

Elementary School Parent/Student Handbook
Saint Patrick Catholic School
2023-2024



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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION/MISSION STATEMENT	1
Diocesan Philosophy of Catholic Education	1
Diocesan Mission Statement	1
School Mission Statement/Philosophy	1
Student/Parent Handbook	1
Parental/Guardian Role	2
Non-Discrimination Clause	3
Non-Catholic Students	3
II. ACADEMICS	5
Curriculum	7
Virtual Instruction	7
Implementation of Family Life Program	7
Textbooks/Supplemental Materials	8
Technology – Responsible Use Policy	8
Testing	11
Homework	11
Suggested Time Allotments	11
Parent-Teacher Communication	12
Scheduling and Other Conference Information	12
Grading/Report Cards	12
Grading System	13
Academic Progress Scale	13
Indicators for Effort, Specials, and Personal Development:	13
Promotion/Retention/Placement Policy	13
School Counselors	14
III. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES	15
Admissions	15
Diocesan Initial Admission Requirements	15
Age for Admission to Kindergarten	15
Requirements for School Admission: Preschool – Grade 5	15
Requirements for Admission to Grades 6 – 12	16
General Conditions of Admission	17
F-1 (NON-IMMIGRANT)	17
Class Placement	19
Attendance	20
Diocesan Policy for Attendance Requirements	20
Absence/Tardiness/Leaving School	20
Tardiness	21
Absences for Other Reasons	21

Attendance/Reporting Procedures	21
Transferring to Another School	22
Arrival and Dismissal	22
 IV. GENERAL SCHOOL POLICIES	 23
Administrative	23
Student Custody and Guardianship	23
Access to Records	23
Transfer of Records	23
Confidential Academic Records.....	24
Retention of Records	24
School Visitors	25
School Communications.....	25
Principal’s Communication	25
Take-Home Communication	25
Telephone Use/Messages for Students.....	25
Inclement Weather/School Closings	25
Photos and Other Media	26
Media Center	26
Field Trips	26
Overnight Trips	27
March for Life Policy	27
Graduation Requirements/Ceremonies	28
Parent Organizations	28
Fund Raising	29
Transportation/Parking	29
 V. FINANCES	 30
Diocese of Arlington Tuition Assistance Program.....	30
Application Process & Requirements	30
School Tuition Policies	30
Tuition and other Fee Schedules	31
 VI. CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	 32
Participation.....	32
Transportation of Athletes	33
Supervision of Students.....	33
 VII. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES & BEHAVIOR.....	 33
Code of Conduct	33
Substance Abuse/Weapons.....	34
Discipline	36
Use of Disciplinary Action	36
Disciplinary Measures.....	36

Specific Disciplinary Policies	36
Suspension.....	37
Expulsion.....	38
Student Regulations and Procedures	38
Students and Student Property Searches.....	38
Interrogation of Students	39
Students and Student Property.....	39
School Lockers and Desks	39
Care of School Property	39
Dress Code	40
Uniform Requirements & Other Pertinent Information.....	40
Inappropriate Materials	45
Playground Regulations	45
Lunchroom Regulations	45
 VIII. HEALTH, SAFETY, & WELFARE	 46
Student Health, Safety, & Welfare.....	46
Prevention of Sexual Misconduct and/or Child Abuse	46
Wellness Policy	46
Accidents and First Aid.....	47
Illness	47
Medication Administration Overview.....	47
Specialized Student Care Needs.....	49
Toileting/Incontinence.....	49
Use of Crutches	50
Use of Microwave Oven.....	50
Life Threatening Allergy.....	50
Control of Communicable Diseases.....	50
Disease	50
Lice.....	51
Bloodborne Disease	52
Fire/Emergency Drills	53
Sexual Harassment AND/OR SEXUAL ABUSE – Students.....	53
Hazing	54
Bullying.....	55
Respect For Life	56
Asbestos Mandatory Yearly Notification	56
Asbestos Notification (Sample letter)	56
Video Surveillance Cameras	57
 IX. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.....	 58
 X. EXTENDED DAY	 59
Extended Day Program	59

Crisis Management/Emergency Preparedness Plan	59
Over-the-Counter Skin Products	59
licensing information.....	60
Insurance	61
Tax Information.....	62
Parental/Guardian Involvement.....	62
 APPENDICES.....	 62
School Forms	
Additional School Information	
Diocesan Forms:	
Permission for Emergency Care Form (<i>Appendix F-1</i>)	
Confidential Student Health History Update (<i>Appendix F-1A</i>)	
Virginia School Entrance Health Form (<i>Appendix F-2</i>)	
Asthma Action Plan with Indemnification (<i>Appendix F-3</i>)	
Anaphylaxis Action Plan with Indemnification (<i>Appendix F-4</i>)	
Diabetes Quick Reference and Indemnification (<i>Appendix F-5</i>)	
Virginia Diabetes Medical Management Plan (<i>Appendix F-5A</i>)	
Diocese Medication Authorization Form (<i>Appendix F6</i>)	
Student Injury Accident Report (<i>Appendix F-7</i>)	
Wind Chill Factors/Heat Stress Index (<i>Appendix F-15</i>)	
Certificate of Religious Exemption (<i>Appendix F-18</i>)	
Seizure Action Plan (<i>Appendix F-20</i>)	
Photo, Press, Audio, and Electronic Media Release for Minors (<i>Appendix N</i>)	
Parent Permission for School Sponsored Trip Participation English (<i>Appendix R</i>)	
Permiso De Los Padres Para Excursiones Patrocinados Por La Escuela.Spanish	
(<i>Appendix R-A</i>)	
Use of Personal Vehicle (<i>Appendix R-1</i>)	
Elementary/Middle School Handbook Agreement Form (<i>Appendix AG-1</i>)	
 SIGNATURE PAGE	 63



