasting, and real-time communities. Because this is a constantly evolving area, this policy applies to all new social media platforms whether or not they are specifically mentioned in this policy.
- l. Violation of the above policy will be dealt with by the administration of the school. Violation of this policy may result in any or all of the following:
 - a. Loss of use of the school network, computers, and software including Internet access.
 - b. Disciplinary action including, but not limited to, dismissal and/or legal action by the school, civil authorities, or other involved parties.
 - c. The school retains the right to discipline students for their actions, regardless of when or where they occur, when those actions negatively impact the school's image, reputation, and/or the safety and well-being of the school community. This covers inappropriate behavior in cyberspace including but not limited to messages, chat room commentary, comments/pictures, videos, postings on social networking sites, blogs, wikis, gaming chats, digital transmissions, and other technology related activity.

TESTING

The school's testing program is intended to assist teachers and administrators in a systematic evaluation of the academic and religion programs, to identify students' strengths and weaknesses, and to aid in the revision of the curriculum and planning of instruction.

In addition to academic tests for grading purposes, the school will administer standardized religion and achievement tests according to the diocesan testing program. All eighth grade students take the high school placement test used in determining placement in diocesan high schools. Teachers are encouraged to review the format, and style of the High School Placement Test as well as test taking strategies with their students. Extensive class time to prep students for this test is not encouraged.

Grades K-8 Academic Assessments

Incoming Kindergarten	Brigance Early Childhood Screener	Incoming kindergarten students are screened prior to the start of the school year
Grades 3-7	Standardized testing – currently NWEA Map	Multiple assessments throughout school year
Grades K, 4, 5, 6, and 7	End of Year Math Testing	Spring
Grade 8	High School Placement Test World Language Diocesan Exam Algebra/Geometry Exemption Exam Assessment of Catholic Religious Education (ACRE)	Late November /Early December Spring Spring Spring
Grade 5	Assessment of Catholic Religious Education 1 (ACRE)	Spring

HOMEWORK

Homework reinforces skill acquisition, retention of content knowledge, and formation of good study habits. Although homework has different purposes at different grades, homework is required at all grade levels. The amount of homework a child may have on any given day will vary depending upon the nature of the assignment, the amount of work the child completes in school that day and the speed at which the child completes his/her work at home.

SUGGESTED TIME ALLOTMENTS

Below are the Office of Catholic Schools' guidelines for homework. Homework does not have to be assigned every day, but should generally fall within these ranges:

- Grades 1-3: 10 to 30 minutes daily
- Grades 4-6: 30 to 60 minutes daily
- Grades 7-8: 60 minutes to 2 hours daily

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Students are expected to complete each homework assignment by the due date. If the student is absent, the assignment should be turned in upon his/her return to school. Students are allotted one day per each day absent to make up any work from an excused absence.
- It is the student's responsibility to record his/her assignments and bring the necessary materials home to complete the assignment. Students will not be allowed back into the classroom after the final dismissal.

- It is the student’s responsibility to inform the teacher if he/she does not understand the assignment at the time the assignment is given.
- Each student is expected to do all homework assignments. If for some reason it is not completed on time, the student is expected to turn it in, completed, the next day with a possible grade reduction.
- Responsibility for turning in completed assignments and rescheduling any missed tests rests with the student.
- Middle school students who are absent on a test day are required to attend the testing center after school on the following Tuesday. Unless previous arrangements are made, students who need to make up a test and do not attend the testing center will receive a zero on the test.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Parents should maintain an awareness of their child’s progress and homework assignments.
- Parents should encourage a home study period daily and provide a quiet environment for study.
- Parents should help by quizzing their child on assigned work, especially prior to scheduled tests.
- Parents should give assistance when necessary but should not do the homework for the student.

SUMMER WORK

Students will be assigned summer work to keep their skills sharp. This work includes reading and math for all grade levels kindergarten through eighth grade. Assignments completed in conjunction with this work are due according to the directions and will be part of the first trimester grades. The details of the work can be found on the school website.

PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Teachers are expected to be reasonably available to parents/guardians throughout the school year to keep the lines of communication open in the best interest of the students. Parent-teacher conferences can be scheduled throughout the school year if necessary. Parents should first privately contact a teacher with any concerns about a student or class concerns before seeking intervention by the school administration.

In the event a parent desires to discuss a problem with his/her child's teacher, the parent should make an appointment for a private meeting with the child's teacher. Teachers welcome the opportunity to discuss a matter of concern with parents before it becomes an actual problem. Any parent who wishes to speak with the principal may do so after an initial meeting with the classroom teacher. Similarly, parents should discuss matters of concern with the school principal, and pastor when necessary, before bringing them to the Office of Catholic Schools.

SCHEDULING AND OTHER CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Formal conferences are scheduled for all grades in the fall and on an as needed basis in the spring. If at any time a conference with one of the faculty is desired, the parent should write a note to the teacher requesting an appointment or a return phone call. This will give the teacher time to set aside a specific time for you in a location where you can talk privately. Lunch, recess, and volunteer duty time is not the appropriate time to try to conference with a teacher. Please do not call or email a teacher at home.

GRADING/REPORT CARDS

Evaluation of the student is based on teacher judgment and observation of the student's daily work, class participation, effort, and performance on teacher-prepared assessments to include but not limited to tests, projects, portfolios, and other tools of assessment.

The purpose of report cards is to present to parents/guardians information about how their student is performing in his/her academic studies, and to alert them to any problems.

Students with identified disabilities who have a current IEP or Student Assistance Plan should receive an asterisk on their report card grade when modifications have been made to the curriculum. A modification changes the content, instructional level, or student workload of subject matter or tests. Conversely, accommodated programs should not be denoted.

GRADING SYSTEM

Grades 1-2

- M Meets Grade Level Standards – Child consistently meets skills
- P Progressing Towards Grade Level Standards – Child is in process of developing skill
- NI Needs Improvement – Child is not demonstrating skill

ACADEMIC PROGRESS SCALE

The letter M, P or NI is indicated in the appropriate box for each subject area.

*(asterisk) indicates modified curriculum.

Grades 3-8 use numeric (percentage) grades. Below 70 is designated by an F.

INDICATORS FOR EFFORT, SPECIALS, AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT:

3	Very Good
2	Satisfactory/Good
1	Needs Improvement
X	Unsatisfactory

INTERIM REPORTS

Parents of students in grades 3 – 8 have regular access to the Parent Portal of *Power School*, the SIS. Parents are encouraged to regularly check the portal in order to keep abreast of student progress. Paper interim reports will be sent out to parents of 3rd -8th graders who have a 79% or below in a core academic subject or a “1” or an “X” in a Special area subject at the approximate midpoint of each marking period. Interims allow the parents an opportunity to work with the student to improve his/her grade and /or to request a conference with the teacher.

PARENT PORTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Grades will be entered on a regular basis; however, lengthy papers and essay-based tests require great amounts of time to be fairly evaluated.
- A teacher’s primary responsibility is the children in front of him/her at that moment.
- Teachers may weight their grades in their grade book. If you have questions regarding grading and weighting policies, contact the teacher directly.
- The portal will be shut down approximately one week prior to the end of the trimester and will reopen after report cards are issued to allow teachers to log effort grades and comments.

REPORT CARDS

Trimester report card envelopes and any paper interim envelopes must be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to school within three days of issuance.

Progress reports, yearbooks, and report cards will not be provided in advance of an absence and will not be sent home with another family unless permission is granted by the principal. The school reserves the right to withhold final report cards and access to the Parent Portal pending payment of all financial obligations including, but not limited to, fines, lost items, extended day fees, cafeteria bills, and tuition.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

Middle school students who regularly fail to complete homework assignments and/or who

receive an F in one or more subjects may be placed on academic probation. Academic probation may include some or all of the following:

- Meeting with teacher, principal, student, and parents
- Written statement outlining probationary period
- Study hall
- No participation in classroom field trips

HONORS

Scholastic honors are distributed each quarter for grades 4-8. Academic honors will be awarded for students who have earned a minimum of A's and B's in all classes. First Honor Awards recognize students who maintain grades of 93 or above in all classes and a minimum of "2" for arts and skills, social and work characteristics, and academic effort and conduct. Second Honor Awards recognize students who maintain grades of 85 or above in all classes and a minimum of "2" for arts and skills, social and work characteristics, and academic effort and conduct. A mark of "1 – Needs Improvement" or "X - Unsatisfactory" on any part of the report card precludes a student from receiving honors, even if grades are the correct percentile. Honor Roll students will be recognized with certificates following final grade decisions in trimesters one and two.

PROMOTION/RETENTION/PLACEMENT POLICY

A major goal of the school is to help students to complete each academic year satisfactorily. The repetition of a grade is recommended when it is deemed by the school to be necessary and advantageous to the particular needs of the student.

- a. The final decision to promote or retain a student is based on the student's academic performance and best interest as determined by the principal.
- b. Teachers will notify parents/guardians if their child is not progressing satisfactorily toward a passing grade in the course.
- c. Elementary students failing one or two academic areas must successfully complete a remediation program approved by the principal in order to be promoted to the next grade. If a student fails three or more core academic subjects, the student will not be promoted to the next grade.
- d. Students who have not successfully completed summer school or another program approved by the principal but would not benefit from being retained in the grade may be "placed" in the next grade level; however, the school must prepare and implement an "Academic Intervention Plan" for the student as a condition of placement.

SCHOOL COUNSELORS

School counselors are available to confer with students in areas which may extend beyond academic matters. While the conferences are generally confidential, the counselor may need to disclose certain information to parents/guardians, school administration, or other authorities.

The Holy Spirit School counselor meets periodically with classes, individuals, and small groups for both preventive and problem solving strategies. When recommended by the school, parents are strongly encouraged to have their child participate in these small groups, as they will help to address the child's social and emotional growth.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

ADMISSIONS

DIOCESAN INITIAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students who desire an educational experience founded on the Catholic philosophy of education and who fulfill the age, health, academic, and behavioral requirements are eligible to apply for admission to the school.

The school sets registration procedures and admission policies. The availability of space and the order of preference for admission is determined by the school according to the following general criteria:

- a. Children from the parish
- b. Children from parishes without schools
- c. Children from parishes with schools (for sufficient reason)
- d. Children from non-Catholic families

If approved by the pastor, and where practicable, siblings may receive special consideration.

AGE FOR ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN

Under Virginia state law (Code of Virginia 22.1-254) school attendance is compulsory for children who have reached their 5th birthday on or before September 30th of any school year. Readiness testing (fine/gross motor, speech, and language screen) is required for kindergarten entry and within 60 days of school admission for new students in grades 1 – 3. Additional school readiness testing may be conducted at the discretion of school officials. In those cases where the school has sufficient reservations regarding the potential for success, those students may be admitted on a conditional basis with dates and criteria of evaluation established in writing; however, the decision of whether to extend or remove conditional admission status should be made by school officials at their discretion.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ADMISSION: PRESCHOOL – GRADE 5

- a. Presentation of an original birth certificate (schools are expected to keep a copy of the certificate on file)
- b. Baptismal certificate for Catholic students
- c. Proof of custody where applicable
- d. Current report card and previous academic years' report card as applicable
- e. Current standardized test scores and previous years, if applicable
- f. Completed Diocesan Application Form (*Appendix J*)
- g. A non-refundable application fee
- h. A fully executed MCH 213G Commonwealth of Virginia School Entrance Form or other U.S. state equivalent, which stipulates the following must be submitted prior to the student beginning school:
 - i. Proof of exact dates of required immunization as required by the Code of Virginia. Immunization records are required to be signed and verified by a licensed healthcare provider.
 - ii. Physical examination covering all required aspects as mandated on the MCH 213G within 12 months prior to the first day of school and entering a new school for the first time. Equivalent school entrance physical forms from another state may be acceptable. (Note: A pre-school physical does not take the place of the required kindergarten entry physical even if it was completed within the 12 months prior to kindergarten entry. This is because some aspects required for kindergarten are not included in a pre-school physical – e.g., hearing and vision screening)
 - iii. Proof of satisfying tuition requirements at any former diocesan school if previously enrolled in a diocesan school

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO GRADES 6 – 12

- a. Presentation of an original birth certificate (schools are expected to keep a copy of the certificate on file)
- b. Baptismal certificate for Catholic students
- c. Proof of exact dates of immunization with signature of licensed healthcare provider
- d. Records from previous school, including standardized test scores
- e. Proof of custody where applicable
- f. Completed Diocesan Elementary or High School Application Form (*Appendix J*)
- g. A non-refundable application fee

- h. A fully executed MCH 213G Commonwealth of Virginia School Entrance Form or other U.S. state equivalent, which stipulates the following must be submitted prior to the student beginning school:
 - i. Proof of exact dates of required immunization as required by the Code of Virginia. Immunization records are required to be signed and verified by a licensed healthcare provider.
 - ii. Physical examination covering all required aspects as mandated on the MCH 213G within 12 months prior to the first day of school and entering a new school for the first time. Equivalent school entrance physical forms from another state may be acceptable.
(Note: A preschool physical does not take the place of the required kindergarten entry physical even though it was completed within the 12 months prior to kindergarten entry. This is because some aspects required for kindergarten are not included in a preschool physical - e.g., hearing and vision screening)
 - iii. Proof of satisfying tuition requirements at any former Diocesan school if previously enrolled in a Diocesan school.

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION

A student is admitted to the school on the premise the student intends to learn the Catholic religion and be educated in a Catholic environment. In certain cases, students may be admitted on a probationary basis subject to the student successfully completing one or more subsequent interim evaluations. Students with academic or other needs (i.e. behavioral), which cannot be reasonably addressed by the school, may be denied admission.

School application forms may request disability-related information. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) does not prohibit a school from asking questions about a student's disabilities provided that information does not automatically prohibit a student from applying.

F-1 (NON-IMMIGRANT)

- 1. F-1 (Nonimmigrant) students who apply for admission to a Diocese of Arlington Catholic school will be considered for admission, upon meeting the following conditions:
 - a. Meets Diocesan admission requirements:
 - i. A fully executed MCH 213G Commonwealth of Virginia School Entrance Form or equivalent, which stipulates the following must be submitted prior to the student beginning school:
 - 1. Proof of exact dates of required immunization as required by the Code of Virginia with signature of licensed healthcare provider.
 - 2. Physical examination covering all required aspects as mandated on the MCH 213G within 12 months prior to the first day of school

and entering a new school for the first time. Equivalent school entrance physical forms from another state may be acceptable. (Note: A pre-school physical does not take the place of the required kindergarten entry physical even though it was completed within the 12 months prior to kindergarten entry. This is because some aspects required for kindergarten are not included in a pre-school physical – e.g., hearing and vision screening.)