Dear Parents,

This handbook will serve as your guide to St. Patrick Catholic School policy and procedure. I invite you to review the information carefully and make a commitment to be supportive of our endeavors. The policies are guidelines for sharing the responsibilities of educating our children, and are a result of state regulations, the Diocesan Handbook, and policies specific to the needs of St. Patrick. I hope that through these policies the mission of St Patrick Catholic School will be accomplished: to provide a Christ-centered learning environment, leading our students to do God's will in this world.

I ask you to pray for our school faculty, staff, and families as we work together for the Christian formation and academic success of our children. The success of the 2023-2024 school year will depend on your commitment to mutual respect, cooperation, and support of each other.

Thank you for your support, and I look forward to an exciting and successful school year! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

God Bless,

Brian Dunleavy
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/PHILOSOPHY

The Mission of Saint Patrick Catholic School, rooted in the richness of Catholic Tradition, is to provide a Christ-centered learning environment, leading our students to do God's will in this world. Recognizing that our students are unique creations of God that are blessed with special talents and gifts, we strive to empower them to become active and creative 21st century learners.

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-2). An acknowledgment form will be provided to students upon receipt of the handbook and 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 preventing a student from enrolling or continuing to be enrolled at the school.

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

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

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 as Catholic supports this premise. The Catholic school exists to assist parents in the Christian formation of their children.

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.

The Diocese of Arlington Office of Catholic Schools respects the role of parents as the primary educators 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.

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.

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, but 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.

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.

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.

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 educational program in the school. 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. 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.

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 manual. 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.

II. ACADEMICS

CURRICULUM

Curriculum encompasses the sequentially ordered learning experiences which the school provides for its students virtual and in person. 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 Scantron Performance Series Exam.
- 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 Scantron Performance Series Exam.
- 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 Scantron Performance Series Exam.
- b. Class grade in Algebra I: 93 or above.
- c. Scoring 77% 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 High School 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 Scantron Performance Series Exam.
- 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 Scantron Performance Series Exam.
- 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. As such, 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*) can be forwarded to the high school. The decision of the high school will be final.

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 even if the day is fully asynchronous.
- 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.

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.

TEXTBOOKS/SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Religion: Ignatius Press
English: Loyola Press (Gr 3-7)
Spelling: Harcourt Brace (Gr 1-2), Words Their Way (Gr 3), Sadlier (Gr 2-8),
Houghton Mifflin (Gr. 4-5), McDougal Littell (Gr. 6-8)
Handwriting: Concerned Communities (Gr. K-3)
Reading: Harcourt Brace (Gr 1-5), McDougal Littell (Gr 6-8)
Phonics: Sadlier (K, 3), Harcourt Brace (Gr 1-3)
Math: Sadlier (K-8), Saxon (Geometry)
Soc. Studies: Harcourt (Gr 2-3), Gibbs, Smith (Gr 4), Pearson (Gr 5-8) Science:
Harcourt (Gr 1-3), Scott Foresman (Gr 4), Pearson (Gr 5-8)

TECHNOLOGY – RESPONSIBLE USE POLICY

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 electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. Operators of the network/system have access to all 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 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.
- g. 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 its services.
- h. 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 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 that individual, 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 other protected media.

- viii. Use technology for any illegal activity. Use of the Internet for commercial gains or profits is not allowed from an educational site.
 - ix. Breach confidentiality obligations of school or school employees.
 - x. Harm the good will and reputation of the school or school employees.
 - xi. 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.
- i. Users must immediately report damage to the appropriate school officials.
 - j. The school has the right to monitor student use of school computer, computer accessed content, 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.
 - k. 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:
 - i. Loss of use of the school network, computers, and software including Internet access.
 - ii. Disciplinary action including, but not limited to, dismissal and/or legal action by the school, civil authorities, or other involved parties.
 - l. 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.

Students may only use the Internet when given specific permission from a teacher and as long as the teacher is present. If the teacher leaves the room, the student must disconnect from the Internet immediately. Unsupervised use is never permitted.

Students are to be reminded that their use of the media on school-related projects should reflect the mission of St. Patrick School. The goals and mission of the school must be foremost in all media presentations and communications.

Students are advised that any derogatory use of the name of the parish, school or any person associated with the school, including priests, administrators, teachers, staff members, parents, students, and volunteers will be considered a very serious infraction of the school's rules. This includes both online use and printed or spoken comments. Students who maintain personal

websites through Facebook or any other site are reminded to pay very careful attention to this regulation. They will be held responsible for anything posted on their site or for a posting they make on any other site. Defamation of the Catholic Church or any church, the faith, the parish, the school, or any of its employees will be cause for suspension or expulsion without any prior disciplinary action.

TESTING

The school's testing program is intended to assist teachers and administrators in a systematic evaluation of the academic and religion programs, to diagnose 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. Eighth grade teachers are encouraged to review only the format and style of the high school placement test with their students.

HOMEWORK

In order to reinforce daily work and develop good study habits, the school promotes specific homework policies.

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

The following time frame for homework is recommended by the Diocese:

Grade 1	10 minutes per night
Grade 2	20 minutes per night
Grade 3	30 minutes per night
Grade 4	40 minutes per night
Grades 5-6	50-60 minutes per night
Grades 7-8	60-90 minutes per night

Homework is ordinarily assigned on a daily basis. Homework should reinforce daily work, develop good study habits, and involve parents in the child's academic work. For younger students, it should foster positive attitudes, habits, and character traits. For older students, it should facilitate knowledge acquisition in specific topics. We encourage the cooperation of

parents in helping to foster systematic home study habits for their children by providing adequate study space, good lighting, and an environment free from distraction. Homework assignments are posted in each class and assignment books are used to record their homework assignment information. Parents are responsible for checking their child's assignment book on a daily basis. Homework is not assigned on Fridays for weekend work or over Thanksgiving break, Christmas break, and Easter break. However, long term assignments and projects, i.e., book reports, science fair, etc. may involve weekend work.

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.

SCHEDULING AND OTHER CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Formal conferences between parents and teachers follow the first report card in November. Parents can schedule their conference by signing up at the school. Parents desiring an additional conference with the teachers are asked to make this request in writing or to call the teacher at school. Teachers will likewise notify parents by note or by phone should an individual case require this. **As a general rule, teachers are not available during school hours.** Arrangements must be made to see them either before or after school. **Please do not call the teacher at home or visit the classroom without an appointment.**

Parents wishing to confer with the principal about a child are welcome to do so after having first conferred with the child's teacher.

GRADING/REPORT CARDS

Overall 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 tests to include but not be limited to projects, portfolios, and other tools of assessment.

The purpose of report cards is to alert the parents/guardians and present to them an assessment of their child's achievement in his/her academic studies.

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.

St. Patrick School academic classes are graded on a 7-point scale, Specials classes are on a 10-point grading scale. See the 7-point scale listed below.

- 100-93 A
- 92-85 B
- 84-77 C
- 76-70-D
- 69 and below F

For a student to attain Principal's List a student must earn a 93 and up for all grades. To attain Honor Roll a student must earn an 85 and up for all grades.

INDICATORS FOR EFFORT, SPECIALS, AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT:

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

Report cards are issued three times a year. The yearly average, the average of the year's three marking periods, is recorded on the child's permanent record file in the school office.

Parents are able to view their child(ren)'s progress through PowerSchool's Parent Portal throughout the year.

Students in grades 3-8 are eligible to receive academic recognition following each grading period. Honor Roll is determined by a grade in each subject of 85 or above. Principal's List indicates that the student has achieved a 93 or above in each subject. In addition, a student cannot receive an (X) in any of the special subjects to be eligible for the honors program.

PROMOTION/RETENTION/PLACEMENT POLICY

A major goal of the school is to assist 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 summer school or another 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

Saint Patrick School does not employ counselors.

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 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 entering 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)
- i. 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 entering 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)

- i. 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 discriminate (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 as stated in Policy 601.2;
 - 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 entering 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 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;
 - i. 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. The Diocese of Arlington does not provide healthcare insurance for international students.
 - e. Carries applicable healthcare insurance, including for emergencies, that may be needed while in the United States;
2. The Diocese of Arlington does not provide healthcare insurance for international students. 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 Appendix AJ (*Visa Types*);
- 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.
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.

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 as a student, it is the duty of, the principal/administration and teachers to insist on regular attendance. in order that the school 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 continue to enroll who is not attending classes. Relatedly, schools should not continue to collect tuition from a family whose student is not regularly attending school

ABSENCE/TARDINESS/LEAVING SCHOOL

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.

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.

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.

ABSENCE

If a child is absent for any reason, **parents must contact the school office by 9:00 AM to report the absence.** A written excuse explaining the absence must be presented upon return to school. All written excuses will be kept on file for one year.

TARDINESS

One privilege we have in sending our children to Catholic school is the freedom to pray in school. The school day at St. Patrick begins with Morning Prayer. Tardiness disrupts the class, interferes with students' progress in school and is a distraction to teachers, staff members, and other students. It is a parent's responsibility to ensure that their child is at school on time.

Students arriving after 8:10 a.m. are late. The tardy student's parents and/or driver are responsible for escorting their child (ren) to the office to sign in before being admitted to class. Tardy students will be admitted to class after Morning Prayer.

MEDICAL EXCUSES

Doctor and dental appointments should be made on non-school days or before or after school if possible. Requests for early dismissal should be written by the parent and sent to the school with their child. An absence of more than one week that necessitates a visit to the doctor requires a physician's note that the student is able to return to school.

ANTICIPATED ABSENCE

Parents should notify the school if they wish to take their children out of school for several days for personal or medical reasons. The school is under no such obligation to provide a tutor,

makeup work, or a special testing schedule for such absences. The principal in his discretion will determine the conditions and terms governing such absences. Parents are asked to use the school calendar and daily schedules to plan for departures, vacations, and medical appointments

RELEASE OF STUDENTS

Students are released only to parents, or responsible persons designated in writing by the parent or guardian. Parents are not permitted to go into the classroom to pick up their children. Parents should come to the office to sign their child out.

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. Scholastic information 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.