- ii. F-1 (Nonimmigrant) students who enroll in a school in the Diocese for the first time must provide documentation that they are free from communicable tuberculosis.
 - b. Currently holds or is in the process of obtaining an F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student visa;
 - c. Resides at the same U.S. address as the guardian, who is identified as such on the I20 application and recorded in SEVIS;
 - i. Guardian Permission and Agreement Form must be completed and signed by parent and guardian. (*Appendix AJ-2*).
 - ii. Guardian cannot house more than two international students. Policy may be amended if requested in writing from a guardian in certain situations. For example, if international students are related to one another and/or related to the guardian.
 - d. Pays tuition in full upon school admission;
 - i. There is no refund given for registration, tuition or other related fees.
 - e. Carries applicable healthcare insurance, including for emergencies, that may be needed while in the United States;
 - i. The Diocese of Arlington does not provide healthcare insurance for international students.
 - f. Shows adequate English proficiency for the grade level to which they are applying. The level of English proficiency should allow students to pass all classes/subjects, including world language class. Schools cannot substitute normal curriculum classes with English support classes and must report an official grade for all subjects.
2. Students meeting the above criteria and accepted for admission must complete the Diocese of Arlington I-20 Application Form and return the form to the school the student will be attending. The school must forward the Diocese of Arlington I-20 Application Form to the Office of Catholic Schools with the original signature of principal or admissions director.
 3. When a student is transferring *from* another school outside the Diocese, the originating school must transfer the existing I-20 in active status to the Diocese of Arlington. A Diocese of Arlington *International Student Transfer Report* must be completed by the originating school and returned to the Office of Catholic Schools along with the *I-20*

Application Form. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to contact the originating school within 15 days of leaving that school to have the I-20 transferred;

- a. A student must maintain status by attending classes until the transfer release date. Lack of attendance before the transfer date would be a violation of status and the student's SEVIS record should be terminated;
 - b. The student must report to the school within 15 days of the program start date and enroll full time in the first required session/term at the school;
 - c. When a student is transferring *to* a school outside the Diocese of Arlington school system, the Diocese of Arlington must transfer the existing I-20 in active status to the new school. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to contact the Office of Catholic Schools within 15 days of leaving the Diocesan school to have the I-20 transferred.
4. In order for international students to maintain F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student status, the Department of Homeland Security requires ongoing accounting. In that regard, schools are responsible for ensuring the enrollment status of all F-1 (Nonimmigrant) students is reported correctly. Reports for elementary school international students will be accessed through the Student Information System district database. Specifically, the school shall:
- a. Create and update elementary F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student record in the Student Information System, ensuring all fields pertaining to international students are completed. All F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student records must be completed and/or updated within 15 days of the beginning of every semester;
 - b. Notify the Office of Catholic Schools via the Semester Report on Status of F-1 (Nonimmigrant) Students Form if an F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student has been accepted by that school and fails to report to the school within 30 days of their program start date;
 - c. Notify the Office of Catholic Schools via the Semester Report on Status of F-1 (Nonimmigrant) Students Form within 15 days when an F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student transfers to another school or departs the United States;
 - d. Report via the Semester Report on Status of F-1 (Nonimmigrant) Students form any legal change in the name, address, or guardianship of an F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student within 10 days.
5. For students who hold a visa other than F-1, refer to Visa Types (*Appendix AJ*);
- a. Students who are currently in B-1 or B-2 status cannot begin their studies prior to approval of their change to F-1 (Nonimmigrant) student. Obtaining a change of status is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
 - b. Students who are currently in B-1 or B-2 status may be enrolled to audit classes at the discretion of the principal for a limited time (generally not more than two months) but must still meet Diocesan admission requirements pertaining to the MCH 213G Commonwealth of Virginia School Entrance Form and provide documentation that they are free from communicable tuberculosis.

- c. Students with a J visa for short-term exchange students will not be accepted into diocesan schools.
6. Any student applicant whose passport, United Nations travel document or other United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) documents indicates that the student is a refugee, asylee, parolee, lawful nonimmigrant or legal permanent resident may be admitted to the schools of the Diocese of Arlington under normal requirements for admission. This policy would also include undocumented children.

CLASS PLACEMENT

The principal/administration and faculty reserve the right to place students in a class which is consistent with the results of the student's prior academic records and any admission testing.

Requests for specific teachers are highly discouraged. Teachers and the administration spend considerable time and thought compiling class lists that will be the most productive for all of the students. If there is a specific concern that needs to be addressed, parents should submit a written request stating these concerns to the principal. While such requests will be considered, there is no guarantee they will be honored.

Holy Spirit School will not admit to prekindergarten any student who has not reached his/her fourth birthday by September 30th of the given school year. In order to be admitted to Kindergarten, students must reach the age of 5 by September 30th of the given year. Holy Spirit School reserves the right to refuse admission to older students who are attempting to skip a grade or repeat a grade unnecessarily.

Registration is handled through the school office. Registration for returning students begins in December for the next school year. Acceptances and registration for new students begins in January and is done on a rolling basis.

ATTENDANCE

DIOCESAN POLICY FOR ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

In order to achieve the goals and objectives of the curriculum, regular attendance by the student is mandatory.

The school (K-8) is normally in session not less than 180 days per academic year or the length of time as required by the Virginia Catholic Education Association.

Once a child is enrolled in the school, it is the duty of the teachers and administrators to insist on regular attendance in order that the student can progress successfully through the curriculum. Neither the Diocese, the Office of Catholic Schools, the school, nor any of its employees are,

however, responsible for ensuring actual attendance. This is the responsibility of the student's parent(s)/guardian(s).

Students in grades kindergarten through grade eight who miss ten or more days of the school year, whether excused or unexcused, and who have not satisfactorily completed the required work, may be considered for retention. Certification of absence by a physician is an exception to the ten-day limit. However, satisfactory completion of required work is still required.

If efforts to work with a family to improve a student's attendance are unsuccessful, a school should not keep an absentee student enrolled. Relatedly, schools should not continue to collect tuition from a family whose student is not regularly attending school.

ABSENCE/TARDINESS/LEAVING SCHOOL/REPORTING PROCEDURES

In order to ensure continuous progress in school, regular attendance and habits of punctuality are essential. The school defines proper procedures as:

- a. A written excuse, explaining the reason for absence and signed by the parent/guardian, must be presented upon a student's return to school.
- b. Persistent absences may cause serious academic problems (including but not limited to course failure) and could result in the dismissal of the student. The administration or the class teacher will normally review the matter with parents/guardians before a decision is made by the administration. Persistent absences may also result in the student being subject to appropriate administrative action.
- c. Except in cases of emergency as determined by the principal/administration and/or a faculty member (as applicable or necessary), a student may only (a) be released from school with the prior written authorization of the student's parent/guardian, or (b) leave the school grounds with the prior authorization from the principal/administration.

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular school attendance is essential for students' academic and personal growth. Holy Spirit Catholic School is committed to partnering with families to promote a culture of responsibility and consistency in attendance. Below is a clear outline of our attendance policy, which distinguishes between excused and unexcused absences and provides guidelines for reporting absences, consequences for chronic absenteeism, and how we work with families to ensure regular attendance.

EXCUSED ABSENCES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Health/Medical: Includes illnesses, medical appointments, and health-related conditions.
- Medical Procedures: Procedures that cannot be scheduled outside of school hours.
- Court Appointments: Legal appointments that require the student's attendance.

- Religious and Cultural Observances: Observing religious holidays or significant cultural events.
- Funerals: Absence due to the death of a family member or close friend.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. A student misses the entire instructional school day without an acceptable reason.
2. No explanation has been provided by the parent/guardian within three days of the absence, or the reason provided does not align with the criteria for an excused absence.

The school administration reserves the right to change an unexcused absence to an excused absence if an acceptable justification is provided after the initial unexcused mark.

Note: Family vacations and extended travel during school days, even if prearranged, are unexcused absences. Families are encouraged to plan trips during scheduled school breaks.

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10 percent or more of the total school days, regardless of whether the absences are excused or unexcused. This includes suspensions and any other instances where students miss more than half of the school day.

If absenteeism persists, the school may involve the local public school’s truancy office to explore further steps to support the student’s regular attendance.

ATTENDANCE BEST PRACTICES

- Parents/guardians should notify the school as soon as possible when a student is absent.
- In cases where a student is absent for consecutive days and no communication has been received, the school will contact parents/guardians to check on the student’s well-being and situation. All contacts and attempts will be documented. Medical documentation will be required in cases of extended absences for medical reasons.

STEPS FOR ADDRESSING ABSENCES

1. After each absence: The school will contact parents if they have not already informed the school of the reason for the absence.
2. After 10 days of absence (cumulative, not necessarily consecutive): A letter will be sent to the parents from the principal or designee, notifying them of the number of missed days unless a special situation is known. A doctor’s note may be requested for persistent absences.
3. After 15 days of absence: Parents will receive a letter and personal contact from the principal or designee to discuss the situation.
4. After 20 days of absence: A mandatory conference will be held with the parent(s) and the principal to discuss further actions, and the local attendance office will be notified if necessary.

CONSEQUENCES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

If absences become a significant concern, the following consequences may be considered, though they will only be applied after careful dialogue with the family:

- Disciplinary counseling
- Parent conferences
- Referral to professional counseling
- Disenrollment

TARDINESS

The tardy student will normally be subject to appropriate disciplinary action by the school administration or by the class teacher. A student who is tardy, as determined by local policy, should report to the principal's office or attendance office. A student who arrives late with an excused reason (i.e. doctor's note) is counted tardy. The student who is tardy due to unexcused reasons may be subject to appropriate administrative action. Frequent cases of tardiness should be brought to the attention of the principal so that the parent/guardian may be contacted.

A student who is late, i.e., arrives after the 8:10 bell has rung, must report to the school office to sign in and obtain a tardy slip. Persistent tardiness is not acceptable and will result in disciplinary action.

Middle school students who are tardy will report to the office for a tardy slip and then go directly to their scheduled class in progress. They will not be allowed to go to their homerooms and lockers.

Parents should be mindful of the impact that regular, persistent tardiness can have on student applications to high school.

ABSENCES FOR OTHER REASONS

When parents wish to take their student out of school for several days for personal and/or medical reasons, the parents should discuss the student's progress with the teacher. However, the school is under no obligation to provide a tutor, make-up work, or special testing schedules for such a period of absence. The administration has the sole discretion to determine the conditions and terms governing such absences.

ATTENDANCE REPORTING PROCEDURES

ABSENCE

Holy Spirit School hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 3:15 pm.

The school defines proper procedures for reporting an absence as:

1. Parents should email the clinic at attendance@holyspiritflames.org before 8:20 AM on each day of absence. Please leave student's name and room number and the reason for the absence.
2. If a student is absent and no call has come from the parent, the school nurse will place a call to the parent to ascertain the reason for the student's absence.
3. **A written excuse, explaining the reason for absence and signed by the parents must be presented to the homeroom teacher upon a student's return to school.**
4. Absences and tardies (whether excused or unexcused) are recorded for each trimester on the report card and yearly on the permanent record card.

PLEASE SEE THE HOMEWORK SECTION FOR INFORMATION PERTAINING TO MISSED HOMEWORK DUE TO ABSENCES.

MEDICAL EXCUSES FOR P.E.

When a student is requesting a waiver from participating in Physical Education classes and/or recess, parents are required to submit a written statement from their child's health care provider that states any activity restrictions with regard to participation in Physical Education classes and/or recess. The statement is expected to include a specific time frame for the activity restrictions. All students reentering school activities following injury or therapeutic casting must provide a written release from the physician.

Parental notes to exclude any student from activities are limited to two consecutive classes. Parents are expected to provide a physician order for exclusion for any student seeking to be excluded from activities longer than two consecutive PE classes.

Any student utilizing a muscular skeletal device/cast/split/wrap or other device may not participate in PE or other school and/or Extended Day sanctioned activities without specific physician orders.

ANTICIPATED ABSENCE

It is strongly urged that family vacations be planned during scheduled school vacation periods. However, if students are to travel with parents on vacation, the teacher should be notified prior to the trip. The school is not under any obligation to provide work ahead of time, a tutor, make-up work, or special testing schedules for such a period of absence. The principal in her sole discretion may determine the conditions and terms governing such absences.

RELEASE OF STUDENTS

In the event a student needs to leave school at any time other than regular dismissal, the school requires written notification with the specific time that your child will be picked up. Parents must come to the school office to sign the student out. If a person other than the parent is to pick up the student, the school requires the parent to notify us and the school may ask to see identification for that person.

Parents should refrain from attempting to pick up students after 2:45 pm as this interferes with the timely release of all students.

TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER SCHOOL

The school must be notified in writing by the parent(s) of a student regarding a decision to transfer a student to another school, including the last day the student will attend classes at school. All school-owned materials such as textbooks and library books must be returned to school and all fees paid before leaving. Student records will be sent to the new school upon a “Release of Student Records Form” from the new school. All fees and tuition **MUST BE PAID** prior to the release of the student’s records.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Each school should formulate a policy of traffic, pedestrian, bike, and bus safety for its students and communicate this policy to all school personnel, students, and their parents/guardians. Older students in elementary schools and secondary school students may serve as traffic/pedestrian safety patrols at the discretion of the school principal. Within the scope of this designation, the students shall work under the supervision of and in cooperation with the school principal and the local police liaison for safety issues.

PreKindergarten Arrival

Please see diagrams on following pages

PreKindergarten arrival is at 8:00 AM. Students may arrive no earlier than 7:40 AM. Students who arrive earlier than 7:40 AM will be signed into Morning Care and charges will accrue. Outside supervision is from 7:40 AM until 8:10 AM.

Families who have PreKindergarten children will use the back lane for arrival. Enter from the second entrance on Woodland Way and proceed to the back of the school. All children from the car will get out at the designated spots and be supervised by the teachers. Older children will go through the school to the front waiting area and the PreKindergarten children will go to their classroom.

Parents arriving after 8:10 AM should walk their children to the front office and sign them in.

PreKindergarten Dismissal

Dismissal for half day is at 11:30 AM. Dismissal for full day Pre-Kindergarten is at 3:15 PM Monday through Friday.

Teachers dismiss **half day** PreKindergarten students at 11:30 AM from the southwest doors in

the Kindergarten wing. Parents park in the circle or other available parking spots and walk to meet their children outside the doors.

Teachers dismiss **full day** Pre-Kindergarten children *and their siblings* from the rear of the school. Parents should use the back lane. Enter from the second entrance on Woodland Way and proceed to the back of the school forming a line. Your children will enter your car at the designated place.

Kindergarten -8th Grade Arrival

Please see diagrams on following pages.

Families with preschool children should read preschool guidelines.

The school hours for grades K-8 are 8:00 AM-3:15 PM. Students are allowed into their classrooms at 8:00 AM and are to be in their classrooms no later than 8:10 AM. Students arriving after 8:10 AM will be marked tardy and must obtain a tardy slip from the main office. Students who are tardy because of a doctor's appointment must submit a note from the doctor's office to the school office. **It is imperative that parents who transport students allow sufficient time to insure prompt arrival.** Students may arrive no earlier than 7:40 AM. Students who arrive earlier than 7:40 will be signed into Morning Care and charges will accrue. Outside supervision is from 7:40 AM until 8:10 AM.

During morning arrival, families without PreKindergarten children, enter the campus from the first entrance on Woodland Way and form a single line to the entrance of the school (watch for direction in the lower parking lot). Students may arrive as early as 7:40 AM. Teachers/staff are on duty from 7:40 AM until the bell rings at 8:00 AM, and at least one teacher/staff member is on duty from 8:00 AM until the tardy bell rings at 8:10 AM. Safety Patrols assist students beginning at 8:00 AM. Parents drop off students at the front of the school, where they report to their class group waiting outside for the entrance bell. Cars may move only when all children are safely on the school sidewalk.

Parents may not pull into the upper parking lot and drop off students.

Parents arriving after 8:10 AM should walk their children into the front office and sign them in.

Kindergarten -8th Grade Dismissal

Please see diagrams on following pages

Classes for the day end at 3:00pm when the bell rings. At this time, all students return to their homeroom and prepare for dismissal.

At 3:05pm the Prayer Bell rings and all students are expected to be packed up, standing behind

their desks and ready to pray. Any afternoon announcements are made at this time.

K-8 students not picked up at the conclusion of the car line will be signed into Extended Day and charges will accrue.

As soon as prayer is finished, all Kindergarten students are escorted by their teachers to the upper parking lot. Teachers/aides will walk students along the row of parked kindergarten family cars and “drop off” students at the appropriate car.

VANPOOL

Vanpool is available for families who pick up 3 or more children. Requests for vanpool slots will be sent home at the beginning of the year. Once a request is received a vanpool slot will be assigned. The slots are double deep therefore two vanpools are assigned to each number. The first car to arrive should pull to the front and the second car should pull behind them.

At 3:08pm, “Vanpool is dismissed” is announced over the intercom. All children who dismiss during Vanpool are released by groups following the direction from the front office. Patrols escort the Vanpool students up the sidewalk to the upper parking lot. Students are stopped at the top of the sidewalk until patrols are given the go ahead by the teachers on duty to release them.

Vanpool parents must arrive at their assigned spaces in the upper lot prior to the closing of the lot (by 3:05pm). To prevent vehicular injury, teachers secure the upper lot with chains and cones immediately prior to student dismissal. If the upper lot has been closed prior to a family entering the lot, said family must go to the lower lot for the car line dismissal. Students may not cross over the closed barrier to enter a family car. Teachers chaperone the lot for safety. When all parents and students are in their vehicles, they are dismissed in order

WALKERS

Students who are “walkers” are dismissed from the classrooms following the last Vanpool group. These students wait outside of the front office for the teacher on duty to escort them off the school property.

The walkers leave the building after the Vanpool cars have exited the upper parking lot.

The teacher on duty escorts the students out Exit #10, up the sidewalk, across the upper parking lot to the edge of the school’s property on Woodland Way.

LOWER LOT CAR LINE

Parents report to the car line on a first-come, first-served basis, entering from Woodland Way and lining up in north-south lines in the parking lot (watch for direction from a staff member). The carline is monitored by teachers/staff and Safety Patrols.

At 3:15pm, the car line bell sounds.

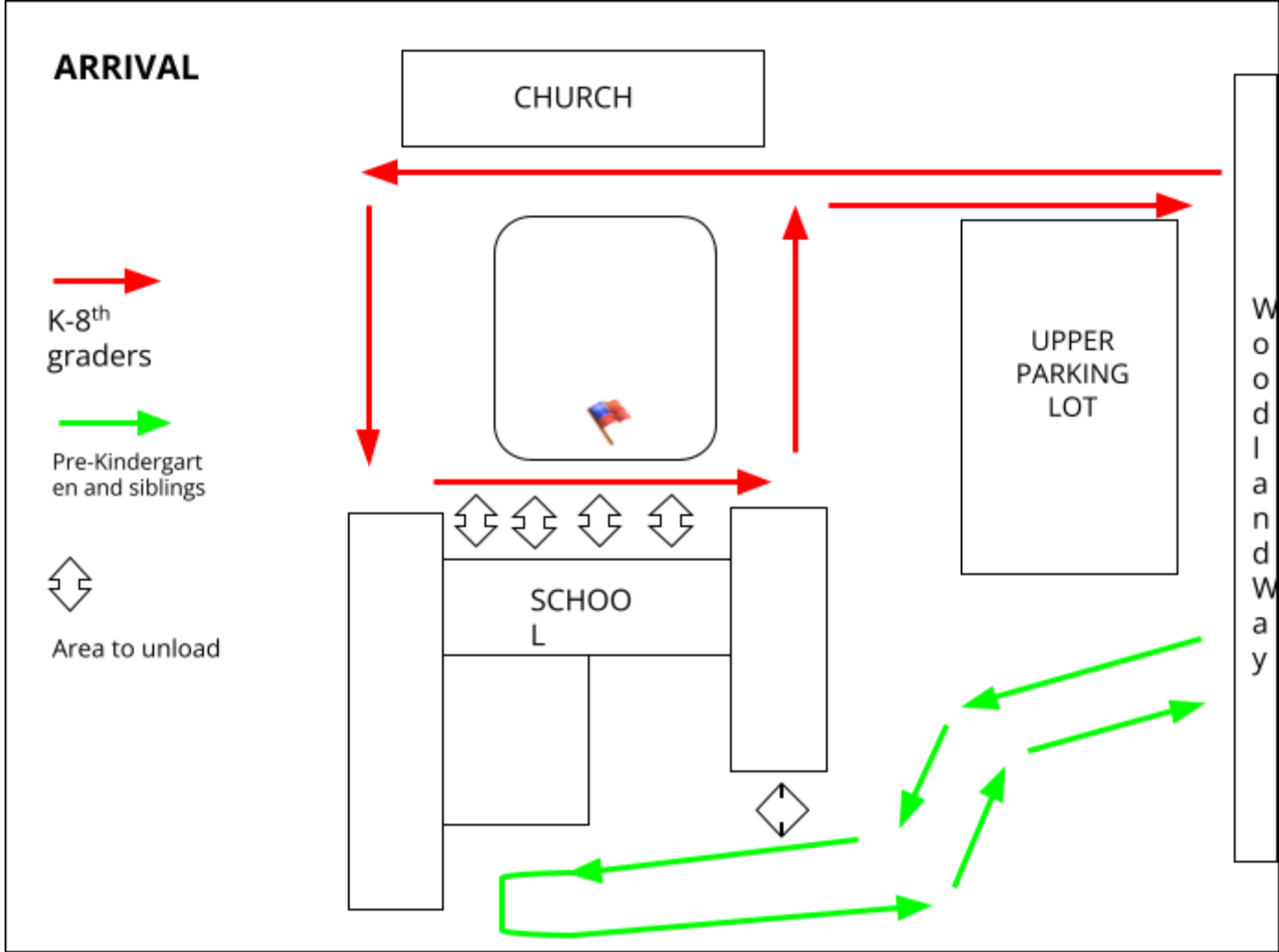
Students are called in groups based on the arrival of cars into the lower parking lot. Groups are instructed to go first to the lobby area/front doors of the school where students wait to be released from the building to waiting cars. The process of calling groups continues until all students are gone.

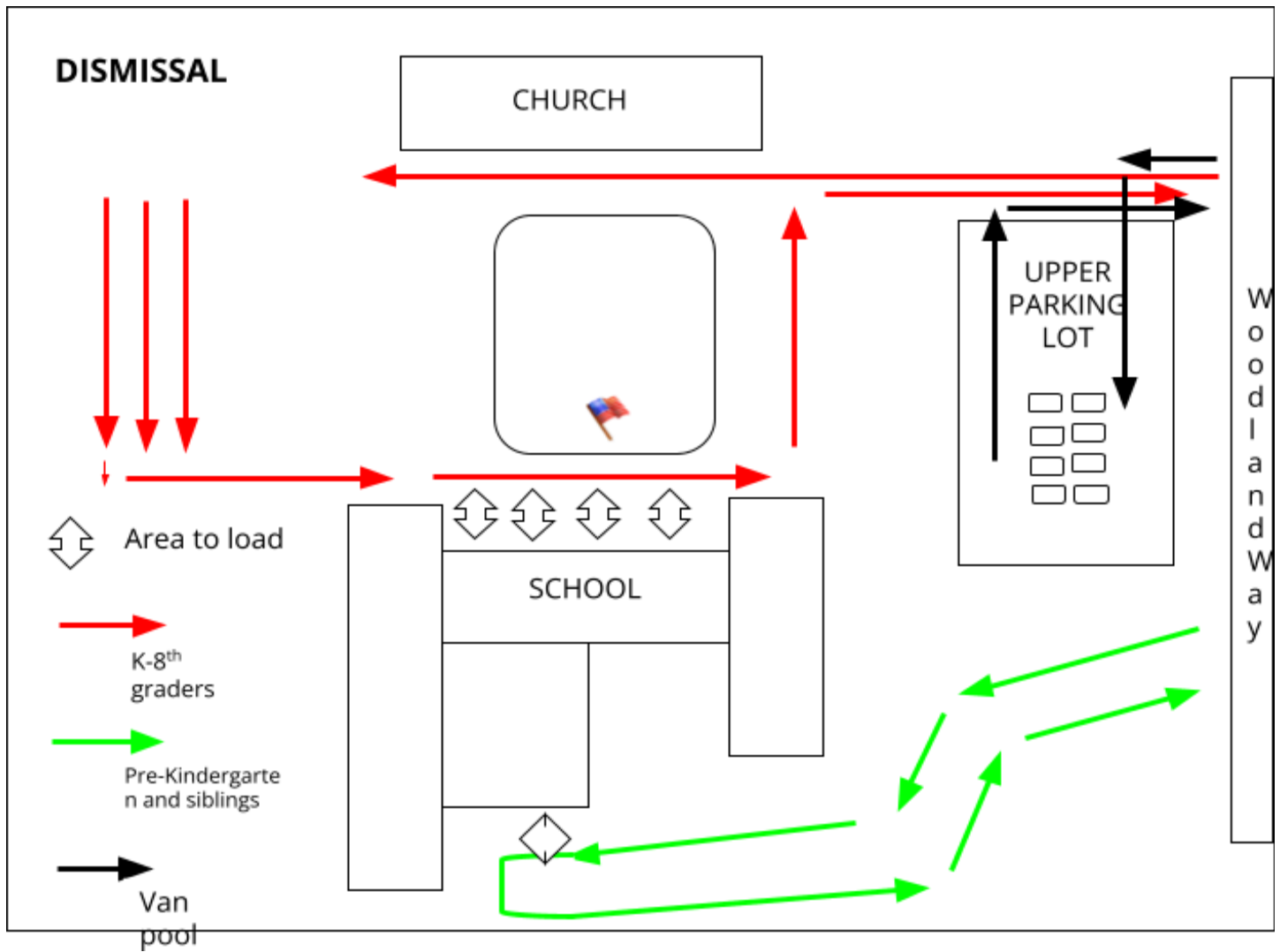
EXTENDED DAY

Students attending Extended Day are dismissed via an announcement over the intercom.

Students in grades Prek--3 are released and met at the intersecting hallway by the staff member on duty. The staff member escorts those students to the cafeteria.

Students in grades 4-8 are released and walk themselves to the cafeteria.





LUNCH/MILK PROGRAM

Rules for acceptance and participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Child Nutrition Programs are the same for all students without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any USDA related activity should write to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC, 20250.

Hot lunches for students are ordered and paid for through a third-party vendor. Holy Spirit School is responsible only for the distribution of food orders that are delivered to the school in pre-boxed and labeled containers.

Holy Spirit School is, in no-way, responsible for miscommunication of food orders, or responsible for refunds. All communication regarding food orders must be directed to the third-party vendor.

If students have forgotten their lunch either at home or in the classroom, it should be noted that Holy Spirit School will not have full lunches to provide to students. The cafeteria will be stocked with small items like crackers and cheese in order to provide students with some food.

Students are responsible for being sure that they have placed their lunch in the class's Lunch Bin (or in the Late Lunch Bin if arriving at school after 8:10 am) for delivery to the cafeteria. Students go outside for recess prior to lunch and students are not allowed to return to classrooms to retrieve forgotten lunches or other items.

Milk and bottled water are available daily for a fee, which is paid at the beginning of the year via a family's FACTS account.

IV. GENERAL SCHOOL POLICIES

ADMINISTRATIVE

STUDENT CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP

At the time of school entry or at any other time where a change in custody status/arrangements occurs, it is the responsibility of the parent(s) to provide the principal/administration with a true and correct copy of the legal document for any student for which there is a legal custody agreement or for any student not residing with his/her parent.

School communication with the appropriate guardian is essential. Accordingly:

- a. Custodial parents should identify, in writing, other adults who may have access to information regarding their child.
- b. Non-custodial parents may receive information (when requested) regarding the child unless specific documentation to the contrary is provided in the legal custody agreement.

ACCESS TO RECORDS

Parents/Guardians have a right (unless prohibited by the courts in a custody agreement) to the timely inspection, during school hours, of the educational records (cumulative and confidential) of their child. The school shall respond to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of the records.

If the education records of a student contain information on more than one student, the parents' access is limited to the specific information about their child only.

Student records shall be open to authorized school personnel only (principal, assistant principal,

and those to whom they extend access within a given year).

The school administration may elect to provide, at cost, photocopies of a student's educational records to parents, but documentation is to be stamped "unofficial."

TRANSFER OF RECORDS

Schools may disclose a student's cumulative record (i.e. Permanent Record card, attendance card, test results) to another school with legitimate educational interest provided a written request for such records is received, or when those individuals to whom the custodial parent/guardian has given written permission, have requested the child's records to be released. Parent signature is required for release of a student's confidential file (i.e. special education records, psychological reports, disciplinary records, anecdotal information, or reports by the school counselor).

Only copies of student records may be released. Original Cumulative Health Record and MCH-213 transfer with the student.

Parents/guardians may not hand-carry records to another school, except under extraordinary circumstances. If this occurs, the records are to be placed in a sealed envelope and marked "hand carried."

As a general rule, each school, at the discretion of its principal, shall have the right not to certify the student's graduation or provide transcripts of the student's academic record to third parties such as other schools, colleges, or employers, or to issue a Certificate of Diploma to the student, if there has been a breach of a material condition of the contract (i.e., failure to meet financial obligations, infractions against the school's code of conduct).

CONFIDENTIAL ACADEMIC RECORDS

Parents/guardians are obligated to share educational/psychological testing results and any resulting plan with the school. If a student has a documented disability, a copy of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Individualized Services Plan (ISP), 504 plan, and/or Student Assistance Plan (SAP) should be maintained in the student's confidential file. The refusal to provide such information is grounds for terminating enrollment in the school.

Confidential records for dis-enrolled students are merged with the students' cumulative files.

RETENTION OF RECORDS

Permanent record card (to include transcripts, attendance record, and standardized test results) is to be retained indefinitely.

The following student records are to be retained for 25 years:

- a. IEP/ISP or 504 Plan
- b. Student Assistance Plan
- c. Eligibility Minutes
- d. Student Support Team Minutes

The following student records are to be retained for 7 years, or when the students reaches the age of 25, whichever is greater:

- a. Application
- b. Counselor Notes
- c. Discipline Notes
- d. Court Documents
- e. Psychological Reports

SCHOOL VISITORS

All persons other than school staff and currently registered students must first report to the school office immediately upon entering school grounds, sign-in, and wear an identification tag when visiting the school.

Parents are strongly discouraged from bringing in forgotten books, devices, homework, lunches, etc. These forgotten items provide opportunities for students to grow in responsibility. In the event that an item is dropped off, it should be left at the front office and clearly labeled with the child's name and grade. Students are not allowed to call or email home for forgotten items.

All volunteers (including those for recess duty) must be fully compliant with all child protection requirements as set out by the Diocese of Arlington.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

All materials prepared by parents/guardians for release to the parish or school community must be approved by the principal or his/her designee.

PRINCIPAL'S COMMUNICATION

Information regarding the school and activities can currently be found in the weekly electronic newsletter and on the website under "Family Folders". Emergency information may be sent via the School Messenger email/voicemail system. The school maintains Facebook, Instagram and "X" (Twitter) accounts by which certain information is relayed.

TAKE-HOME COMMUNICATION

All materials prepared by parents/guardians for release to the parish or school community must be approved by the Principal or his/her designee.

The family/student directory is available sponsored by the School's PTO and in hard copy form. This tool is to be used for and by Holy Spirit School families only and must not be distributed, sold, or shared outside of the school community

TELEPHONE USE/MESSAGES FOR STUDENTS

Students may use the telephone in the school office for emergency calls only. Forgotten items do not constitute an emergency. Only in cases of emergency, will students be called from class to the telephone. Messages for the student may be left, if necessary, by calling the school office.

The possession and/or use of students' cell phones is prohibited on Holy Spirit School property and on field trips. If a student needs a cell phone after school due to walking home from school, entering a house where no one is home, or attending sports practices or games, he /she must bring the cell phone to the office upon arrival in the morning and park the cell phone in the off position for the day. The cell phone may be picked up by the student at dismissal. At no time during the day will a cell phone be in a student's locker, backpack, or in his/her possession. If a faculty member becomes aware of a student cell phone, the faculty member is expected to take the phone and turn it in to the principal's office where it can be collected by a parent.