We have no bus service available, and student transportation is by car, carpool, or other arrangements. It is important that you follow the established patterns of drop off and pick up procedures. Please pull your car all the way up to the front gate when dropping off your children. **DO NOT PULL OUT AROUND CARS.**

Please do not come into the building during dismissal. Staff members will direct drivers to park prior to dismissal at 3:10 p.m. After all cars are full you will be directed out of the lot in order. The next wave of cars will pull up and the process will be repeated. Children not picked up by 3:30 p.m. will be placed in our Extended Day Program and the regular Extended Day charges will apply.

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 of the educational records (cumulative and confidential) of their child during school hours. 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 are 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

The following student records are to be retained indefinitely:

Permanent record card (to include transcripts, attendance record, and standardized test results)

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 Assistance Team minutes

The following student records are to be retained for 7 years, or when the student 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 badge when visiting the school.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

The school emails a weekly newsletter on Wednesdays to all families called the Knightly News.

PRINCIPAL'S COMMUNICATION

The principal may send home memos, emails, or letters from time to time to make parents aware of obligations, events going on in the school, and schedule changes.

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.

Communication to parents is through a weekly folder sent home with students on Wednesday each week.

TELEPHONE USE/MESSAGES FOR STUDENTS

At times there are appropriate reasons for students to use the school telephone. Students must seek permission both from his/her teacher and from the administrative office and state the reason prior to using the phone. Students may not call home for missing assignments.

Parents are asked to refrain from calling the school office with messages to be relayed to children unless there is an emergency.

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 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 or public health concern, the school will transition into on-line virtual instruction for the required duration and students will meet academic requirements.

Cancellation of school, delayed openings, or early closings due to inclement weather will be announced on our school website and our Facebook page, We will also use the emergency notification system with recorded phone messages and emails being sent to the parents.

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 books chosen for classroom reading in Diocesan schools must be appropriate for students, not only in age level and reading ability, but also for the moral development which we are working to foster. All books shall conform with Diocesan policies and guidelines regarding Catholic education.

Parents, guardians, or teachers who object to reading or multi-media/audio-visual/computer 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 with educational purposes as the primary objective and in light of financial considerations.

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 20 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 also be understood, in light of world conditions and specifically threats of terrorism against Americans, that it may be necessary to cancel school-sponsored trips due to world and national developments at any time.

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/Experience.

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.

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 through 12 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

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 help the head of school/principal advance the school's mission.

"...since parents have conferred life on their children, they have a most solemn obligation to educate their offspring. Hence, most parents must be acknowledged as the first and foremost educators of their children. Their role as educators is so decisive that scarcely anything can compensate for their failure in it. For it devolves on parents to create a family atmosphere so animated with love and reverence for God and men that a well-rounded personal and social development will be fostered among the children. Hence, the family is the first school of those social virtues which every society needs..." (Declaration on Christian Education – Vatican Council II)

All parent organization activities and all materials prepared by parents must be submitted to the

principal/administration 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.

Persons nominated to serve as a PTO board member must receive the approval of the pastor and principal.

Every school should have an effective Parent-Teacher Organization. An effective Parent-Teacher Organization helps the principal advance the school's mission. It can also help mobilize the parent community regarding legislative proposals impacting Catholic education.

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

We have no bus service available, and student transportation is by car, carpool or other arrangements made by parents. Please do not park by the basketball goals during the day. We need to leave that area available to the children at recess time.

Due to fire and safety regulations, it is imperative that no cars are parked unattended in front of the church or school at any time.

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. 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 when the school shifts to an 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.

FACTS Tuition Management collects tuition for the school. Payments begin on August 5th or 20th. Ten, eleven or twelve automatic monthly payments each month can be made through a checking, savings, or credit card account. FACTS enrollment is available on our website www.saintpatrickschoolva.org. Parents may opt to pay tuition in full by August 1st. This payment is made directly to the school.

If parents/others have been historically delinquent, then the school will withhold report cards and transcripts until they have brought their tuition account up-to-date and/or paid it in full. The school will send a letter to the responsible party to inform them as to what is needed to release the report cards and/or transcripts. If the account is not brought up to a current status, then the family will be asked to leave the school and/or next year's registration will not be accepted. The account will be turned over to a collection agency used by the Diocese of Arlington. The school may take any action available and consistent with applicable law in order to collect unpaid tuition owed. Any associated court cost and/or collection costs will be paid by the family with the unpaid tuition.

TUITION AND OTHER FEE SCHEDULES

A Non-Refundable Application Fee of \$50.00 per student Kindergarten through 8th Grade is due with the Application for Admission. A \$300.00 non-refundable book/technology fee per student has been included in the rates listed below.

Annual Tuition/Book Fee	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children
In-Parish	\$7,525.00	\$12,400.00	\$16,700.00**
Out-of-Parish	\$8,950.00	\$14,900.00	\$19,100.00**
Other Faiths	\$10,040.00 per child		

****\$300.00 Book/Technology Fee will be added for the fourth child or more in grades K through 8.**

There are two payment plan options to choose from:

1. Full payment of tuition by August 1, 2023. This payment will be made directly to the school.
2. Automatic monthly payments through the FACTS Tuition Payment Plan. Payments can be made on the 5th or 20th of the month through your checking, savings or from a variety of credit cards. Please set up an account with FACTS using the link on our school website www.saintpatrickschoolva.org within two weeks after your child is accepted.

Saint Patrick Catholic School has adopted a Continuous Enrollment (CE) system whereby students will be continuously enrolled at Saint Patrick Catholic School until graduation from eighth grade, or, if necessary, until the withdrawal process is completed. We are thankful that most Saint Patrick families choose to remain at Saint Patrick Catholic School through eighth grade graduation, so we are offering a simple, seamless process for you to keep your children enrolled with us.