INCLEMENT WEATHER/SCHOOL CLOSINGS

In addition to the traditional 180 school days, schools should add at least three extra days to the school calendar each year to accommodate days off due to inclement weather or other non-weather-related emergencies. In the event these inclement weather/emergency days are not used, schools may dismiss for the summer after completing the required 180 school days. If, however, during the course of the year, the school uses more than three inclement weather/emergency days, it is not necessary for the school to extend its school year beyond the 183 budgeted days, provided the school has surpassed 1038 hours of instructional time (as defined by the Commonwealth of Virginia).

If, during the course of the year, the school uses inclement weather/emergency days, it may be necessary to modify the published school calendar.

If school closes unexpectedly for a single day, there will be no academic requirements for that day. If, however, the school will be closed for an extended period due to, weather, public health, or community concern, the school may transition into virtual instruction for the required duration. These will be count as instructional days.

Holy Spirit School follows Fairfax County Public School's announcements for emergency

closings, delayed openings, and early closings for school. Announcements regarding closings may be heard on all major radio stations, as well as local cable TV stations. You may also check the Fairfax County website at www.fcps.edu Please do not call the school to find out if school is closed or opening late.

ONE HOUR DELAYED OPENING: PreKindergarten will begin at 9:00 AM with normal closing times. Grades K-8 will begin at 9:00 AM and dismiss at 3:15 PM.

TWO HOUR DELAYED OPENING: PreKindergarten will begin at 10:00 AM with normal dismissal times. Grades K-8 will arrive at 10:00 AM and dismiss at 3:15 PM.

EXTENDED DAY: If school is delayed opening by one hour, Morning Care will begin at 8:00 AM. If school has a delayed opening of two hours Morning Care will open at 9:00 AM. If the school closes for any reason, the Extended Day morning and afternoon program will not operate. Please arrange to pick up your child at the announced dismissal time.

IN THE EVENT THERE IS A TWO-HOUR DELAY ON A SCHEDULED 11:30 AM DISMISSAL, HOLY SPIRIT WILL CANCEL THE 11:30 AM DISMISSAL AND FOLLOW A TWO HOUR DELAY SCHEDULE WITH DISMISSAL AT 3:15 PM.

IF FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE CLOSED BUT HOLY SPIRIT IS SCHEDULED TO BE OPEN, AN ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING CLOSINGS WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE AND OUR PHONE CONTACT SYSTEM WILL BE ACTIVATED.

The Diocesan Superintendent of Schools will publish annually a Diocesan school calendar for the following school year.

PHOTOS AND OTHER MEDIA

Parents/guardians may opt their children out of participating in videotaping, audio recording, school pictures, other photography, or participation involving the Internet. When a parent decides to exercise this right, the school is required to use the Waiver/Right to Object Form (*Appendix N*). All student or parental publications are subject to review and approval by the school administration prior to publication.

MEDIA CENTER

All materials chosen for the media center must be appropriate for students, not only in age level and reading ability, but also for their capacity to foster our students' moral development. All materials shall conform with diocesan policies and guidelines regarding Catholic education.

Parents, guardians or teachers who object to print or multi-media materials used in the classroom must complete an Objection to Content Form (*Appendix K*) after they have read the book or viewed the media and then submit it to the school principal. Those objecting to materials

obtained in the school media center should complete Objection to Content Form for Library Materials (*Appendix K-1*). A review committee (to include an Office of Catholic Schools member) will subsequently discuss the objection and decide the disposition of the challenged material. The parent or teacher initiating the review should be personally notified of the results of the review. The Superintendent of Schools has the final say in any subsequent question of this review.

FIELD TRIPS

Class visits to places of cultural or educational significance enhance the lessons of the classroom. Field trips, virtual or in person, are planned by teachers and approved by the school administration in order to achieve educational objectives. Financial considerations may bear on the feasibility and frequency of field trips.

Field trips are considered an extension of the school day and the code of conduct will apply.

A permission form signed by a student's parent(s)/guardian(s) must be obtained prior to a student participating in each activity (*Appendix R*, available in PowerSchool).

In the event private automobiles/vehicles of students, parents, or other authorized adults of at least 21 years of age are to be utilized to transport students on field trips, the drivers and/or the vehicle owners must have a valid driver's license and sufficient liability, medical, and uninsured motorist insurance coverage as defined by the Diocesan Risk Manager. Evidence to this effect must be presented to the principal/administration for review and approval prior to the use of such vehicles. Appendix R-1 must be used for this purpose. The principal/administration shall have the right to prohibit, for any reason, a proposed driver from transporting students on a field trip.

Youth weighing less than 100 pounds may not be seated in the front seat.

Cell calls and texting are not permitted while driving.

Parents/guardians are to be furnished with detailed written information about the field trip and must be given the opportunity to "opt out" their children from the field trip.

Teachers and other school employees should not drive students in their personal vehicles.

It should be understood, in rare instances, world conditions and specifically threats of terrorism against Americans may necessitate the cancellation of school-sponsored trips.

School-sponsored ski trips are not permitted.

Alcohol shall NEVER be served to minors, regardless of cultural norms and/or parent permission while on a field trip.

All medications given on field trips must comply with medication administration policies. For a

student with prescription medication and/or medically necessary health related procedures or treatments, a trained individual needs to be present on the field trip such as” a school nurse, parent/guardian, or designated family member to ensure care in the case of an emergency. If a trained individual of the school is unable to chaperone the student on a field trip, it is the responsibility of the parent to provide a trained individual to accompany the student.

Parents may refuse to permit their child from participating in a field trip by stating so on the proper form. Students who do not attend a field trip will remain home with the parent and will be marked absent for the day.

There are no “traditional” field trips. Class participation in a particular field trip over consecutive years does not mean that this trip has become a school tradition.

Siblings may not accompany chaperones on field trips.

Parents not listed as “official” chaperones for class trips are highly discouraged from attending in order to not disrupt the academic agenda or timeline of the trip. Although Holy Spirit School cannot bar a parent from arriving at a public venue at no time may that parent interfere with the overall trip or remove a child from the supervision of the classroom teacher or designated chaperone. Parents not officially listed as chaperones for the trip may not assume any sort of duties assigned to official chaperones.

The role of the homeroom parents is solely to solicit parent volunteers for class field trips. Once a group of names has been gathered, the information is turned over to the homeroom teacher who will make the final decisions regarding chaperones. The aim of the homeroom teacher is to provide opportunities over the course of the year to as many different parents as possible. All parent chaperones must be fully compliant with Diocesan Child Protection Policy in order to be considered.

OVERNIGHT TRIPS

Overnight trips are not permitted for elementary school children.

MARCH FOR LIFE POLICY

Students are offered varied opportunities to participate in activities that promote the sanctity of life.

Principals may permit students in grades 7 and 8, with permission of their parent/guardian, to participate in the March for Life in a group sponsored by the school or the parish. Procedures detailed under “School-Sponsored Trips” must be followed. The principal is not authorized to permit students in grades K through 6 to participate as a group in the March for Life. Students with written parental permission may accompany their parents on the March for Life.

Students who accompany parents on the March for Life should not be marked as absent for that

day. From time-to-time it has been the case that world or local events raise concern about the advisability of school-sponsored student participation in the March for Life and related events. When this happens, principals should use prudent judgment when deciding on attending the March and should consider appropriate alternatives that can be conducted at the school level.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS/CEREMONIES

Students must earn their certificate of completion. The school does not guarantee the award of this certificate to students. In order to graduate, students must satisfactorily complete (by attaining a passing grade) all courses as required by the Diocese of Arlington and the Commonwealth of Virginia. In addition, students must comply with all school regulations and policies.

The principal shall have the right to withhold certification of a student's graduation or provide transcripts of the student's academic record to other schools, or to issue a Certificate of Completion to the student, if there has been a breach of a material condition of the contract (i.e., failure to meet financial obligations or infractions against the school's code of conduct).

Graduation ceremonies should be simple and dignified.

The Liturgy is highly recommended. Certificates signifying completion of studies may be given upon completion of 8th grade.

Any celebration held off school campus before or after the 8th Grade Mass and Award Ceremony is not sponsored by, nor affiliated with, the School. The School holds no liability or responsibility for any such event.

PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

Parent-Teacher Organizations (and like-named entities) support the critical relationship between schools and parents, the primary educators of their children. These organizations support the principal to advance the school's mission.

Every school should have an effective Parent-Teacher Organization. It can help mobilize the parent community regarding legislative proposals impacting Catholic education. The work of PTOs and like organizations shall be guided by the PTO Handbook and the direction of the pastor and principal.

All parent organization activities and all materials prepared by parents for release to the Parish or school community must be submitted to the principal or designee for approval prior to implementation and/or distribution.

All PTO monies must be deposited in the parish or school account as designated by the pastor. In consultation with the principal, the PTO officers should prepare a budget and submit it to the pastor and principal for approval.

PTOs shall have by-laws which establish, among other things, term limits for officers as well as the organization of committees. Persons nominated to serve as a PTO board member must receive the approval of the pastor and principal.

HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Board serves as an advisory body to the pastor and the principal. The mission of the Board is to ensure that the philosophy and mission of Holy Spirit School (as reflected in this handbook) are accomplished. The principal appoints the Board members for a three year term and may extend those terms on a one-year basis following the initial terms.

VOLUNTEERS/ SERVICE COMMITMENT

Holy Spirit Catholic School is a wonderful place for your children to grow both academically and spiritually. The School administration and PTO believe that parent involvement and participation in school activities is not only a means to show our support for the Faculty and the School, but is absolutely necessary in order to maintain and expand many of the academic and extracurricular services offered by the School to our children. Educational research also demonstrates that children achieve at a higher level if parents are involved in their child's education.

Holy Spirit School has instituted the Parent School Service Commitment (PSSC). Under this program, the parents or legal guardians of each student (s) registered at Holy Spirit School are required to earn a minimum of 20 hours per family or 10 hours for single parent families (single parent families also include families with a deployed spouse) of combined volunteer service during the current school year. (The school year is defined as July 1 through June 30.) This is in addition to required playground duty. Playground Duty substitutes can be used and are to be paid as outlined in the handbook. Being a Playground Duty substitute does not relieve a family of the school service commitment hours since this is a paid position. Service opportunities are outlined and described in the PSSC Handbook.

All unfulfilled hours will be assessed \$20.00 per hour.

If a family situation makes completing PSSC hours impossible, please make an appointment to discuss this with the Principal, who has the discretion to reduce or excuse the PSSC requirement.

RECESS

Parents are scheduled to provide supervision for recess. The schedule is created by the PTO and is posted within Connect 1. The required recess supervision hours are separate from the Service Commitment hours.

FUNDRAISING

Any program of generating additional revenue should have the approval of school leadership (pastor, principal, head of school). These activities should be organized and executed so that the school program is not interrupted.

Students may participate in, and cooperate with, worthy collections and fundraising projects conducted by a school or parish, provided such activities have been approved by the school leadership (pastor, principal, head of school).

TRANSPORTATION/PARKING

PreKindergarten Dismissal

Teachers dismiss **half day** PreKindergarten students at 11:30 AM from the southwest doors in the Kindergarten wing. Parents park in the circle or other available parking spots and walk to meet their children outside the doors.

Teachers dismiss **full day** PreKindergarten children *and their siblings* from the rear of the school. Parents should use the back lane. Enter from the second entrance on Woodland Way and proceed to the back of the school forming a line. Your children will enter your car at the designated place.

CAR LINE

Students will not be permitted to walk to a car in any parking lot. To pick up students your car must be IN THE CAR LINE. Students will be dismissed at 3:15 PM Monday through Friday. Please stress the need for your children to know their Family Number in order to know when to prepare to exit the building.

If a child's transportation arrangements change or children are visiting each other after school parents must send in written notification to the teacher. School policy requires written notification from both parties when transportation arrangements are altered.

VANPOOL

Students assigned to the vanpool will exit via prescribed doors and proceed to the upper parking lot.

They should get into their cars immediately. When all students are safely in all of the cars, the cars will exit the upper lot. The vanpool is for cars picking up three or more students and kindergarteners. Families must request placement in the vanpool each year.

WALKERS

Walkers will exit the west side door if they walk to Woodland Way. Walkers will be escorted to the edge of the Holy Spirit property. Teachers are not crossing guards and will not cross the children at the corner of Fleming and Woodland. If a student is normally a walker and is to go home by car, please send a note or call the office stating this. The student will exit with the car line and must be picked up in the car line. Please do not arrange to pick up your walker anywhere else.

If you need to pick up your children prior to dismissal, please do so before 2:45 PM. This should only be used in cases of absolute necessity and not be habitual. Children will not be dismissed from the classrooms after 2:45 PM.

V. FINANCES

DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

APPLICATION PROCESS & REQUIREMENTS

All school families participating in the program must submit the same application form (available in English and Spanish) along with all supporting tax documents as required and a processing fee payable to the private vendor.

To be eligible to receive funds from this program, students must satisfy all of the criteria described below:

- a. Student is a baptized Catholic or convert officially received into the Church.
- b. Family resides within the boundaries of the Diocese of Arlington.
- c. Family is registered and an active member of the parish.
- d. Student attends, or is accepted by, a Catholic school in the Diocese of Arlington.

The deadline for submitting applications to the contracted vendor is determined annually. Applications received after the stated due date will be considered for tuition assistance if funds are still available.

Although students from families residing on local military bases are not domiciled in a Diocesan parish, those students are eligible for the Diocese of Arlington Tuition Assistance Program.

The funds from the program will be paid directly to the school that the qualifying student attends. Schools will credit the tuition accounts for those families who have been approved to

receive aid for that school year.

SCHOOL TUITION POLICIES

A family's tuition obligation continues even if the school shifts to a virtual model. The education of each student continues with teachers planning and delivering lessons and assessing student progress. Report cards will be distributed at the end of each grading period. If a parent/guardian cannot make the regular tuition payment, the principal should be notified as soon as possible to create a payment plan.

To qualify for in-parish tuition rates, the student must be Catholic and the family must be registered at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, attend weekly Mass, and participate in the spiritual life of the parish. Families must also financially contribute through the parish offertory on a regular basis with the contribution being up to the conscience of each parishioner. Out of parish rates are assigned to those Catholic families who are not actively registered at Holy Spirit parish but are registered and active in the parish life at another Catholic church.

Tuition payments must be made directly to the FACTS Tuition Management Company. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to meet due dates. Holy Spirit School, in turn, has due dates to meet school expenses. When there is a problem in paying tuition, the parent/guardian must make timely contact with the principal to discuss mutually acceptable alternative arrangements. Parents will be asked to withdraw their children if financial commitment is ignored.

Parents are still required to meet monthly deadlines regardless of who provides the funds (relative, agency, or employer). Holy Spirit School will complete official company/agency paperwork and will only provide other written information if formally requested by the agency.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Tuition is withdrawn over 10 months starting in June for each academic year. We understand that circumstances may change during the school year for families. If those circumstances require a student to withdraw and notice is given at the beginning of the month in writing to the school, that month's payment will serve as the last month of collected tuition. If written notice is received on or after the 15th of the month then one additional month's tuition will be collected regardless of whether your student is enrolled in that month. Once a month has started, the tuition for the full month is due no matter how many days your student is enrolled that month. For any students withdrawing after February 1st, all remaining annual tuition is due for the remainder of the academic year. Transcripts will not be provided until these financial obligations are met. Exceptions will be made for military families who receive a change of orders. A copy of those orders is required.

Tuition must be current and up-to-date before the withdrawal process can begin. The first month tuition, registration fees, extended day registration fees, financial aid and scholarships are non-refundable. There is no tuition refund for students expelled for disciplinary reasons.

TUITION AND OTHER FEE SCHEDULES

Book fees and technology fees are incorporated into the overall tuition fee for the year. Activity fees are due in full August 1st and are included with the August payment. All book fees, technology fees, and activity fees are nonrefundable.

Tuition and Fees (including those for Morning Care and Extended Day) for the 2024-2025 school year may be found on the school website.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

Tuition assistance is available through the Diocese, PTO, school and parish. Information for applying through FACTS is available on the school website. We encourage all those eligible and interested to apply. The deadline for the first round of determination is usually in March. FACTS applications are coded for each particular school so please do not use an application from Holy Spirit for any other school. All information regarding tuition assistance, except the application to FACTS, should be directed to the principal.

Information concerning “Tuition Assistance Through the Diocese of Arlington” may be found at http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/catholicschools/tuition_grant.aspx. This link explains funds available through the *Rooted in Faith-Forward in Hope* campaign as well as the *Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits* program.

VI. CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

PARTICIPATION

In order for sportsmanship to be rooted in Catholic values, it is expected that coaches, athletes, and fans display respect, civility, and responsibility in words and actions before, during, and after all athletic contests and/or practices. These policies are developed to assist the schools in accomplishing their goal of providing a Catholic education which is rooted in the teachings of the Catholic faith, especially the practice of respect for each person. The policies outlined in this section exist to ensure good sportsmanship and fair play.

Participation in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities is a privilege, not a right. Students who successfully meet the school’s academic requirements and adhere to the code of conduct may participate in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

When possible, separate athletic teams will be offered for each sex. Young people will participate on teams consistent with their biological sex and may not participate on teams offered for the other sex. When (for example, in swimming or track) a team may include both sexes, individuals will

participate in events consistent with their biological sex. In the case of golf, if separate male and female teams are not offered, members of both sexes may participate together on a single team in the same events. Girls are not allowed to participate in boys football and/or wrestling activities. Male wrestlers may not compete with female wrestlers from other schools at any time.

Students participating in school-sponsored team athletic activities must have proof of an annual physical. Submission of a pre-sport participation physical examination form and consent form for elementary- and middle school-based athletic program participation is required, excluding parish CYO.

When a student is requesting a waiver from participating in Physical Education classes and/or recess, parents/guardians are required to submit a written statement from their child's physician that states any activity restrictions with regard to participation in Physical Education classes and/or recess. The statement is expected to include a specific time frame for the activity restrictions.

TRANSPORTATION OF ATHLETES

Students participating in a school-sponsored sport who wish to travel to and from practice and games in a privately owned vehicle must have a written permission from their parent/guardian. This approval does not permit a student to transport other passengers, under any circumstances, unless that passenger is a member of the carpool as permitted by the parents and administration.

Although CYO athletic teams are separate and distinct from parish/school activities, the pastor/principal retains the right of possible intervention by the school in the event a significant incident would bring the reputation of the parish and/or school into question within the community.

CO CURRICULAR AND EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students of Holy Spirit School are encouraged to participate in school and CYO activities. A list of activities is available on the school website under the *Families Resources* tab within the Quick Links. It should be noted that the list is not all-inclusive and that activities may change from year to year depending on student interest and the availability of teacher/adult moderators.

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

The school is not responsible for providing supervision for students who remain on school property after the conclusion of the instructional day, unless the student is enrolled in an extended day/after care program, or participating in a school-sponsored activity (such as athletics or theater).

If parents (or another authorized adult) do not arrive to pick up a student by the appointed time as designated by the co-curricular/extra curricular activity moderator, the student will be checked into Extended Day and charges will accrue.

VII. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES & BEHAVIOR

CODE OF CONDUCT

In all areas of learning, discipline must be considered in the development of the whole person. The Code of Conduct is based on the Gospel message of Jesus. Growth in self-discipline, a responsibility for Catholic moral values and a loving respect for the rights of all persons is encouraged and nourished by the Code of Conduct. To achieve these ends, parents/guardians, faculty, and students work together to create a Catholic school environment. These basic components include:

- a. Teachers have a right to teach. No student will stop the teacher from teaching.
- b. Students have a right to learn. No student will stop another student from learning.

Based upon the Catholic moral values and loving respect for others taught by Jesus, students:

- a. will be honest and committed to integrity.
- b. will be respectful and courteous toward all teachers and adults.
- c. will refrain from harassment of any kind.
- d. will use appropriate language.
- e. will speak respectfully to and about others.
- f. will complete all assignments and participate fully in class.
- g. will respect all school and personal property (see *Care of School Property*).
- h. will refrain from any deliberate disruption in the school.
- i. will adhere to the school's cell phone policy.
- j. will comply with the Responsible Use Policy for Technology and Artificial Intelligence.
- k. will demonstrate good sportsmanship when engaged in all school-sponsored co- and extra-curricular activities.
- l. will be present for all required activities unless officially excused by the administration.
- m. will adhere to the dress code (see *Dress Code*).
- n. will not give or receive unauthorized assistance on tests, quizzes, or assignments.
- o. will not leave school grounds during the school day for any reason without

- permission from the principal/administration.
- p. will not bring to school, nor possess at school, any real or toy knives, guns (or any facsimile thereof), sharp objects that may be used as a weapon, matches, lighters, sparklers, laser devices, or any facsimile thereof. It is understood if this term is violated, suspension, or expulsion may result (see *Substance Abuse/Weapons* and *Inappropriate Materials*).
 - q. will maintain, and support others who maintain, a safe and drug-free environment at, or near, school and at all school-sponsored functions/activities with the understanding that possession or distribution of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or any other substance that may be harmful or dangerous and forbidden, to include drug paraphernalia, will result in suspension or expulsion from school (see also *Substance Abuse/Weapons*).
 - r. will not engage in any physical or verbal contact with another student which could be interpreted to be an inappropriate display of affection. Such conduct is prohibited on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities.
 - s. will, at all times, whether at school or in the community, conduct themselves in a manner which reflects the Catholic values and principles of the school.

All of the conduct expectations include student use of the internet.

The school observes this Code of Conduct because it is built on fundamental Catholic social teachings. The role of the principal/administration, staff, and faculty is to work with the students and parents/guardians to assist the students in developing a strong Christian attitude toward life.

CHEATING

Cheating of any type will not be tolerated. Students who choose to cheat, in any form, face a failing grade, detention, suspension, and/or expulsion.

FIELD TRIP CONDUCT

Field trips are an extension of the classroom and, therefore all school rules apply.

STAIRCASES, HALLWAYS, AND ELEVATOR USE

When changing classes between the two floors or attending events on either level, students should walk only on the right-hand side of the staircase thus allowing for a flow of students in both directions. Care should be taken when carrying bookbags and other items up and down stairs. Students must refrain from any sort of playing or dangerous behavior on the staircases.

Students should walk quietly and in an orderly manner down the hallways when classes are in session. In addition, students must form a line outside a classroom and wait for the teacher's permission to enter. Students may not enter an empty classroom.

The elevator may only be used for injured students. Students must be accompanied by a faculty or staff member and one peer.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE/WEAPONS

The school makes every effort to make students aware of the dangers and consequences of the unlawful use of substances.

It is unlawful for any person to manufacture, sell, distribute, or possess with intent to sell, give, or distribute any controlled substance, imitation controlled substance, or marijuana while upon the property of the school; on any school bus; upon any public property or any property open to the public use within 1000 feet of the school (or any school bus stop when students are waiting to be picked up and transported to or are being dropped off from school or a school-sponsored activity). If a student knows or suspects that any of the foregoing activities are occurring, he/she must immediately report the matter to the school administration/faculty so the appropriate law enforcement agency may be contacted.

If a student is suspected or is discovered to have (a) violated the foregoing policy with respect to any controlled substance, imitation controlled substance or marijuana or (b) used, possessed or distributed alcohol, tobacco, or e-liquids while upon the property of the school; on any school bus; upon public property or any property open to the public use within 1000 feet of the school (or any school bus stop when students are waiting to be picked up and transported to or are being dropped off from school or a school-sponsored activity), the student will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion. In the event school officials believe that a student is under the influence of an illegal substance, the parents/guardians will be notified, and the student will be removed from class. School officials reserve the right to require that the student be taken for drug testing within 24 hours and that the results of the testing be shared with the appropriate school officials. If a violation of the law has occurred, the proper law enforcement agency will be contacted.

A student shall not possess or use drug paraphernalia, including, but not limited to: e-cigarette delivery devices, e-cigarette accessories, vaping devices, water pipes, cigarette paper rolling machines, and miniature scales on the property of the school, on any school bus and/or at any school-sponsored activity, whether discovered in an authorized search of his or her private property or on school property (e.g., lockers). Any student who violates this provision will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

A student shall not possess, use or threaten to use on the property of the school, on any school bus; and/or at any school sponsored activity, any weapons (including but not limited to any pistols, revolvers, rifles or other firearms, stun weapons, tasers, knives, flailing instruments [which may sometimes be known as nun chucks or fighting chains], sling shot, metal knuckles, any type of pointed metal throwing disk or dart, mace, pepper spray, or other similar propellant or any type of explosive, incendiary or poison gas, bomb, grenade or rocket) or any facsimiles thereof, or any object that can be used with the intent of threatening or harming an individual,

except when expressly authorized by a member of the school administration/faculty for authorized school purposes (such as knives for use only in food preparation activities in family life/home economics class; chemicals solely for use in instructional lessons as part of the school's academic curriculum; etc.). Any student who violates this provision will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. If there is reason to believe a violation of law has occurred, parents as well as the proper law enforcement agency, will be immediately contacted.

DISCIPLINE

Because it is impossible to foresee all problems which arise, this handbook empowers the faculty and administration to take disciplinary action for any behavior (within or outside of the school community) which violates the spirit, philosophy, and code of conduct of the school, even though not specified.

In justice to the other students, circumstances may dictate that a student be removed temporarily or permanently from the particular school setting.

USE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

In cases where a student is continually disruptive of others or in the case of a single serious disciplinary infraction, the teacher will apprise the principal/administration of the situation. They will assist in the development of a course of action to be taken to correct the situation.

Students who lack self-discipline or who violate the rights of others can expect disciplinary action. Each offense will be dealt with on an individual basis according to the age of the student, the nature of the infraction, and the severity of the case. Repeated infractions can result in more serious consequences, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion, but there is no requirement for progressive discipline.

DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

The following are some approved disciplinary measures:

- a. Counseling and/or conference with the student and family
- b. Assignment of special tasks
- c. Denial of privileges
- d. Detention
- e. Probation
- f. Suspension
- g. Expulsion

SPECIFIC DISCIPLINARY POLICIES

Holy Spirit School is committed to creating a safe, caring, respectful learning environment for all members of the school community. As disciples of Jesus, we understand that personal discipline is a code of Christian behavior that calls each of us to personal responsibility and respect for ourselves and others.

Students are expected to act in such fashion that their behavior will reflect favorably on themselves and the school. They are expected to show consideration and respect for their fellow students and teachers, thus creating a harmonious atmosphere within the school. All students must recognize their individual responsibilities and obligations and discharge them in accordance with school regulations. Children who fail to comply with school policies and regulations must accept the consequences.

The individual classroom teacher will customarily handle disciplinary procedures for prekindergarten through Grade 8. Disciplinary procedures are developmentally appropriate for each grade level. Policies, expectations, and consequences of inappropriate behaviors (words and actions) are explained thoroughly in each new year to students.

In Grades PK-3

Disciplinary concerns are handled with a focus on positive reinforcement and redirection in prekindergarten through Grade 3. Close home and school communication is stressed as students are guided through these early stages of development. Taking a time out from activities is often imposed when a student cannot or will not adhere to classroom rules and instructions. At the discretion of the principal and teacher, disruptive students may be sent home or receive further disciplinary action. Any student who punches with a closed fist or bites another student will be sent home immediately with a written infraction regardless of grade.

Parents are obligated to reinforce the school "hands off others" policy. Students must avoid unnecessary body contact and are taught that no one may touch or be touched in swimsuit areas.

In Grades 4-8

Discipline is the training that develops self-control, character, efficiency and the ability to cope with the responsibilities of daily student life. Where methods of positive reinforcement, motivation, and conferencing with students have not proved successful, or when seriously disruptive conduct has taken place, other disciplinary actions may be necessary, some of which are defined below.

INFRACTIONS

When a child chooses to disregard the rules that have been put in place, it is important that

he/she understands that consequences will take place. The supervising teacher may issue an infraction for any of the following:

- Disruption of classroom learning
- Disregard of classroom or school rules
- Misuse of Technology (Chromebook, Ipad, Cell Phone, etc.)
- Inappropriate physical contact
- Disrespect of staff or peers
- Failure to complete homework on a consistent basis
- Other Minor Infractions a faculty member or administration feel are appropriate.

It is important that parents support this process and take time to discuss the infraction that occurred and a plan for how their child can improve his/her behavior.

DETENTIONS

Detentions are consequences for inappropriate conduct including, but not limited to, the following level 2 infractions:

- cheating on work (collaborative work is specifically designated)
- stealing
- borrowing without permission or hiding the property of others
- plagiarizing-defined as "the offering of another person's artistic or literary work, research, and ideas as "one's own "
- forging signatures
- interception/delay of teacher/parent communication
- damaging, defacing, vandalizing of school/church property
- disrupting learning in the classroom
- Misuse of Technology (Chromebook, Ipad, Cell Phone, etc.)
- regular disregard of school or class rules
- being insolent to those in authority
- using offensive gestures
- using offensive language, verbal or written
- excluding another student from a group activity
- bringing inappropriate materials to school

The above offenses will be clarified the first week of school and regularly during the school year.

When infractions occur and a detention slip is issued, the teacher and/or administrator will clarify the reason for the detention. Any mitigating circumstances are to be discussed at that time by both student and teacher, and such information will be taken into consideration. The student signature on the detention slip indicates that the infraction has been discussed. Holy Spirit School does not need student approval of a given detention. Parents will receive a copy of the slip, including the date that the detention will be served.

The signed detention form is to be returned to the teacher or administrator who issued the

detention. Parents must contact the principal directly to change the date, if it conflicts with a medical or other major appointment.

The service of the detention supersedes any after-school activity, unless the circumstances permit a delay in serving as determined by administration. When a student earns three detentions in one marking period, a conference with the parents and student will be arranged by the homeroom teacher. The conference is to determine the cause of unacceptable behavior/habits and to formally identify specific ways of correcting the situation.

A one-hour detention, supervised by a member of administration, starts after faculty dismissal duties (3:25 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.) on designated Wednesdays. Parents must pick students up promptly at the main school entrance or give written permission for another adult to do so otherwise the students will be sent to Extended Day and charged accordingly.

Students in grades 4-8 at Holy Spirit School are required to attend any merited detention.

Only the principal may excuse/withdraw or change the date for a detention.

SUSPENSION

Suspension may be imposed as determined by the principal/administration. Once the principal/administration suspends a student, parents/guardians may be required to sign a behavioral contract in which they signify their understanding of the problem and agree to work with the school in correcting the situation.

The failure of the parents to execute the above referenced agreement shall preclude the student from returning to the regular instructional program. This policy applies to in-house and out-of-school suspensions.

In-school suspension (time out from regular classes on premises) and out-of-school suspension will be imposed for serious violations including, but not limited to:

- denigration of others
- bullying
- fighting
- provoking a fight between other individuals
- participating in an activity which results in physical violence toward any person
- physical and/or mental abuse of others
- racist slurs or remarks with racial connotations
- sexual harassment
- and when less stringent measures have proved ineffective for infractions listed under "detention".

Parents will be asked to sign a formal agreement in which they signify their understanding of the problem and agree to work with Holy Spirit School in correcting the situation. Suspended students will not be readmitted until parents meet with the principal and agree to cooperate with

the school.