Each January, Saint Patrick Catholic School will publish the following school year's tuition, the annual Continuous Enrollment Fee (CEF) amount, and information regarding financial aid. By signing the CE Contract, families agree to pay the annual tuition rate, as evidenced by the annual tuition agreement, and CEF for the upcoming school year.

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 four diocesan high 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 (see also Diocesan Coaches Manual).

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 drive to and from practice and games in a privately owned vehicle must have a written permission from their parents/guardians. 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.

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/aftercare program or participating in a school-sponsored activity (such as athletics or theater).

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 Internet Responsible Use Policy.
- 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.

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, however, 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

Students who violate the code of conduct explained in this handbook or that given by their teachers can expect a disciplinary consequence. Each offense will be dealt with on an individual basis according to the age of the child and the frequency of disciplinary infractions. Minor offenses of the code of conduct will ordinarily be dealt with in the following ways:

Verbal warnings and reminders

Conference between the student, teachers, and/or principal

Loss of minor privileges such as eating with friends at lunch and free dress days
Assignment of special tasks
After school detention and/or Saturday detention
Conference with the parents

More serious infractions of the behavior code when they occur at school or during school activities may result in immediate detention. These include, but are not limited to, wearing an improper uniform, disrespect or disobedience to faculty, staff, or parents working in the school, or cruelty to other students. A meeting may be held with the parents, student, principal, and middle school teachers for serious infractions. The student and parents will agree to and sign a Behavior Contract at that meeting. The following infractions will result in detention, in-school suspension, a parent or both parents being required to attend a full school day with their child and/or possible expulsion:

Fighting

Extreme disrespect to a faculty or school staff member or insubordination
Verbally threatening a student, teacher, or staff member
Possession of a weapon (knife, gun, or any object that can cause harm)
Vandalism of school property
Possession of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products
Possession of pornographic materials
Disrupting the teaching and learning process in the classroom
Use of foul language, particularly the improper use of God's name
Any form of sexual harassment
Any form of cheating, lying, or stealing

The following materials are not allowed on the school grounds and are subject to suspension and possible expulsion:

Toy guns, pocketknives, cell phones, pagers, fireworks, laser pointers

Saturday Detention periods for middle school students will be from 8-11 a.m. The principal or his designee shall supervise the detention period which will have a two-fold purpose. It shall be a time of spiritual renewal and school/church service.

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.

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 (i.e. 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 pastor (or principal if Diocesan high school) or the Office of Catholic Schools must first be consulted before law enforcement authorities are allowed to speak to any student for interrogation purposes of 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, under unusual circumstances, 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.

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.

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 rest with the principal/administration.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS & OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION

SCHOOL UNIFORM GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The primary purposes of a school uniform are to create a sense of cohesion among the student body and foster school pride. As Christian representatives of Saint Patrick Catholic School, uniforms must fit properly and modestly, for both boys and girls.

- There are two school uniform options depending on the time of year. 1) The full school uniform is the official uniform, and it can be worn year-round although it is better suited to the colder months. The full school uniform is required for all Masses and special occasions, regardless of the time of year. Long pants, skirts, or jumpers must be worn to Mass; no shorts. 2) There is an *optional* warm weather uniform (called the summer uniform) which can be worn during the warmer months. The switch-over between the uniforms is up to the discretion of the principal.
- A separate P.E. uniform is required for all students in grades K-8.
- All girls' and boys' uniform shirts and P.E. shirts must be tucked in.
- Fad haircuts of any kind, including dyed hair, are NOT permitted. Bangs should be above the eyebrows or combed away from the face. Boy's hair is to be cut above the collar, eyebrows, and ears. (Hair length is subject to principal's discretion.)
- Make-up, nail polish, hair accessories, and jewelry policy:
Makeup and nail polish may not be worn to school. Girls are permitted to wear small post-type earrings. Only one earring per ear is allowed - no multiples. Earrings are never permitted for boys. Students may not wear bracelets and other jewelry; however, watches (no smart watches or watches with the ability to text) and religious medals are allowed for both boys and girls. Girls are permitted to wear only solid colored green, navy, red, or white hair accessories. As an alternative, plaid scrunchies and accessories can be purchased through Flynn and O'Hara.

FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM FOR BOYS - KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 8

- Khaki trousers - Must be purchased from French Toast ("Adjustable Waist Double Knee Pant", see link below) or Flynn & O'Hara

(Pants should fit at the waist and be hemmed to the proper length.

- Short or long sleeved white collared oxford shirt
- Green V-neck pullover sweater, sweater vest, or cardigan with St. Patrick logo - Must be purchased from Flynn & O'Hara

Uniform sweaters, sweatshirts with the school logo, and jackets (including the P.E. jacket) with the school logo may be worn in the classroom. Sweatshirts without the St. Patrick logo are not permitted in the classroom.

- Navy blue, brown, or black leather belt (Grades 3-8); optional in K-2
- Solid black or white crew socks
- Shoes – Solid brown, black, or navy leather or leather-like that fit below the ankle bone. K-2 students must wear sneakers (preferably velcro) - solid black. The following Mary Jane shoe is permitted for girls. However, a basic Mary Jane shoe is not. https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07JN33347/ref=cm_sw_r_cp_apr_i_ibkgFb4RJNEX1

The shoes may be tie shoes with matching shoelaces or secure-fitting loafer style shoes. No canvas shoes, sneakers (except for K-2 students), or boots are permitted. In addition, no shoes with retractable wheels ("heelies") or blinking lights are permitted.