Students will be responsible for making up any work missed due to suspension.

DISMISSAL

Conduct which is disruptive to the learning atmosphere and/or contrary to the school's Code of Conduct is justification for a principal/administration to dismiss a student at the close of the school year.

Students who are dismissed may apply for readmission to any Diocesan school after one full year.

EXPULSION

Expulsion may be resorted to when one or all of the following are present:

- a. a serious infraction of school rules occurs;
- b. the student has demonstrated continuing disregard of school rules for which other means of discipline have proven ineffectual;
- c. the student's continued presence in the school is considered by school officials to be a serious hindrance to the safety or welfare of the school community;
- d. a parent/guardian repeatedly or seriously violates proper school protocol, displays inappropriate or disruptive conduct toward students or displays disrespectful, disruptive, or harassing behavior toward teachers, school, parish, or diocesan staff.

If the principal/administration believes it necessary to expel a student, the principal/administration will notify the student and the student's parents about the student's action and provide them with an opportunity to respond in accordance with the school's disciplinary hearing process before making any final decision on the matter.

A parent/guardian whose child is expelled may appeal this decision in writing to the Superintendent of Schools within 5 working days from the time of written notification.

During the pendency of any appeal, the expelled student shall be removed from the school community in compliance with the expulsion notice unless otherwise directed at the discretion of the principal/administration.

Students who have been expelled from any Diocesan school may not apply for admission to that school or another Diocesan school for a minimum of one (1) year from the date of expulsion.

STUDENT REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

Privacy of individual students must be balanced against the need to protect the health, welfare,

and safety of other members of the school community.

STUDENTS AND STUDENT PROPERTY SEARCHES

The principal/administration or his/her designee has the right to protect the health, welfare, and safety of school patrons against drugs, weapons, unauthorized publications, and other contraband materials. Search of a student's person and/or personal property on school property (e.g. automobiles, etc.) or at school activities may be conducted by the school principal/administration or other designated officials. It is only necessary that a search be reasonable and related to the school rights in these regards. The failure of a student to voluntarily submit to a search shall be presumptive evidence of the existence of contraband and grounds for appropriate disciplinary action.

INTERROGATION OF STUDENTS

Unless provided with a court-issued warrant, the head of school or principal and the Office of Catholic Schools must first be consulted before law enforcement authorities are allowed to speak to any student about alleged illegal activities. This policy does not apply to Child Protective Services (CPS) officers, who are by law entitled to interview children.

The questioning by police officers of students in school or on school grounds about alleged illegal activities shall meet the following conditions:

- a. The principal, the assistant principal, or the principal's designee shall be alerted.
- b. The police officers shall report to the principal's office.
- c. Permission from the student's parent/guardian must be acquired, either by phone or in person, prior to questioning.
- d. The principal or a school representative shall be present.
- e. The questioning shall be conducted in a private room where participants cannot be seen or heard by students and/or other school personnel.

The police officers may take legal actions that they deem necessary.

STUDENTS AND STUDENT PROPERTY

Students are solely responsible for their own personal property. The school accepts no responsibility for items left unattended in the common areas of the school. It is the responsibility of the student to turn in wallets, watches, and other valuables to the physical education teacher/coach when participating in athletic events away from school. Items of personal property or clothing not directly related to academic or athletic events sponsored by the school should not be brought to school.

SCHOOL LOCKERS AND DESKS

Lockers and desks are school property and are subject to searches by school authorities to protect the safety of all. A student to whom a locker or desk has been assigned, has *vis-a-vis* other students, exclusive use of the locker or desk but has no proprietary rights versus the school.

- Students may keep only school related items in lockers and desks
- Students may only go to their lockers at times allowed by their teachers
- Students may post pictures on the inside of their locker that are appropriate and in good taste.
- Locker doors must be closed quietly so that other students and teachers in the classrooms are not disturbed
- Students may not use anything that has the potential to make marks (paint, draw, scratch, adhesive labels, stickers or tape)
- Food and drink may not be left in the locker overnight
- If a locker is damaged, the student responsible for the damage will pay for the full cost of the repairs or replacement and may lose the right to use a locker.

CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Students are to care for school property in a respectful manner. Students who deface or damage school property or the property of others will make financial restitution. If library books are not returned, students will be assessed an amount equal to the value of the book or its replacement, whichever is greater, as determined by the principal/administration.

- All hardcover textbooks must be covered with a paper or fabric cover by the end of the first week of school.
- Covering hard covered textbooks with sticky adhesive such as contact paper is not allowed.
- Students who damage electronic devices due to negligence and/or carelessness may be required to cover the cost of a replacement device.

DRESS CODE

The dress code provides a standard for our students, which fosters an environment conducive to learning and respectful behavior.

Final decisions regarding the school uniform and dress code rest with the principal/administration.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS & OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION

All uniforms should be purchased through Flynn and O’Hara Uniform Company or via the PTO’s periodic used uniform sales.

Pre Kindergarten

PreKindergarten students should wear sneakers. Open toed/ open heeled shoes are not allowed.

FALL/ SPRING (CHECK CURRENT SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR PERTINENT DATES)

Grades Pre Kindergarten - Kindergarten

Boys

- Long or short sleeved maroon polo with Holy Spirit logo
- Steel gray shorts or slacks from Flynn and O’Hara
- Solid gray or white dress socks
- Sneakers (**velcro for PreK; no light up shoes**)

Girls

- Maroon drop waist jersey dress with Holy Spirit logo (shorts should be worn underneath)
- OR plaid drop waist, solid front jumper with white peter pan collared blouse.
- Solid maroon or white dress ankle socks
- Sneakers (**velcro for PreK; no light up shoes**)

Grades 1-5

Boys

- Long or short sleeved maroon polo with Holy Spirit logo
- Steel gray shorts or slacks from Flynn and O’Hara
- Solid gray or white dress socks
- Black or brown belt
- Black or brown school shoes (not sneakers)

Girls

- Long or short sleeved maroon polo with Holy Spirit logo with plaid skort
- OR plaid drop waist, solid front jumper with white peter pan collared blouse. (The peter pan collared blouse may only be worn with the jumper or – and the polo only with the skort)
- Solid maroon or white dress ankle socks
- Black or brown school shoes (not sneakers)

Grades 6-8

Boys

- Long or short sleeved maroon polo with Holy Spirit logo
- Dark gray slacks from Flynn and O'Hara
- Solid dark gray dress socks
- Black or brown belt
- Black or brown school shoes (not sneakers)

Girls

- Long or short sleeved maroon polo with Holy Spirit logo
- Dark gray wrap around kilt
- Solid dark gray dress socks: ankle, knee or tights
- Black or brown school shoes (not sneakers)

FALL/ SPRING GYM UNIFORM (WORN TO SCHOOL ON GYM DAYS)

Grades Kindergarten - 8

- Gray T shirt with logo
- Red shorts with logo
- Solid white ankle sport socks
- Non marking tennis shoes

WINTER UNIFORM (CHECK CURRENT SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR PERTINENT DATES)

Grades Pre Kindergarten - Kindergarten

Boys

- Long or short sleeved maroon polo with Holy Spirit logo
- Steel gray pants from Flynn and O'Hara
- Optional: Long sleeve, full OR half zip maroon polar fleece with Holy Spirit logo
- Solid gray or white dress socks
- Sneakers (velcro for PreK; no light up shoes)

Girls

- Long or short sleeved maroon polo with Holy Spirit logo with gray slacks
- OR plaid drop waist, solid front jumper with white peter pan collared short or long sleeved blouse. (The polo may be worn only with the slacks)
- Optional: The peter pan blouse may be worn with the jumper or the pants as long as it is worn with the sweater.
- Optional: Long sleeve, full OR half zip maroon polar fleece with Holy Spirit logo.
- Solid maroon or white dress socks: ankle, knee or tights

- Sneakers (velcro for PreK; no light up shoes)

Grades 1-5

Boys

- Long or short sleeved maroon polo with Holy Spirit logo
- Steel gray pants from Flynn and O'Hara
- Optional: Long sleeve, full OR half zip maroon polar fleece with Holy Spirit logo
- Solid gray or white dress socks
- Black or brown belt
- Black or brown school shoes (not sneakers)

Girls

- Long or short sleeved maroon polo with Holy Spirit logo with gray slacks
- OR plaid drop waist, solid front jumper with white peter pan collared short or long sleeved blouse. (The peter pan blouse may only be worn with the jumper – and the polo only with the slacks)
- Optional: Long sleeve, full OR half zip maroon polar fleece with Holy Spirit logo.
- Solid maroon or white dress socks: ankle, knee or tights
- Black or brown school shoes (not sneakers)

Grades 6-8

Boys

- Long or short sleeved maroon polo with Holy Spirit logo
- Dark gray slacks from Flynn and O'Hara
- Optional: Long sleeve, full OR half zip maroon polar fleece with Holy Spirit logo.
- Solid dark gray dress socks
- Black or brown belt
- Black or brown school shoes (not sneakers)

Girls

- Long or short sleeved maroon polo with Holy Spirit logo
- Dark gray wrap around kilt
- Optional: Long sleeve, full OR half zip maroon polar fleece with Holy Spirit logo.
- Solid dark gray dress socks: ankle, knee or tights
- Black or brown school shoes (not sneakers)

WINTER GYM UNIFORM (WORN TO SCHOOL ON GYM DAYS)

Grades Kindergarten - 8

- Gray T shirt with logo
- Gray sweat shirt with logo
- Gray sweat pants with logo (red uniform gym shorts may be worn underneath)

- Solid white ankle sport socks
- Non marking tennis shoes

APPEARANCE

Students are expected to be neat. Only white undershirts may be worn under shirts. Slogans and/or pictures should not show through. Girls' skirts/skorts should be no more than 2 inches above the knee in length.

JEWELRY AND MAKEUP

Makeup is not appropriate and nail polish is not allowed. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum. One necklace of a religious nature may be worn under the shirt/blouse. Girls may wear one pair of **stud earrings only**. Earrings that dangle or extend beyond the earlobe are not allowed. Earrings must be smaller than a dime in diameter. Larger earrings may pose safety concerns and are therefore not permitted. Boys may not wear earrings. One watch may be worn (watches may not have internet capabilities) but no rings or bracelets.

HAIRSTYLES

Hair is to be well groomed. Boys' hair is to be kept trimmed above the shirt collar, above the eyebrows and no longer than mid-ear. Boys must be clean shaven. Girls' hair must be kept out of their eyes. Extreme hairstyles, including, but not limited to, dying hair and shaving initials/patterns are not permitted.

SHOES

Shoes may be topsiders, loafers, saddle or tied oxford type shoes. Shoes for boys and girls should be black or brown. Heels may not be more than 1 ½ inches in height. Platform shoes, sport shoes, boots or booties do not meet the dress code standards.

If your child has difficulty, or has not yet learned to tie shoes, please do not purchase school shoes with tie laces.

GUIDELINES FOR DRESS DOWN DAYS

- No short shorts or excessively short skirts.
- No leggings, yoga pants, biking shorts or pants or similar items unless worn under a skirt or dress.
- No pajama tops or pants.
- No t-shirt references to inappropriate slogans and pictures;
- Nice jeans are encouraged- they should not be patched or torn.
- No wide-wide legged or "sagging" pants or shorts.
- No sundresses, tank tops, or spaghetti straps.
- No bare shoulders or backs.
- Shirts must meet pants and stomachs must be covered.
- Toes and heels must be covered- no flip flops, sandals, or clogs or crocs.

A student coming to school dressed inappropriately on a non- uniform day will be required to

call his/her parents for a suitable change of clothing or will be given a uniform to wear for the day. The decision of the principal as to what is appropriate will be final.

PTO SPIRIT GEAR DAYS

On select days during the school year, the PTO sponsors Spirit Gear Days. On these days, students dress down if wearing Holy Spirit School Spirit Gear purchased via the PTO. This does not include 5K Spirit Run t-shirts or CYO sports gear.

INAPPROPRIATE MATERIALS

Students are not permitted to possess the following items on school property or at school functions:

- Alcohol
- Controlled substances/prescription drugs/non-prescription drugs including breath strips and cough drops
- Cigarettes, E-cigarettes, Juuls, vaping devices, or any nicotine delivery device
- Real or toy knives or guns, sharp objects
- Matches/ lighters
- Fireworks or other items that cause explosions
- Laser pointers, shock pens
- Cell phones
- Internet accessible watches(smart watches or apple watches) or fitness bands that connect to the internet or having a gaming component
- E-readers
- Beepers, pagers, walkie talkies
- Walkman, I-pods, Mp-3/ CD/ DVD players
- Radios/ tape recorders/recording devices or any nature
- Remote control devices
- Video games or other electronic games
- Pornographic materials
- Skateboards, roller skates, rollerblades

Additionally, items that may be deemed to deter and/or detract from the overall academic environment of the school are not permissible either. The following items are examples of items not permitted on school property or at school functions; this list is not meant to be all encompassing and specific items will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

PLAYGROUND REGULATIONS

INDOOR RECESS

Students will:

- Remain in their assigned classroom and not roam from class to class
- Be respectful to the teacher and parents on duty
- Be seated for proper indoor activities
- Use moderate voices
- Ask permission of the teacher on duty to leave the classroom for any reason.
- Not run or behave inappropriately

OUTDOOR RECESS

Students will:

- Refrain from physical contact beyond the rules of the game
- Use all playground equipment properly.
- Play in designated area only
- Not leave the playground for any reason without the permission of the teacher on duty
- Line up promptly in a single file line in the designated homeroom areas when the bell rings to end recess.
- Walk quietly in a single file line when entering the building.

LUNCHROOM REGULATIONS

Given the risk of potential harm, students' access and use of microwave ovens is prohibited in grades preschool through grade 5. Student meals provided by parents/guardians must not be heated in microwave ovens by school personnel and/or school volunteers.

Microwave ovens are not available for student use nor will food be heated for students by faculty or staff.

Parents are encouraged to provide a healthy lunch for their children. Fast food lunches, sodas and energy drinks are not allowed.

Because of potential allergies students may not share food with classmates.

Hot lunches for students are ordered and paid for through a third-party vendor. Holy Spirit School is responsible only for the distribution of food orders that are delivered to the school in pre-boxed and labeled containers.

Holy Spirit School is, in no-way, responsible for miscommunication of food orders, or responsible for refunds. All communication regarding food orders must be directed to the third-party vendor.

Milk and bottled water are available daily for a fee, which is paid at the beginning of the year via a family's FACTS account.

FORGOTTEN LUNCHES

Parents may bring lunches for their children, if they have forgotten them, to the school office. Late lunches will be taken to the cafeteria prior to lunch time. Parents should not bring lunches or drinks from fast food restaurants.

If students have forgotten their lunch either at home or in the classroom, it should be noted that Holy Spirit School will not have full lunches to provide to students. The cafeteria will be stocked with small items like crackers and cheese in order to provide students with some food.

Students are responsible for being sure that they have placed their lunch in the class's Lunch Bin (or in the Late Lunch Bin if arriving at school after 8:10 am) for delivery to the cafeteria. Students go outside for recess prior to lunch and students are not allowed to return to classrooms to retrieve forgotten lunches or other items.

CAFETERIA CONDUCT

- Students should clean their hands prior to eating lunch.
- Students will walk quietly in a single file line from recess to the cafeteria.
- All conversation in the cafeteria will be in a moderate voice.
- Students will go through the food line in an orderly fashion using respectful manners.
- Students are to remain seated until they have finished eating. Each person is responsible for cleaning the table at which he/she eats. Food may not be eaten outside the cafeteria and should be finished during lunch or taken home.
- If a student needs to leave the lunchroom they must get permission from the adult on duty and go with a buddy.
- Students should quiet immediately when it is time for prayers. Participation should be reverent.
- Dismissal should be orderly and completed in a timely manner.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

At the discretion of the classroom teacher, children may bring in a treat to celebrate their birthday or half-birthday if their birthday falls during the summer months. Only a small treat is to be brought in- no balloons, gifts etc. The treat should be healthy in nature and easily served. Please contact the teacher to find out his/her preferences. It is preferred that parents provide non-food items for birthday celebrations.

GIFTS/ INVITATIONS

Students should not exchange individual gifts/cards at school. This gesture only causes hurt feelings among other children. Invitations for parties should be sent to the homes of students via

the U.S Postal service or email unless an invitation is being given to every student in the *entire grade*.

Valentines distributed at classroom parties should include a Valentine for every student in the class.

VIII. HEALTH, SAFETY, & WELFARE

STUDENT HEALTH, SAFETY, & WELFARE

Parents/guardians have the primary responsibility for the health and well-being of their children. School health services supplement, rather than substitute, for parental care and concern for the health of the students.

PREVENTION OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND/OR CHILD ABUSE

The Catholic Diocese of Arlington Policy on the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct and/or Child Abuse generally applies to all clergy, all employees and all volunteers.

It is the policy of the Diocese that sexual misconduct and/or child abuse while performing any work or activity under the auspices of the Diocese is contrary to Christian principles and outside the scope of any authority, duties, and/or employment of any clergy, employee, or volunteer.

School personnel who suspect the abuse or neglect of a student must report the matter directly to Child Protective Services and to the school principal (who in turn will call the Vicar General). The school principal should complete Attachment B found in Appendix G, which must be sent to the Vicar General. The school principal must inform the superintendent as well. At that point, confidentiality must be respected.

Virginia law imposes upon school personnel the legal responsibility of reporting to the local child protective services agency any incident of suspected child abuse or neglect.

In accordance with the *Code of Virginia*, (Section 63.2–118, “Any person required to make a report or conduct an investigation or family assessment, pursuant to this chapter may talk to any child suspected of being abused or neglected or to any of his siblings without consent of and outside the presence of his parent/guardian, legal custodian, or other person standing in *loco parentis* or school personnel.”

WELLNESS POLICY

The Diocese of Arlington Office of Catholic Schools Wellness Policy meets minimum federal standards and establishes goals for physical education, nutrition, and healthy environments in schools. All schools must develop, and continue to evaluate, local school wellness policies. The

local policies create a framework for increased student activity, staff wellness, safe and healthy environments, and the elimination of foods of minimal nutritional value during the school day. All schools have wellness committees to implement, sustain, and evaluate the local wellness program.

ACCIDENTS AND FIRST AID

The parents/guardians of an injured student will be notified of the accident/injury by the principal/administration or the principal/administration's designee as soon as reasonably possible, taking into consideration such factors as the apparent severity of the accident/injury and the priority of providing assistance to the student.

If an incident results in a medical condition or injury which can be reasonably known to the appropriate supervisory faculty/staff member and/or the principal, the school and/or its staff are authorized to render reasonable basic first aid if such direct medical assistance would, in the opinion of the school, serve to minimize the severity of the injured person's condition. As an example, staff should initially resort to using only ice, band aids, soap and water when treating cuts and/or scrapes to avoid any possible known or unknown allergic reactions to salves or creams. In addition, staff may secure a professional diagnosis and/or treatment if such action, in the opinion of the school, appears to be reasonably warranted. The school and school officials shall be expressly held harmless from any liability costs or expenses associated with the professional diagnosis and/or any treatment or first aid provided (including but not limited to the cost of transportation), such costs or expenses being the responsibility of the injured party or, if a student, the student's parents.

AIR QUALITY AND PREVENTION OF HEAT/COLD RELATED ILLNESS

When students and activities require time outside, schools will monitor weather related to the 'feels like' temperature. To prevent heat and/or cold related illness, outside activities may be restricted based upon a heat index or wind chill factor, which registers in the caution level. Schools will consult local weather reports and Appendix F-15 for guidance in outdoor activities. Schools that do not have air-conditioned classrooms are permitted to provide early dismissals in accordance with Appendix F-15.

ILLNESS

Each school will provide a health office or comfortable space, apart from the student population, where children who become ill or injured can be cared for following *Virginia School Health Guidelines*.

Children with fevers, contagious, or infectious diseases will be sent home promptly and excluded from school while in that condition, per Virginia Department of Health regulations. Once the student is confirmed to be free of communicable illness by a healthcare provider or is fever

free/symptom free for 24 hours without taking anti-fever medications, the student may return to school, afterschool, and extracurricular activities.

When a student is requesting a waiver from participating in Physical Education classes and/or recess, parents are required to submit a written statement from their child's physician which states any activity restrictions with regard to participation in Physical Education classes and/or recess. The statement is expected to include a specific time frame for the activity restrictions.

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION OVERVIEW

All school clinics, administrators, and staff are required to administer medication within the framework of the procedures outlined in diocesan policy and summarized here.

All prescription and over the counter (OTC) medications may be administered during the school day under the following conditions:

- a. When the need for administration of medicines during school hours has been confirmed by the school nurse/health assistant (or the school administration);
- b. After the first dose of any medication has been given at home;
- c. When the parent/guardian provides and transports the medication to and from school and the medication is given directly to the school nurse/health assistant or a senior member of the school administration;
- d. When there is a licensed health care provider's written order signed by the parent/guardian requesting the school administer the medication or to permit the student to self-administer the medication;
- e. When the medication is brought to the school in its original container stating the name of the student, the dosage and method of administration prescribed by a licensed health-care provider. It is the parent's or guardian's responsibility to notify the school of any changes to the original prescription. The new prescription must also be brought to the school in the original container as stated above;
- f. When the appropriate medication authorization form (*Appendix F-6*) has been completed, signed by the parent/guardian and accompanies the medication;
- g. For any medication, parents must document the number of tablets or dosages to be secured for administration by authorized school personnel. If tablets are to be divided, the parent or guardian is responsible for dividing the tablets in order to achieve their child's proper dosage.
- h. Herbal and homeopathic medications will not be given in Diocesan schools without written authorization by a LHCP that shall include desired and adverse effects. Protein supplements will not be administered unless directly requested by a physician with a health treatment plan.
- i. Under no circumstances are medications to be shared with other students.

- j. Picc Lines, Heparin/Saline Locks, and Central Venous Lines may be present in students with specialized health care needs. Dressing changes, heparin flushes, and other medication administration via these lines are to be done at home, not at school.

When the medication is epinephrine, trained school employees are permitted to administer Epi-pen injections when:

- a. the parents advise the staff most directly involved with the student of the situations when an Epi-pen may need to be administered (e.g., symptoms indicating that a person is suffering from severe allergic reaction, basic procedures for administering the Epi-pen with a suitable demonstration);
- b. parents of students requiring such injections provide a licensed health-care provider letter attesting to the life-threatening allergy;
- c. parents agree to execute the release of liability/hold harmless agreement regarding the use of the Epi-pen.

All diocesan schools will maintain non-student-specific school stock epinephrine. This school stock epinephrine can be used in an allergy-naïve student when anaphylaxis is suspected. Employees at the school will be informed of the location where the medication will be stored, and they will be appropriately educated on its use.

All diocesan schools will maintain naloxone, an opioid antagonist, to be available for use if opioid overdose is suspected in any individual on school campus. Any student receiving naloxone will be transported via EMS to the local emergency room and cleared to return to school. All staff will be trained in how to recognize opioid overdose and administer naloxone.

A student is NOT permitted to self-medicate. The school does not assume responsibility for medications taken independently by the student. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis for students who demonstrate the capability to carry and self-administer emergency lifesaving medications (e.g. inhaler, Epi-pen).

All OTC and prescription medications are to be kept locked in the clinic/school office and be administered by the school nurse, clinic aide, principal or trained designee. No student is to carry/possess medications without appropriate medical authorization. No medication will be administered unless the school has received a signed copy of the Medication Authorization Form (*Appendix F-6*). OTC medications do not require a health care provider's signature unless the medication is required for four (4) or more consecutive days.

It shall be the student's responsibility to come to the clinic/school office at the appropriate time for medication unless a health care provider or parent/guardian indicates in writing that the student cannot do this.

Within one week after expiration of the effective date on the order, or on the last day of school, the parent/guardian must personally collect any unused portion of the medication. Medications

not claimed within that period will be destroyed.

LIFE THREATENING ALLERGY

Schools will utilize current resources and reputable materials such as: Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE) and the CDC's *Voluntary Guidelines for Managing Food Allergies in Schools and Early Care and Education Programs* to develop allergen management communications for student handbooks, classrooms, and parental publications.

All schools must provide an annual in-service educating school faculty and staff about the policy. Training will include minimizing the risk of exposure to life threatening allergens in the school setting as well as anaphylaxis recognition, medical management, and incident reporting.

Schools will utilize the policy to develop allergen management communications for student handbooks, classrooms, and parental publications. Schools will select and train staff to be utilized as anaphylaxis response teams responsible for managing an allergic crisis.

Parents/guardians of students with a life-threatening allergy must inform the principal and school health personnel of any allergies and provide schools with fully executed diocesan documents. Parents/guardians are expected to supply schools with any emergency medications as prescribed and may additionally provide the student with "safe" foods for classroom celebrations involving food. Schools will utilize diocesan documents to formulate an emergency care plan for the student and will share this care plan with those involved with the student including, but not limited to: teacher(s), food service, bus drivers, and janitorial staff.

TELEHEALTH

Medical appointments made via telehealth cannot be facilitated in the school building. If a student has been scheduled for a telehealth visit for medical reasons, the parent/guardian will need to check his/her student out of the school building and complete the appointment in the privacy of their vehicle or at home.

If a school is able to adequately support virtual regularly scheduled therapy sessions in the building (e.g., occupational or speech therapy) for students with a documented diagnosis, they can do so on a case-by-case basis after evaluating the specific circumstances.

SPECIALIZED STUDENT CARE NEEDS

The parent/guardian of any student on a continuing regimen for a non-episodic condition shall inform the school principal/administration and identify, in writing, the student's supervising health care provider. If necessary, and with parental written consent, there may be occasions when the school needs to communicate with the health care provider regarding possible effects on the student's healthcare management, special emergency procedures, or behavior at school.

TOILETING/INCONTINENCE

Although the vast majority of school staff would assist in an emergency situation, as no child should be left in wet or soiled clothing, it is important to note that there is no expectation that routine and predictable incidents are to be dealt with by school staff.

Parents/guardians will always be contacted in incidents of soiling. The exception to this policy is the student with a prescribed health-related treatment or procedure plan obtained in writing from a LHCP, with proper authorizations in writing by the parent or guardian.

For preschool students, it is recognized that continence training is an area of development which is reached at different ages for all children and that every child has individual needs which are respected. The preschool director will determine age-appropriate protocols for the student population.

USE OF CRUTCHES

An order from a licensed healthcare provider is required to use crutches at school. If a student arrives at school on crutches without a licensed health-care provider order, the parent will be called to take the student home.

CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

DISEASE

Parents/guardians must notify the school within 24 hours if their child or any member of the immediate household has developed a communicable disease. Parents must notify the school immediately if the disease is life threatening. Parents must pick up their sick or injured child in a timely manner when contacted. If the parent cannot be reached, emergency contacts will be called to pick up the child.

The protection and welfare of each individual student is of great importance in the schools of the Diocese of Arlington. In an effort to enhance the protection of students:

- a. No daycare/preschool, elementary, middle, or secondary school student may attend class without documentary proof of adequate immunization in accordance with Virginia Department of Health's school entry requirements (or modified schedule as approved by licensed health care provider) on the Virginia School Entrance Health Form MCH-213G (*Appendix F-2*).
 - i. A certificate of immunization is not required for any student for whom the school has written certification from a licensed doctor of medicine or osteopathy, licensed nurse practitioner, or the local health department, that one of more of the required immunizations may be detrimental to the student's health. The certification must indicate the specific nature and

probable duration of the medical condition or circumstance that contraindicates immunization. The Virginia School Entrance Health Form (MCH-213G) provides a space for such a certification to be made

- ii. On a basic level, for the good of society, the Catholic church generally encourages the use of immunizations. The Church teaches that questions of immunization are ‘left to a matter of conscience’ and parents have the right to decide about the health of their children in this matter. Parents or guardians who object to the administration of immunizing agents for their child on the grounds that this conflicts with their religious tenets or practices must produce a notarized Certificate of Religious Exemption form (Appendix F-18), which will be retained in the student health record. Schools may request a statement from their parish priest or affiliate, describing such objection to specific immunizing agents. If an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable illness occurs, the student who is not immunized against that disease, will be excluded from school for an undetermined period of time as per the instructions of the State Health Commissioner and the public health department.
- b. Students who have traveled or resided in a foreign country for three months or more, where tuberculosis is common, are required to provide documentation, prior to school entry, of a negative tuberculosis skin test or chest x-ray result. All diocesan schools are responsible for compliance with local health department regulations pertaining to tuberculosis screening and treatment.
- c. Students with fevers and/or contagious or infectious diseases will be sent home promptly and will be excluded from school while in that condition, according to the Virginia Department of Health regulations. Once the student is confirmed to be free of communicable illness by a healthcare provider or is fever free/symptom free for 24 hours without taking anti-fever medications, the student may return to school.
- d. School health personnel will follow the Virginia Department of Health Communicable Disease Chart, found in the *Virginia School Health Guidelines*, when referring suspected cases of communicable disease to the local health department for excluding or readmitting a student.
- e. The Diocese of Arlington has comprehensive guidelines for school/parish-based influenza vaccination clinics. The liability associated with the vaccination of children is great. The Diocese of Arlington does not promote school-based vaccination clinics for children during school hours, and in the absence of the parent, with the exception of a state or federal emergency. Any school wishing to offer an onsite school immunization program must comply with all aspects of the Memorandum of Agreement Vendors wishing to serve as vaccinators must be fully vetted by the Office of Risk Management prior to the signing of any contract for services.

LICE

All students identified as having an active case of lice will be excluded from school until they receive treatment. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide appropriate and adequate treatment for the student and home environment as recommended by their health care professional. Readmission to school is determined by the school nurse/administration based upon re-inspection and the effectiveness of treatment. Follow up treatment is expected and verified by the school nurse/administration. Classroom contacts may be inspected.

BLOODBORNE DISEASE

The Christian community is called to respond to the sick in our midst with compassion and justice. The diocese recognizes its obligation to protect the rights of individual students infected with Hepatitis and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and to provide a safe environment for students, staff members, and the public. Students who are infected with bloodborne Hepatitis, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), or HIV-related conditions must be provided the opportunity to receive a Catholic school education.

Since it is known that bloodborne Hepatitis and HIV are not transmitted through casual contact, any student who is infected will continue education in a regular classroom assignment unless his or her health status requires otherwise. It is the intent of the Diocese of Arlington Office of Catholic Schools to follow the recommendations of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Health, which state that most bloodborne Hepatitis and HIV-infected children be allowed to attend school in an unrestricted setting, and that decisions regarding school attendance be based on the medical condition of each child and the expected type of interaction with others in that setting.

Persons involved in the implementation and monitoring of this policy shall maintain confidentiality of records in compliance with federal and state law and diocesan policy. All diocesan schools shall also maintain a program of information and training for school staff members to ensure a consistent and accurate understanding regarding prevention of exposure to bloodborne pathogens. This includes training related to the proper application of universal/standard precautions.

FIRE/EMERGENCY DRILLS

Fire drills are conducted on a regular basis, weekly during the month of September and monthly thereafter. Students are made aware of, and practice other emergency drills throughout the year. Students are expected to remain silent and follow instructions during all emergency drills.