- Facial hair is not permitted. Boys must be clean-shaven.
- See P.E. Uniform requirements below

(OPTIONAL) SUMMER UNIFORM FOR BOYS - KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 8

- Khaki shorts - Must be purchased from Flynn & O'Hara
- Green polo knit shirt with St. Patrick logo - Must be purchased from Flynn & O'Hara
- Regular uniform belt (Grades 3-8)
- Solid white or black socks
- Solid white or black sneakers (See P.E. requirements)

FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM FOR GIRLS - KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 5

- 5th Grade Girls - Please note: You have the option of wearing the K-5 or 5-8 full uniform.
- Jumper - knee length - Must be purchased from Flynn & O'Hara
- *Optional* - Uniform khaki trousers - Must be purchased from French Toast ("Girls Adjustable Waist Pant", see link below) or Flynn & O'Hara
- White blouse with rounded Peter Pan collar and short sleeves
- Green V-neck pullover sweater, sweater vest, or cardigan with St. Patrick logo - Must be purchased from Flynn & O'Hara
- Uniform sweaters, sweatshirts with the school logo, and jackets with the school logo may be worn in the classroom. Sweatshirts without the St. Patrick logo are not permitted in the classroom.
- Solid green, navy, or white knee-high socks
- Solid navy, black, or white tights or solid navy, black, or white ankle-length tight-fitting leggings are also permitted
- Shoes – Solid brown, black, or navy leather or leather-like that fit below the ankle bone. K-2 students must wear sneakers (preferably velcro) - solid black.
- Flat heels no higher than 1 inch. The shoes may be tie shoes with matching shoelaces or loafer style shoes. Saddle oxfords and Sperry Top-Siders are permitted. No canvas shoes, sneakers (except for K-2 students), or boots are permitted. In addition, no shoes with retractable wheels ("heelies") are permitted.
- See P.E. Uniform requirements below

(*OPTIONAL*) SUMMER UNIFORM FOR GIRLS - KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 5

- Khaki shorts - Must be purchased from Flynn & O'Hara
- Green polo knit shirt with St. Patrick logo - Must be purchased from Flynn & O'Hara
- Solid white or black socks
- Solid white or black sneakers (See P.E. requirements)

FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM FOR GIRLS - GRADES 5 TO 8

- Plaid skirt - knee-length - (Note: Skirts may NOT be rolled-up at the waist.) - Must be purchased from Flynn & O'Hara
- *Optional* - Uniform khaki trousers - Must be purchased from French Toast ("Girls Adjustable Waist Pant", see link below) or Flynn & O'Hara
- White Oxford, button-down, short or long sleeve shirt
- Green V-neck sweater, sweater vest, or cardigan with St. Patrick logo - Must be purchased from Flynn & O'Hara
- Uniform sweaters, sweatshirts with the school logo, and jackets (including the P.E. jacket) with the school logo may be worn in the classroom. Sweatshirts without the St. Patrick logo are not permitted in the classroom.
- Solid green, navy, or white knee-high socks
- Solid black or navy tights or solid navy or black ankle-length tight-fitting leggings are permitted
- Shoes - Solid brown, black, or navy leather or leather-like that fit below the ankle bone. (Sperry Top-Sider shoes may be worn.) Flat heels no higher than 1 inch. The shoes may be tie shoes with matching shoelaces or loafer style shoes. No canvas shoes, sneakers, or boots are permitted. In addition, no shoes with retractable wheels ("heelies") are permitted.
- See P.E. Uniform requirements below

(*OPTIONAL*) SUMMER UNIFORM FOR GIRLS - GRADES 5 TO 8

- Khaki shorts or plaid skirts - Must be purchased from Flynn & O'Hara
- Green polo shirt with St. Patrick logo - Must be purchased from Flynn & O'Hara
- Solid white or black socks
- Solid white or black sneakers

P.E. UNIFORM FOR BOYS AND GIRLS - KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 8

The P.E. uniform is required. It is important that the P.E. uniform fit properly and that the shorts and/or shirt be replaced as the student's growth changes.

- Green t-shirt with school logo - Must be purchased from Flynn & O'Hara
- Solid black shorts with school logo - Must be purchased from Flynn & O'Hara
- Solid black sweatpants with school logo - Must be purchased from Flynn & O'Hara
- Green sweatshirt with school logo - Must be purchased from Flynn & O'Hara
- *Optional (in lieu of the shorts, sweatpants, and sweatshirt above)* - Green tracksuit (Grades 6-8 only) - Must be purchased from Flynn & O'Hara
- Solid white socks
- Solid black or white sneakers - See below

Sneakers and plain white athletic socks are required in all grades Kindergarten to 8 for physical education classes. Athletic socks must NOT contain any logo, writing or color other than white. No sneakers with retractable wheels ("heelies") or shoes that light up are permitted.

Sneakers should be supportive to the foot and ankle. Flat slip-on style casual shoes, Converse, and Vans shoes are not appropriate for running and P.E. activities. All shoes must be laced properly at all times.

The sneakers must be solid black or white with matching shoelaces. Wal-Mart, Burlington, and Target carry many varieties of solid colored black and white shoes. Shoes with patterns are not permitted.

LINKS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

- Flynn & O'Hara: <https://www.flynnohara.com/index.aspx>
- French Toast: [Boys Adjustable Waist Double Knee Pant](#)
- French Toast: [Girls Adjustable Waist Pant](#)

ENFORCEMENT OF UNIFORM POLICY

A student found out of uniform will be given a verbal reminder and a note will be sent to the parent. If, after the third reminder, there is no action taken to correct the situation, the administration will make a phone call home requiring the student to be in uniform before returning to school.

DENIM DRESS DAYS

When students are permitted to dress out of uniform on a school day it will be called a Denim Dress Day. The dress code on Denim Dress Days is as follows:

- Denim Jeans (No holes, rips, tears; no denim leggings, or denim shorts)
- Sturdy shoes or sneakers (no sandals or open toe shoes)
- T-Shirts, polo shirts, turtlenecks, sweaters, and sweatshirts may be worn

Shirts or other pieces of clothing featuring any type of a musical group or with a questionable message are absolutely forbidden. Articles of clothing featuring beer and alcohol products are forbidden.

INAPPROPRIATE MATERIALS

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

Cell phones
Smart phones
Smart Watches
Pagers
iPods, CD, or tape players
Boom boxes
Trading cards
Pocket knives
Toy guns
Toy knives

PLAYGROUND REGULATIONS

Be polite and courteous to all
Students must remain in their assigned areas at all times
No horseplay or rough play
No profanity or foul language
No playing in the woods or on the hill

LUNCHROOM REGULATIONS

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

Students are under the supervision of the classroom teachers in the lunchroom. Students are expected to talk quietly, using proper manners and remain seated. During lunch, cooperation is required by the students to maintain order and to keep the area clean for others. After lunch, the children are responsible for removing their litter and replacing the chairs neatly in place. Proper receptacles are available for the disposal of trash.

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.

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, after school, 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 clinic, administrators, and staff are required to administer medication within the framework of the procedures outlined in Diocesan policy and summarized here.

Parents and guardians must provide and transport medications to and from the school.

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

When the need for administration of medicines during school hours has been confirmed by the school nurse/health assistant (or the school administration);

- a. After the first dose of any medication has been given at home;
- b. 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;
- c. 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;
- d. 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 healthcare 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;
- e. When the appropriate medication authorization form (*Appendix F-6*) has been completed, signed by the parent/guardian and accompanies the medication.
- f. 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.
- g. 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.
- h. Under no circumstances are medications to be shared with other students.
- i. 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 and should not be done 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 healthcare provider's 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 naloxone, an opioid antagonist, to be available for use if opioid overdose is recognized 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.

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.

Students are 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 (i.e. inhaler, Epi-pen).

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.

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 pupil'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 (LHP) is required to use crutches at school. If a student arrives at school on crutches without a licensed healthcare provider's order, the parent will be called to take the student home.

USE OF MICROWAVE OVEN

Given the risk of potential harm, student access and use of microwave ovens is prohibited.

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.

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 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. 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.
 - ii. Students who have traveled or resided in a foreign country for five 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.
- b. 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 health care provider or is fever free/symptom free for 24 hours without taking anti-fever medications, the student may return to school.
- c. 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.
- d. 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 influenza vaccination 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 consummation of any contract for services.

LICE

All students determined to have 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.

Lice are tiny insects that survive on human blood. Head lice are about as big as a sesame seed and may live on the human scalp. Head lice usually pass from child to child through shared combs, hats, and other personal items. One of the most common symptoms of lice infestation is itching. If you notice your child repeatedly scratching, you should check for lice. Live lice can be difficult to locate because they move quickly and don't like bright light. But their nits are easier to see. Closely examine the scalp in natural light and look for eggs attached to the hair shaft. Also, inspect under the child's finger nails. Do not send your child to school if you suspect head lice. Check with your pediatrician for proper instruction on how to treat head lice.

All cases of head lice must be reported to the school office immediately. Saint Patrick School has implemented a "NO NIT" policy. If a student is discovered to have head lice or nits while at school, he/she will be sent to the school office and the parent/guardian will be contacted to come and pick up his or her child.

After scalp treatment and the removal of all nits, the identified student may return to school but must report with his/her guardian to the school office to be checked before returning to class. If the student is found to have nits, he/she will not be permitted to return.

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 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 in a regular classroom unless the student's health interferes significantly with school performance.

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 held monthly. Students are trained to leave the building quickly and quietly if the fire alarm rings. Earthquake and active shooter drills will also be held periodically.

HARASSMENT

Harassment can take place in person or in writing and can be physical, verbal, or electronic. Regardless of its form, the Diocese 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 educator of their children, parents have the responsibility to handle harassment issues not involving the school and 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, alleged student 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 employee. If a student makes a report, the employee will report the information to the principal. A student who is uncomfortable for any reason with reporting such alleged harassment/abuse to a trusted employee, 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 (Appendix AB). The Validation of Sexual Harassment Instruction must be completed and submitted to the Office of Catholic Schools by September 30th (Appendix H-1).

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 (i.e. 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 aggressor(s) and the person being hazed 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 hazing may 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), principal may also report incidents of hazing to law enforcement if appropriate.

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. Cyber bullying

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 (i.e. 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 aggressor(s) and the person being bullied) 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 may 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, if appropriate.