HARASSMENT

Harassment can take place in person or in writing and can be physical, verbal, or electronic. Regardless of its form, the Diocese of Arlington prohibits it.

This policy applies to the school site itself, to all school-sponsored and affiliated activities and events, whether in school or out of school, including but not limited to special events, field/service trips, retreats and/or other overnight trips, sporting events and practices, to all forms of transportation used by school personnel and students to come and go to the school and school-affiliated activities, and to all forms/use of technology.

Furthermore, since student behavior, whether inside or outside of school, reflects on our schools and can have a significant impact on life at school, there are times when it is appropriate and important for school administration to respond to incidents that occur outside of school and beyond school hours. Therefore, the schools reserve the right to discipline those in the community who engage in harassment of other school community members at any location and at any time if such harassment takes the form of obscene, libelous, slanderous language or incites violence, invades the rights of others, or contributes to a substantial disruption of the school community. Therefore, if such harassment originates outside of school and it comes to the attention of school staff, appropriate action will be taken to maintain a safe and respectful work and academic environment. As the primary educators of their children, parents have the responsibility to handle harassment issues not involving the school and that are occurring outside of school.

Bullying, harassment, intimidation, or retaliation against anyone who has reported these behaviors is prohibited. Students engaging in these behaviors are subject to disciplinary and/or legal action. Students, parents, employees, and service providers are responsible for reporting incidents of bullying, harassment, intimidation, or retaliation on campus. School principals will ensure that all illegal behaviors are reported to the appropriate local authorities and the Superintendent of Catholic Schools immediately.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND/OR SEXUAL ABUSE – STUDENTS

No student is to sexually harass or sexually abuse another person. All reports of harassment or abuse will be thoroughly, and appropriately investigated, and disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate, up to and including expulsion. Instances of sexual abuse, that has been investigated and confirmed, will result in suspension at a minimum. If it appears that a violation of criminal law may have occurred, the matter will be reported to law enforcement authorities. During the investigation of an alleged crime, any student alleged to have perpetrated or participated in it may need to be asked to leave campus.

Any student who believes that he or she has been sexually harassed or abused needs to immediately report such information to a trusted member of the school staff. If a student makes a report, the staff member will report the information to the principal. A student who is uncomfortable for any reason with reporting such alleged harassment/abuse to a trusted member of the school staff, or is not satisfied in doing so, may report the matter directly to the Superintendent of Schools. Any information reported shall, to the extent possible, be treated as confidential.

No student will be subject to any retaliation or disciplinary action on the part of the school for reports of sexual harassment/abuse made in good faith.

Children under 17 years of age cannot legally consent under Virginia State Law to having sex or sexual contact with an adult. **Any sexual contact between a student under 17 and an adult is a crime. It must be reported to the police.**

In addition, any sexual or romantic conduct between a school employee or an employee of a contracted service provider and a present student of any age, even if 17 years of age or older, and even if consented to or welcomed by the student, is strictly prohibited by this policy while the student is attending a diocesan school and for one year post-date of graduation, and will result in dismissal of the adult involved. As such, this policy prohibits sexting between students and employees or employees of contracted service providers and the showing of pornography to any student by any such adult. Such activity will result in the dismissal of the adult involved and the reporting of such conduct to the appropriate authorities.

In an effort to minimize/address sexual harassment/abuse, students in grades 6 to 12 must receive appropriate age level instruction pertaining to harassment by September 30th of every school year (*Appendix AB*). The Validation of Sexual Harassment Instruction must be completed and submitted annually to the Office of Catholic Schools by September 30th (*Appendix H-1*).

BULLYING

Bullying is defined as any aggressive and unwanted behavior that is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate the person being bullied; involves a real or perceived power imbalance between aggressor or aggressors and person being bullied; and is repeated over time or causes severe emotional trauma. Bullying includes cyber bullying. Bullying does not include inappropriate developmental teasing, horseplay, argument, or peer conflict.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- a. Physical intimidation or assault
- b. Extortion
- c. Oral or written threats, including text messaging
- d. Malicious teasing
- e. Putdowns
- f. Name calling
- g. Threatening looks
- h. Gestures or acts of aggression (overt and covert)

- i. Cruel rumors & false accusations
- j. Social isolation
- k. Cyberbullying

Bullying is prohibited. School personnel will not tolerate any bullying on diocesan school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity (on or off school grounds). In addition, the Office of Catholic Schools expects students and parents who become aware of an act of bullying or cyberbullying to report it to appropriate school personnel (e.g. principal, teacher, school counselor). The Office of Catholic Schools expects staff members who become aware of an incident of bullying or cyberbullying to take appropriate steps to intervene unless intervention would be a threat to staff members' safety. If a staff member believes that his/her intervention has not resolved the matter, or if the bullying persists, he/she shall report the bullying to the school principal for further investigation.

In cases of reported bullying, the principal or designee shall interview all students involved (i.e. the alleged aggressor(s) and the alleged target(s)) and investigate, as appropriate. This investigation may include interviews with students, parents/guardians, and school staff; review of school records; and identification of parent and family issues. Any student who retaliates against another for reporting bullying will be subject to appropriate consequences.

Consequences for students who bully others shall depend on the results of the investigation and may include:

- a. Counseling
- b. Parent conference
- c. Detention
- d. Suspension and/or expulsion

Depending on the severity of the incident(s), the principal may also report incidents of bullying to law enforcement.

HAZING

Hazing is defined as the imposition of strenuous, often humiliating, tasks as part of a program of rigorous physical training and initiation.

Hazing is prohibited. School personnel will not tolerate any hazing on diocesan school grounds, in virtual school, or at any school-sponsored activity (on or off school grounds). In addition, the Office of Catholic Schools expects students and parents who become aware of an act of hazing to report it to appropriate school personnel (e.g. principal, teacher, school counselor). The Office of Catholic Schools expects staff members who become aware of an incidence of hazing to report the hazing to school administration for further investigation.

In cases of reported hazing, the principal or designee shall interview all students involved (i.e., the alleged aggressor(s) and the alleged target(s)) and investigate, as appropriate. This investigation may include interviews with students, parents/guardians, and school staff; review of school records; and identification of parent and family issues. Any student who retaliates against another for reporting hazing will be subject to appropriate consequences.

Consequences for students who engage in hazing shall depend on the results of the investigation and may include:

- a. Counseling
- b. A parent conference
- c. Detention
- d. Suspension and/or expulsion

Depending on the severity of the incident(s), the principal may also report incidents of hazing to law enforcement.

RACISM

Racism is defined as prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism by an individual, community, or institution against a person or people on the basis of their membership in a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- a. Discrimination
- b. Victimization
- c. Oral or written threats, including text messaging
- d. Malicious Teasing
- e. Putdowns
- f. Name calling
- g. Threatening looks
- h. Gestures or acts of aggression (Overt and Covert)
- i. Cruel rumors and false accusations
- j. Social Isolation
- k. Cyber-racism (racism that takes place using digital devices)

Racism is prohibited. School personnel will not tolerate any racism on Diocesan school grounds

or at any school-sponsored activity (on or off school grounds). In addition, the Office of Catholic Schools expects students and parents who become aware of an act of racism to report it to appropriate school personnel (e.g. principal, teacher, school counselor). The Office of Catholic Schools expects staff members who become aware of any racism incident to take appropriate steps to intervene unless intervention would be a threat to staff members' safety. Every instance of suspected racism should be brought immediately to the attention of school leadership.

In cases of reported racism, the principal or designee shall interview all students involved (i.e., the alleged aggressor(s) and the alleged target(s)) and investigate, as appropriate. This investigation may include interviews with students, parents, and school staff; review of school records; and identification of parent and family issues. Any student who retaliates against another for reporting racist behavior will be subject to appropriate consequences.

Consequences for students engaged in racist behavior shall depend on the results of the investigation and may include:

- a. Counseling
- b. A parent conference
- c. Detention
- d. Suspension and/or expulsion

Depending on the severity of the incident(s), the principal may also report incidents of racism to law enforcement.

RESPECT FOR LIFE

A fundamental tenet of our Catholic faith is that human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. In the event of a student pregnancy or participation in an abortion, the school may condition continued enrollment in the school upon the student's/family's compliance with the foregoing and other corollary tenets of the Catholic Church.

ASBESTOS MANDATORY YEARLY NOTIFICATION

ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

In 1986, Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) which requires schools to be inspected to identify any asbestos-containing building materials.

The law further requires an asbestos management plan to be in place. You are welcome to review a copy of the asbestos management plan at the school during regular business hours.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

School leadership at each individual school must install video surveillance cameras in order to maintain a safe and secure environment.

- a. Video surveillance cameras may be placed in public locations deemed appropriate. Such locations may include, without limitation, school entrances/exits, lobby areas, hallways, classrooms, cafeterias, athletic areas, gathering spaces, and outdoor grounds, as well as school buses.
- b. Restrooms, changing rooms, private offices, nurse’s offices, and locker rooms are excluded from security camera use.
- c. It is recognized that it will not be possible to monitor all building areas, rooms, and grounds, or to monitor any location at all times.

To the extent video images may be deemed appropriate to create student records or personnel records, the school shall comply with any applicable state and federal laws related to record maintenance, retention, and disclosure.

Video images obtained by the school shall be viewed by authorized school and diocesan personnel as necessary. The school and the diocese may rely on the images obtained by the video surveillance cameras in connection with the enforcement of diocesan or school policies, regulations, codes of conduct, building rules, and other applicable laws or rules, including, but not limited to, use of such images in student disciplinary proceedings and matters referred to local law enforcement agencies in accordance with applicable law. Video images may become part of a student’s educational record in accordance with applicable law.

All video recordings shall be stored in a secure place. Recordings will be saved for no less than 60 days and may be retained longer if deemed appropriate. All video recordings are the sole property of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington. Release of such videos will be made only with the permission of the diocesan Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee.

IX. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Office of Catholic Schools recognizes the beauty and potential inherent within each student. In an effort to foster continued growth, the school embraces the opportunity to provide assistance and services for students with disabilities according to the resources available within/to the school. Parents/guardians are considered an integral part of the process.

In order to accommodate a student who has been evaluated for special learning needs, parents are obligated to share educational/psychological testing results and any resulting plan with the school. The refusal to provide such information is grounds for terminating enrollment in the

school. A student may be admitted on a probationary basis with dates and criteria of evaluation clearly established in writing.

If a student has a documented disability, a copy of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Individualized Services Plan (ISP), 504 plan, and/or Student Assistance Plan (SAP) should be maintained in the student's confidential file. Students who have a documented disability, but do not qualify for services through the local public school, may be eligible for interventions through a Student Assistance Plan written at the Catholic school.

When a student qualifies for special education services through the public school and will not receive services, an Individualized Catholic Education Plan can be written following the information in the Guidelines for Serving Students with Disabilities.

Failure of the parent to sign the Student Assistance Plan or Individualized Catholic Education Plan does not prevent the implementation of the plan.

Students with disabilities are expected to follow the school's policies and honor code.

SERVICE DOGS

Animals are prohibited on school property with the exception of service dogs to accommodate a person's disability. Exceptions may be made for use in educational programs and for education related purposes such as class pets or student assemblies.

X. EXTENDED DAY

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

The school offers an extended day program on days when the school is in session for students who are currently enrolled in the school's academic program. See Section IV, *General School Policies*, regarding fees to utilize this program. Parents/guardians must sign their child(ren) in/out when they are being placed in/released from the program at the beginning and end of the school day, respectively. All provisions in this handbook (except Section II, *Academics*, but including the section on *Technology*), apply to the Extended Day Program.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT/EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

A Crisis Management/Emergency Preparedness Plan has been developed and approved. All employees have been trained accordingly.

OVER-THE-COUNTER SKIN PRODUCTS

All non-prescription drugs and over-the-counter skin products shall be used in accordance with

the manufacturer’s recommendations. Non-prescription drugs and over-the-counter skin products shall not be kept or used beyond the expiration date of the product. All products to be used must have a Medication Administration Form (*Appendix F-6*) completed by parent/guardian.

For all over-the-counter skin products:

- a. written parent/guardian authorization noting any known adverse reactions shall be obtained;
- b. shall be in the original container labeled with the child’s name;
- c. does not need to be kept locked, but shall be inaccessible to children under five years of age;
- d. any center-kept sunscreen shall be hypo-allergenic and have a minimum SPF of 15;
- e. children nine years of age and older may administer their own sunscreen, if supervised.

When insect repellent is used, a record shall be kept that includes the child’s name, date of use, frequency of application, and any adverse reaction. Manufacturer’s instructions for age, duration, and dosage shall be followed.

LICENSING INFORMATION

The Commonwealth of Virginia helps assure parents/guardians that child day programs that assume responsibility for the supervision, protection, and well-being of a child for any part of a 24-hour day are safe. The Code of Virginia, Section 63.2-1716, allows child day centers operated by religious institutions the opportunity to file for an exemption from licensure by meeting documentation and other requirements specified within the religious exemption law.

Standards for licensed child day centers address certain health precautions, adequate play space, a ratio of children per staff member, equipment, program and record keeping. Criminal record checks and specific qualifications for staff and most volunteers working directly with children are also required. Standards require the facility to meet applicable fire, health, and building codes.

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION

In compliance with the Code of Virginia, Section 63.2-1716, ALL Diocese of Arlington Preschools and are religiously exempt from licensure and are classified as a “religiously exempt child day center.”

If you would like additional information about the licensing of child day programs or would like

to register a complaint, please call the Office of Child Care Licensing toll-free at 833-778-0204.

INSURANCE

The extended day program is covered by public liability insurance through the Diocese of Arlington and the Catholic Mutual Relief Society of America. Student insurance must be provided by the family through their own policy or purchased through an independent school insurance provider.

TAX INFORMATION

Because the Internal Revenue Service requires identification of care givers in order to claim a credit for child and dependent care expenses, the program staff will complete and return to the parent/guardian any W-10 that is sent in, provided Part II is already completed by the parent.

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT

In compliance with state regulations for state licensed programs, a custodial parent/guardian shall be admitted to any child day program. Such right of admission shall apply only while the child is in the child day program (63.2-1813 of Code of Virginia).

RIGHT TO AMEND

Holy Spirit School reserves the right to amend this Handbook. Notice of amendments will be sent to parents via the weekly electronic newsletter and/or through e-mail communication from the principal.

APPENDICES

Diocesan Forms:

- Permission for Emergency Care Form (*Appendix F-1*)
- Confidential Student Health History Update (*Appendix F-1A*)
- Virginia School Entrance Health Form (*Appendix F-2*)
- Asthma Action Plan with Indemnification (*Appendix F-3*)
- Anaphylaxis Action Plan with Indemnification (*Appendix F-4*)
- Diabetes Quick Reference and Indemnification (*Appendix F-5*)
- Virginia Diabetes Medical Management Plan (*Appendix F-5A*)
- Diocese Medication Authorization Form (*Appendix F-6*)
- Wind Chill Factors/Heat Stress Index (*Appendix F-15*)
- Certificate of Religious Exemption (*Appendix F-18*)
- Seizure Action Plan (*Appendix F-20*)

Code of Conduct for Personnel and Volunteers in the Diocese of Arlington.English (*Appendix G-1*)

Codigo de Conducta para el Personal y Voluntarios en la Diócesis de Arlington.Spanish (*Appendix G-2*)

Photo, Press, Audio, and Electronic Media Release for Minors (*Appendix N*)

Parent Permission for School Sponsored Trip Participation.English (*Appendix R*)

Permiso De Los Padres Para Excursiones Patrocinados Por La Esquela.Spanish (*Appendix R-A*)

Use of Personal Vehicle (*Appendix R-1*)

Elementary/Middle School Handbook Agreement Form (*Appendix AG-1*)

Signature Page