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 (SAMPLE LETTER)

In the past, asbestos was used extensively in building materials because of its insulating, sound absorbing, and fire-retardant capabilities. Virtually any building constructed before the late 1970s contains some asbestos. Intact and undisturbed,

asbestos materials generally do not pose a health risk. Asbestos materials, however, can become hazardous when, due to damage or deterioration over time, they release fibers.

In 1986, Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) which requires schools to be inspected to identify any asbestos containing building materials. Every (5) five years, Saint Patrick School has conducted an inspection to determine whether the condition of the known or assumed asbestos containing building materials (ACBM) has changed and to make recommendations on managing or removing the ACBM. At the last inspection, all materials listed in the Management Plan as asbestos-containing (or assumed to be asbestos-containing) were inspected and found to be in good condition.

The law further requires an asbestos management plan to be in place. The Saint Patrick School Asbestos Management Plan has several on-going requirements.

It is the intention of Saint Patrick School to comply with all federal and state regulations controlling asbestos and to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure students and employees a health and safe environment in which to learn and work. You are welcome to review a copy of the asbestos management plan at the school during regular business hours. Deacon Stenstrom, as Director of Operations, is our designated asbestos program coordinator, and all inquiries regarding the asbestos plan and asbestos-related issues should be directed to him/her at the rectory office.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

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

- a. At the discretion of the principal or his/her designees, 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.

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. Title 63.1, Chapter 10 of the Code of Virginia gives the Department of Social Services authority to license these programs. While there are some legislative exemptions to licensure, licensed programs include child day centers, family day homes, child day center systems, and family day systems. The state may also voluntarily register family day homes, which are not required to be licensed.

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.

Compliance with standards is determined by announced and unannounced visits to the program by licensing staff within the Department of Social Services. In addition, parents or other individuals may register a complaint about a program, which will be investigated if it violates a standard.

Three types of licensing may be issued to programs. Conditional licenses may be issued to a new program to allow up to six months for the program to demonstrate compliance with the standards. A regular license is issued when the program substantially meets the standards for licensure. A provisional license, which cannot exceed six months, is issued when the program is temporarily unable to comply with the standards. Operating without a license when required constitutes a misdemeanor which, upon conviction, can be punishable by a fine of up to \$100 or imprisonment of up to 12 months or both for each day's violation.

If you would like additional information about the licensing of child day programs or would like to register a complaint, please contact the Regional Office of Social Services closest to you.

Fairfax Licensing Office 3701 Pender Drive, Suite 125
Fairfax, VA 22030
(703) 934-1505

Northern Virginia Regional Office 320 Hospital Drive, Suite #23
Warrenton, VA 22186
(540) 347-6345

Central Regional Offices
1604 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 130
Richmond, VA 23229-5008
(804) 662-9743

Eastern Regional Office Pembroke Office Park
Pembroke Four Office Building, Suite 300 Virginia Beach, VA 23452-5496
(757) 491-3990

Verona Licensing Office
Post Office Box 350
Verona, Virginia 24482-0350
(540) 248-9345

Piedmont Regional Office
Commonwealth of Virginia Building
210 Church Street, S.W., Ste. 100
Roanoke, VA 24011-1779
(540) 857-7920

Abingdon Licensing Office
190 Patton Street
Abingdon, VA 24210
(540) 676-549

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).

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*)
Inhaled Medication or Nebulizer Treatment Authorization Form (*Appendix F-3*)
Virginia Asthma Action Plan (*Appendix F-3A*)
Diocese Epinephrine Authorization Form (*Appendix F-4*)
Severe Allergy/Anaphylaxis Action Plan and Treatment Authorization (*Appendix F-4A*)
Diabetes Reference Emergency Plan: Hyperglycemia & Hypoglycemia (*Appendix F-5*)
Diabetes Medical Management Plan (*Appendix F-5A*)
Medication Authorization Form (*Appendix F-6*)
Student Injury Accident Report (*Appendix F-7*)
Wind Chill Factors/Heat Stress Index (*Appendix F-15*)
Certificate of Religious Exemption (*Appendix F-18*)
Seizure Action Plan (*Appendix F-20*)
Wellness Policy (*Appendix F-23*)
Photo, Press, Audio, and Electronic Media Release for Minors (*Appendix N*)
Website and Social Media Policy (*Appendix P-1*)
Parent Permission for School Sponsored Trip Participation English (*Appendix R*)
Permiso De Los Padres Para Excursiones Patrocinados Por La Escuela.Spanish
(*Appendix R-A*)
Use of Personal Vehicle (*Appendix R-1*)
Elementary/Middle School Handbook Agreement Form (*Appendix AG-1*)

THESE FORMS MAY BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE.

SIGNATURE PAGE

Appendix AG-1

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL HANDBOOK AGREEMENT FORM

PARENT/GUARDIAN

I have received a current copy of the Parent/Student Handbook. In doing so, I have explained the content of this document to my child(ren). I acknowledge and agree to the policies obtained therein, and will require my child(ren) to comply with the policies which apply to students.

I also realize during my child's enrollment at the school I will be informed from time to time, formally or informally, of various changes in school and/or Diocesan policies. I understand the school and/or Diocese reserves the right to change policies at any time with or without advance notice. I further understand it is required for me to sign this form in order to continue my child's enrollment at the school.

(Parent's Signature)

(Printed Name)

(Date)

FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY

I have read the Parent/Student Handbook and agree to observe all school regulations.

(Student's Signature)

(Second Student's Signature)

(Printed Name)

(Printed Name)

(Date)

(Date)

August 2001